

DAN BEAVER'S FANTASY RACING NEWS

Vol. 2; Issue 16

Toyota / Save Mart 350k
Sonoma Raceway



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Volume 2, Issue 16

OVERVIEW

Twice a year, NASCAR forces the drivers to turn both left and right.

There was a time when they simply endured this humiliation and tried to salvage as many points as possible. Now, the best drivers in the NASCAR field on ovals can also regularly be counted on as top

sional top-10. That allowed us to save an allocation for drivers like Joey Logano, Kevin Harvick, or Kyle Busch. Now, each of those drivers regularly score top-fives.

There are still some surprise faces that grace the front of the field to a greater percentage than on ovals, such as AJ Allmendinger and Clint Bowyer, but true road ringers are hard to find.

comes the first NASCAR Euro driver to compete in the Cup series. His salary cap is going to be low in most games—when he is available at all—at that will stretch the budget at the top.

A TALE OF TWO TRACKS

Now that the drivers' collective skill on this track type has improved, they are able to



contenders on road courses. That not only changed every racer's strategy, it also impacted fantasy players.

When half the field struggled simply to keep all four wheels on the pavement, road ringers were good choices to finish in the top 20 and grab the occa-

This week, three teams will employ road specialists and none of them are particularly strong organizations. That means that no matter how good the driver is, he is unlikely to be able to overcome his equipment. One exception might be Alon Day, who be-

tell the difference between Sonoma Raceway and Watkins Glen International and those variances are considerable. Sonoma is the much more technical track and precise marks need to be hit. The Glen is a little forgiving to drivers who charge the corners and get in too hard.

The fastest way through a road course turn is to enter gently, brake in a straight line, turn into the corner, and accelerate heavily at the apex. This is the same skill employed on flat tracks, but instead of doing that twice per lap, it has to be done nearly a dozen times.

With so many chances to make a mistake, it is easy to lose focus at some point during the race. Dipping a wheel off the surface at Sonoma can be catastrophic if it causes the driver to spin in front of the field because the width of the track is narrow. Putting four wheels off the track often means a trip into the barriers.

STRATEGICALLY SPEAKING

Strategy also plays a significant role in who wins or loses. Typically, teams count back from the end of a race to decide when to make their first pit stop. With segment breaks and bonus points for leading lap 25 and 50, the countdown shifts as some drivers aim to be among the top 10 at the end of those segments and others ignore the short term goals in favor of the ultimate one.

Watkins Glen's segments will be even shorter, with breaks at 20 and then 50 laps.

The final fuel window is still going to be critical and the team that guesses right on when the a caution will wave

Driver	Wins
Kyle Busch	2
Clint Bowyer	1
Kurt Busch	1
Jimmie Johnson	1
Kasey Kahne	1
Martin Truex Jr	1

is going have the best chance at winning, but laps led bonuses and fastest laps run are going to help make or break your week. Unfortunately, the crew chiefs don't reveal their strategy before the race starts and we are on our own.

TOP-10 DRIVERS

1. Kyle Busch

Yahoo! Group: A
Wins at Track/Attempts: 2/12
Top-fives: 2 (.167)
Top-10s: 4 (.333)
Last 3 Years
Current Track: 11.00
Yahoo! Points: 76.67
NASCAR.com Points: 51.50
Draft Kings Points: 50.63
Avg. Last 6 races ^
Cup results: 8.29

Because there are so many unknowns on wild card tracks like Sonoma, Watkins Glen, Daytona International Speedway, and Talladega Superspeedway we find ourselves relying on historic data to a much greater degree. Busch is not infallible on road courses, but he is hungry and more than capable of scoring a top-five.

He won the 2013 Cheez-it 355k at the Glen in a season when he finished 35th at Sonoma. The next year, he was 25th in this race and 40th in New York, but he rallied to win the 2015 Toyota / Save Mart 350k and finish second

Driver	Top-5s
Kurt Busch	7
Clint Bowyer	6
Kevin Harvick	4
Jimmie Johnson	4
Kyle Busch	2
Denny Hamlin	2
Kasey Kahne	2
Joey Logano	2
Jamie McMurray	2
Ryan Newman	2
Martin Truex Jr	2
Dale Earnhardt Jr	1
Paul Menard	1

in the Cheez-it 355k. Last year, he was seventh and sixth in the two road course races.

2. Joey Logano

Yahoo! Group: A
Wins at Track/Attempts: 0/8
Top-fives: 2 (.250)
Top-10s: 4 (.500)
Last 3 Years
Current Track: 8.00
Yahoo! Points: 79.33
NASCAR.com Points: 48.00
Draft Kings Points: 49.50
Avg. Last 6 races ^
Cup results: 20.29

Logano is equally hungry. Since his encumbered win does not count as an invitation to the playoffs, he is only seven points ahead of the current bubble. He does not want to be remembered as the first winning driver who was penalized out of that spot. This team lost a lot of wind from their sails as well as significant personnel with that penalty already. From Talladega through Pocono Raceway, he failed to crack the top 20 a single time.

Finally, last week was a good one for Logano. He landed in the top 10 again at Michigan in time to come to a track where he finished fifth in 2015 and third in 2016. He won the 2015 race at the Glen and finished second there last summer. Altogether, he has a cur-

Driver	Top-10s
Jimmie Johnson	9
Clint Bowyer	8
Kurt Busch	8
Kevin Harvick	7
Ryan Newman	7
Kasey Kahne	6
Kyle Busch	4
Joey Logano	4
Denny Hamlin	3
Martin Truex Jr	3
AJ Allmendinger	2
Dale Earnhardt Jr	2
Jamie McMurray	2
Matt Kenseth	1
Brad Keselowski	1
Paul Menard	1



SONOMA RACEWAY

Track Type: Road Course
Track Size: 1.99 Miles
Number of Turns: 12
Race Length: 110 Laps / 219 Miles
Stage 1 & 2: 25 Laps (each)
Final Stage: 60 Laps

3 Things to Know

4

Most Road Course Wins Among
Active Drivers (Kyle Busch,
2 each Sonoma & Watkins Glen)

3

Most Coors Light Poles Among
Active Drivers
(Jamie McMurray)

7

Most Top-5 Finishes
Among Active Drivers
(Kurt Busch)

- Carol D'Agostino, Skirtsandscuffs.com

rent streak of five consecutive
road course finishes of sixth or

better and that should play in
his favor.

Glen last year to snap that
streak.



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photos, race coverage and fantasy
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3. Kevin Harvick

Yahoo! Group: A
Wins at Track/Attempts: 0/16
Top-fives: 4 (.250)
Top-10s: 7 (.438)
Last 3 Years
Current Track: 10.00
Yahoo! Points: 78.67
NASCAR.com Points: 58.25
Draft Kings Points: 59.68
Avg. Last 6 races ^
Cup results: 9.14

Harvick is not the first driver
who comes to mind on road
courses, nor has he ever been.
That made him a great value
at Watkins Glen in 2006 when
he won that race and the fol-
lowing summer at Sonoma
when he finished second. He
has not posted a road course
victory again, but he has been
a consistently good value with
results of third through sev-
enth in four straight races in
2014-2016. He crashed at the

4. Kurt Busch

Yahoo! Group: B
Wins at Track/Attempts: 1/16
Top-fives: 7 (.438)
Top-10s: 8 (.500)
Last 3 Years
Current Track: 8.00
Yahoo! Points: 81.33
NASCAR.com Points: 50.25
Draft Kings Points: 46.38
Avg. Last 6 races ^
Cup results: 13.14

Busch is another hidden gem
on road courses. He carried
the car on his back in 2011 to
win the Toyota / Save Mart
350k and that came on the
heels of a second at the Glen
the previous year. He sus-
tained damage in his next two
races at the Glen, but other-
wise he has finished 12th or
better in every road course
race for the past four years.
Busch lacks consistency most
places, but this is a track

where it might pay to take a risk on him.

5. Martin Truex Jr.

Yahoo! Group: A
Wins at Track/Attempts: 1/11
Top-fives: 2 (.182)
Top-10s: 3 (.273)
Last 3 Years
Current Track: 20.67
Yahoo! Points: 51.67
NASCAR.com Points: 6.25
Draft Kings Points: 7.75
Avg. Last 6 races ^
Cup results: 9.14

Normally, we would suggest that fantasy players ignore Truex on wild card tracks. He has been so strong on the similarly-configured, 1.5- and

better.

6. AJ Allmendinger

Yahoo! Group: B
Wins at Track/Attempts: 0/9
Top-fives: 0 (.000)
Top-10s: 2 (.222)
Last 3 Years
Current Track: 29.33
Yahoo! Points: 53.33
NASCAR.com Points: 2.75
Draft Kings Points: 1.63
Avg. Last 6 races ^
Cup results: 24.86

Since winning the 2014 Cheez-it 355k at the Glen, Allmendinger has been front-of-mind for fantasy owners on road courses. It doesn't matter that he finished 37th at Sono-

Top-10s: 9 (.600)
Last 3 Years
Current Track: 8.67
Yahoo! Points: 84.67
NASCAR.com Points: 53.00
Draft Kings Points: 48.90
Avg. Last 6 races ^
Cup results: 15.29

Since Johnson has developed a tendency toward unpredictability, there is less of a reason to save him for tracks on which one thinks he should excel. He might run the table on similarly-configured, 1.5-mile tracks for the remainder of the year, but he is more likely to gamble or make a mistake while trying to press the limits. The new format continues to make handicapping difficult until a clear pattern develops as to who it favors.

Johnson has only three top-10s in the past seven races this season. One of those was a victory at Dover International Speedway.

8. Daniel Suarez

Yahoo! Group: C
Wins at Track/Attempts: 0/0
Top-fives: 0 (.000)
Top-10s: 0 (.000)
Last 3 Years
Current Track: NA
Yahoo! Points: NA

NASCAR.com Points: NA
Draft Kings Points: NA
Avg. Last 6 races ^
Cup results: 13.67

When we sent out an email this week saying that the newsletter would be one day later than normal, we also stated that rookies would not be high on the list. After further consideration, we changed that projection and decided Suarez and Erik Jones both have enough tricks up their sleeve to be pleasant surprises.

Suarez should be the better



two-mile tracks that dominate the schedule that he is much more likely to score well on them than the road course. This preview is no longer used just for Yahoo! reportage, however, and there are plenty of opportunities to start a consistent driver if he is rightly priced.

Truex is unlikely to win this week, but his two road course races in 2016 netted a fifth and seventh. He had a bad 2015, but in eight of the nine previous attempts on this track type he finished 15th or

ma in 2014 and again in 2015 or that he was 24th at the Glen in their next race; he immediately gained and kept a reputation for being capable of winning on the twisty tracks.

He is more likely to perform this year like he did last with 14th and fourth. Given the right track position and assuming Allmendinger stays out of trouble, he should be able to score a top-10.

7. Jimmie Johnson

Yahoo! Group: A
Wins at Track/Attempts: 1/15
Top-fives: 4 (.267)

Top-fives and Top-10s					
By Car Owner, Last Three Years					
Owner	Attempts	Top-5s		Top-10s	
Roger Penske	6	2	33%	2	33%
Barney Visser	3	1	33%	1	33%
Joe Gibbs	11	3	27%	4	36%
Michael Waltrip	4	1	25%	2	50%
Tony Stewart	12	3	25%	5	42%
Rick Hendrick	12	2	17%	8	67%
Chip Ganassi	6	1	17%	1	17%
Richard Childress	9	1	11%	3	33%
Jack Roush	9	1	11%	2	22%
Petty Enterprises	6			2	33%
BK Racing	9				
Front Row Motorsports	7				
Harry Scott	5				
Jay Robinson	4				
Tommy Baldwin	4				
Bob Leavine	3				
Frank Stoddard	3				
Germain Bros	3				
Tad Geschickter	3				
Joe Falk	2				
Michael Hillman	2				
Mike Curb	2				
Curtis Key	1				
Johnathan Cohen	1				
Wood Bros	1				

performer of the two. He cut his teeth in the NASCAR Mexico series that runs heavily on road courses so his roots are closer to Sonoma than others with his same level of experience. He is also a patient driver who does not make many mistakes, so he should move up as others overcharge the corners—as long as he does not get caught up in someone else's mistakes.

9. Jamie McMurray

Yahoo! Group: B
Wins at Track/Attempts: 0/14
Top-fives: 2 (.143)
Top-10s: 2 (.143)
Last 3 Years
Current Track: 10.67
Yahoo! Points: 77.33
NASCAR.com Points: 35.75
Draft Kings Points: 37.25
Avg. Last 6 races ^
Cup results: 11.00

Given how he has performed on nearly every track this year, it is hard to imagine McMurray is not going to score at least a top-15. He has been perfect in that regard in

2017 when he's stayed out of trouble and seems determined to make the playoffs despite failing to win any race or segments. The inability to score consistent top-fives is liable to hurt him in the end, but it makes him a very attractive candidate for one's fantasy roster.

10. Erik Jones

Yahoo! Group: C
Wins at Track/Attempts: 0/0
Top-fives: 0 (.000)
Top-10s: 0 (.000)
Last 3 Years
Current Track: NA
Yahoo! Points: NA
NASCAR.com Points: NA
Draft Kings Points: NA
Avg. Last 6 races ^
Cup results: 15.50

Jones crashed four laps into the race at Richmond—a track that should have suited his driving style. He wrecked and failed to finish again the next week at Talladega. It took a little while to trust him again and Kansas produced only a 22nd. Since then, he has swept the top 15 despite get-

ting swept into a last-lap crash at Dover. This is going to be a big test of his ability to race within his personal limitations because trying too hard on road courses can lead to disaster.

Jones is not prone to driving over his head.

SLEEPERS

11. Denny Hamlin

Yahoo! Group: A
Wins at Track/Attempts: 0/11
Top-fives: 2 (.182)
Top-10s: 3 (.273)
Last 3 Years
Current Track: 15.33
Yahoo! Points: 68.00
NASCAR.com Points: 44.25
Draft Kings Points: 41.63
Avg. Last 6 races ^
Cup results: 9.43

Hamlin has seven top-10s so far this season. He's coming off his second-best finish of the year at Michigan last week where he finished fourth.

Hamlin recorded his best finish at Sonoma last year when he finished second after being stuck in the wall by Tony Stewart on a last lap pass. This was his first good finish at the track in six years, but he has three other top-15s from earlier on in his career.

Hamlin earned a measure of revenge at the Glen with a victory last August.

13. Dale Earnhardt Jr.

Yahoo! Group: A
Wins at Track/Attempts: 0/17
Top-fives: 1 (.059)
Top-10s: 2 (.118)
Last 3 Years
Current Track: 7.00
Yahoo! Points: 78.00
NASCAR.com Points: 43.00
Draft Kings Points: 44.50
Avg. Last 6 races ^
Cup results: 20.00

Earnhardt is consistently good

at Sonoma. He only has one top-five and two top-10s but finishes in the top 15 in the majority of his starts at the track, 52.9% of the time.

Jr has advanced from his qualifying spot in his last four starts at Sonoma.

Earnhardt is hungry for a win; in fact he's hungry for anything good. Since coming back at the start of the season he's only had five top-15 finishes and four DNFs. One of his strong runs came last week at Michigan, however.

15. Kasey Kahne

Yahoo! Group: B
Wins at Track/Attempts: 1/13
Top-fives: 2 (.154)
Top-10s: 6 (.462)
Last 3 Years
Current Track: 7.67
Yahoo! Points: 76.67
NASCAR.com Points: 50.00
Draft Kings Points: 51.50
Avg. Last 6 races ^
Cup results: 21.43

Kahne is on a four-race, top-10 streak at Sonoma. In each of these starts he's advanced from his qualifying position by at least nine spots with a high of 24 positions in 2014 so he is going to earn positive place differential points in games that offer them. Kahne has six top-10s at the track including a win in 2009.

And while Kahne has not been particularly strong at the Glen, it will pay to note that these two tracks are actually quite dissimilar. He is at his best on the technical course compared to the high-speed sister in New York.

Kahne only has only been able

3 Year Avg. Finish on Road courses			
Rank	Driver	Avg.	Attempts
1	Joey Logano	5.50	6
2	Kurt Busch	7.17	6
3	Dale Earnhardt Jr	8.60	5
4	Kevin Harvick	12.00	6
5	Kyle Busch	13.50	6
6	Jamie McMurray	15.67	6
7	Kasey Kahne	16.17	6
8	Denny Hamlin	16.33	6
9	Ryan Newman	16.67	6
10	Kyle Larson	16.67	6
11	Brad Keselowski	16.83	6
12	Paul Menard	16.83	6
13	Chase Elliott	17.00	2
14	Clint Bowyer	17.33	6
15	Jimmie Johnson	17.33	6
16	Matt Kenseth	17.67	6
17	Martin Truex Jr	17.83	6
18	AJ Allmendinger	19.50	6
19	Trevor Bayne	19.75	4
20	Danica Patrick	20.00	6
21	Ryan Blaney	21.00	2
22	Austin Dillon	23.17	6
23	Reed Sorenson	27.50	2
24	Ricky Stenhouse Jr	28.17	6
25	Cole Whitt	29.17	6
26	Michael McDowell	29.33	6
27	Matt DiBenedetto	30.00	4
28	David Ragan	30.33	6
29	Chris Buescher	32.33	3
30	Landon Cassill	32.50	6
31	Timmy Hill	38.00	2

to bring home three top-10s by this point in the season, two of which came at restrictor-plate tracks. This should be a chance for him to pull one of his better finishes of the year.

18. Clint Bowyer

Yahoo! Group: B
Wins at Track/Attempts: 1/11
Top-fives: 6 (.545) / Top-10s: 8 (.727)
Last 3 Years
Current Track: 17.67
Yahoo! Points: 63.33
NASCAR.com Points: 13.75
Draft Kings Points: 14.75
Avg. Last 6 races ^
Cup results: 18.00

Bowyer ran into particularly bad luck last year at Sonoma, where electrical problems caused him to crash five laps into the race. Before this finish he was on a five-race streak of top-10s at the track. He has six top-five finishes at Sonoma in his 11 starts, which equates to 54.5% of the time.

Bowyer also has finished in

the top 15 in 11 out of 15 races so far this season. Three of those four finishes outside of that mark came in the last three weeks, so Bowyer is looking for something to change his momentum back in the right direction.

BUSTS

14. Kyle Larson

Yahoo! Group: B
Wins at Track/Attempts: 0/3
Top-fives: 0 (.000)
Top-10s: 0 (.000)
Last 3 Years
Current Track: 18.33
Yahoo! Points: 56.67
NASCAR.com Points: 21.75
Draft Kings Points: 23.25
Avg. Last 6 races ^
Cup results: 10.71

Kyle Larson has proven that he knows how to win at varied tracks across different series, but he's yet to prove

this at a road course and with him being such a great value elsewhere, it is difficult to elevate him to favored status.

In his three starts at Sonoma, Larson has qualified in the top five each time. The problem is he doesn't stay there and that loses place-differential points in games that offer them. He has an average starting position of fourth but an average finish of 18.33. Between the two road courses on the circuit, Larson has only one top-10 finish, which came at Watkins Glen in 2014.

17. Brad Keselowski

Yahoo! Group: A
Wins at Track/Attempts: 0/7
Top-fives: 0 (.000) / Top-10s: 1 (.143)
Last 3 Years
Current Track: 18.67
Yahoo! Points: 54.67
NASCAR.com Points: 19.75
Draft Kings Points: 21.25

Track Sweeps (Drivers Sweeping Top-5, -10, and -15s in a season)

Track	top-5s	10s	15s
2016 Michigan	4	7	10
2016 Texas	3	7	11
2016 Road Courses	3	5	9
2016 Phoenix	2	6	7
2016 Kansas	2	5	10
2016 Richmond	1	7	10
2016 Dover	2	5	8
2016 Martinsville	2	4	9
2016 New Hampshire	2	3	8
2016 Charlotte	1	5	7
2016 Pocono	1	4	9
2016 Daytona	1	4	6
2016 Bristol	0	3	6
2016 Talladega	0	2	6

Previous Seasons

2015 Road Courses	4	7	11
2015 Texas	3	8	9
2012 New Hampshire	3	7	13
2015 Daytona	4	5	7
2014 Dover	3	6	11
2013 Martinsville	3	6	10
2014 Michigan	2	8	10
2011 Pocono	3	6	9
2012 Charlotte	3	5	10
2011 Texas	3	5	10
2013 Pocono	2	7	10
2014 Phoenix	3	5	9
2010 Pocono	3	5	8
2010 Phoenix	2	6	11
2012 Phoenix	2	6	9
2011 Richmond	2	6	9
2013 Dover	2	6	8
2012 Talladega	2	6	7
2011 Kansas	2	5	11
2011 Dover	1	7	11
2015 Dover	2	5	10
2015 Michigan	2	5	9
2012 Texas	2	5	9
2015 Kansas	2	5	8
2014 Charlotte	2	5	8
2013 Road Courses	2	5	8
2010 Richmond	1	6	13
2011 Road Courses	1	6	12
2013 New Hampshire	1	6	11
2012 Kansas	2	4	10
2013 Michigan	1	6	10
2014 Richmond	2	4	9
2014 Martinsville	2	4	9
2012 Michigan	2	4	9
2015 Charlotte	1	6	9
2012 Road Courses	2	4	7
2014 Road Courses	1	3	10
2010 Road Courses	0	4	7
2010 Road Courses	0	4	7

Avg. Last 6 races ^
Cup results: 15.57

Keselowski is coming off of a

16th-place finish at his home track of Michigan. This was his third finish outside of the

top 15 in the last four races and it officially places him as one of the least consistent racers in recent events.

In seven starts at Sonoma, Keselowski has only cracked the top 15 three times; only one of these was a top-10 that is needed from a driver of his stature. That is surprising compared to his Watkins Glen number where he four top-fives in the same amount of starts as Sonoma. Save him for the Glen or other races where he'll be worth his price tag.

21. Chase Elliott

Yahoo! Group: B
Wins at Track/Attempts: 0/1
Top-fives: 0 (.000) / Top-10s: 0 (.000)
Last 3 Years
Current Track: 21.00
Yahoo! Points: 50.00
NASCAR.com Points: 15.50
Draft Kings Points: 18.50
Avg. Last 6 races ^
Cup results: 19.43

Elliott only has two road course races under his belt in the Cup series. He finished 13th at the Glen last year, but couldn't crack the top 20 at Sonoma last summer. Elliott started 16th and fell five positions over the course of the race to 21st. It takes a while to find the rhythm on this track type.

Fans and fantasy owners are waiting to see Elliott break through and score his first win. Chances are it's not coming this week at Sonoma and Daytona is also a crap shoot, but once the series rolls into Kentucky Speedway, he should be worth consideration again.

24. Ryan Blaney

Yahoo! Group: B

Wins at Track/Attempts: 0/1
 Top-fives: 0 (.000)
 Top-10s: 0 (.000)
 Last 3 Years
 Current Track: 23.00
 Yahoo! Points: 61.00
 NASCAR.com Points: 22.00
 Draft Kings Points: 25.00
 Avg. Last 6 races ^
 Cup results: 23.00

Blaney had another good chance last week at Michigan before having late-race troubles leaving him with a 25th-place finish one week after his impressive win at Pocono.

Blaney has only raced Sonoma once and like some of the other busts this week, this lack of experience or reliable numbers is the problem. It's hard for sophomore drivers to find the groove at a road course. Last year he ran in the just outside the middle of the pack all race starting in 26th and only advancing three positions to 23rd over the course of the race.

Other Drivers

12. Ryan Newman

Yahoo! Group: B
 Wins at Track/Attempts: 0/15
 Top-fives: 2 (.133) / Top-10s: 7 (.467)
 Last 3 Years
 Current Track: 9.33
 Yahoo! Points: 72.00
 NASCAR.com Points: 42.25
 Draft Kings Points: 43.75
 Avg. Last 6 races ^
 Cup results: 16.29

16. Paul Menard

Yahoo! Group: B
 Wins at Track/Attempts: 0/11
 Top-fives: 1 (.091) / Top-10s: 1 (.091)
 Last 3 Years
 Current Track: 11.33
 Yahoo! Points: 72.67
 NASCAR.com Points: 35.25
 Draft Kings Points: 36.38
 Avg. Last 6 races ^
 Cup results: 22.43

19. Austin Dillon

Yahoo! Group: B
 Wins at Track/Attempts: 0/3
 Top-fives: 0 (.000)
 Top-10s: 0 (.000)
 Last 3 Years
 Current Track: 18.67

Laps in Top-10 at Sonoma (L 3Yrs)				
Rank	Driver	Laps	%	Possible Laps
1	AJ Allmendinger	219	66.4%	330
2	Kurt Busch	216	65.5%	330
3	Jimmie Johnson	211	63.9%	330
4	Dale Earnhardt Jr	199	60.3%	330
5	Kyle Busch	191	57.9%	330
6	Kyle Larson	184	55.8%	330
7	Kevin Harvick	178	53.9%	330
8	Joey Logano	151	45.8%	330
9	Ryan Newman	138	41.8%	330
10	Clint Bowyer	133	40.3%	330
11	Martin Truex Jr	132	40.0%	330
12	Denny Hamlin	129	39.1%	330
13	Jamie McMurray	125	37.9%	330
14	Kasey Kahne	73	33.2%	220
15	Paul Menard	70	21.2%	330
16	Matt Kenseth	55	16.7%	330
17	David Ragan	40	12.1%	330
18	Brad Keselowski	21	6.4%	330
19	Danica Patrick	17	5.2%	330
20	Ricky Stenhouse Jr	16	4.8%	330
21	Ryan Blaney	4	3.6%	110
22	Chase Elliott	4	3.6%	110
23	Cole Whitt	8	2.4%	330
24	Michael McDowell	7	2.1%	330
25	Austin Dillon	4	1.2%	330
26	Landon Cassill	1	0.3%	330
27	Trevor Bayne	-	0.0%	220
28	Matt DiBenedetto	-	0.0%	220
29	Reed Sorenson	-	0.0%	110
30	Chris Buescher	-	0.0%	110

Yahoo! Points: 54.67
 NASCAR.com Points: 34.00
 Draft Kings Points: 35.50
 Avg. Last 6 races ^
 Cup results: 17.86

20. Ricky Stenhouse Jr.

Yahoo! Group: B
 Wins at Track/Attempts: 0/4
 Top-fives: 0 (.000)
 Top-10s: 0 (.000)
 Last 3 Years
 Current Track: 25.67
 Yahoo! Points: 40.67
 NASCAR.com Points: 30.00
 Draft Kings Points: 31.50
 Avg. Last 6 races ^
 Cup results: 12.71

22. Matt Kenseth

Yahoo! Group: A
 Wins at Track/Attempts: 0/17
 Top-fives: 0 (.000)
 Top-10s: 1 (.588)
 Last 3 Years
 Current Track: 27.67
 Yahoo! Points: 37.67
 NASCAR.com Points: 14.50
 Draft Kings Points: 16.00
 Avg. Last 6 races ^
 Cup results: 13.86

23. Trevor Bayne

Yahoo! Group: B
 Wins at Track/Attempts: 0/2

Top-fives: 0 (.000)
 Top-10s: 0 (.000)
 Last 3 Years
 Current Track: 24.00
 Yahoo! Points: 44.00
 NASCAR.com Points: 24.00
 Draft Kings Points: 25.50
 Avg. Last 6 races ^
 Cup results: 19.29

25. Ty Dillon

Yahoo! Group: C
 Wins at Track/Attempts: 0/0
 Top-fives: 0 (.000)
 Top-10s: 0 (.000)
 Last 3 Years
 Current Track: NA
 Yahoo! Points: NA
 NASCAR.com Points: NA
 Draft Kings Points: NA
 Avg. Last 6 races ^
 Cup results: 19.17

26. Alon Day #23

Yahoo! Group: C
 Wins at Track/Attempts: 0/0
 Top-fives: 0 (.000)
 Top-10s: 0 (.000)
 Last 3 Years
 Current Track: NA
 Yahoo! Points: NA
 NASCAR.com Points: NA
 Draft Kings Points: NA
 Avg. Last 6 races ^
 Cup results: NA



27. Boris Said #33

Yahoo! Group: C
Wins at Track/Attempts: 0/17
Top-fives: 0 (.000)
Top-10s: 5 (.294)
Last 3 Years
Current Track: 26.00
Yahoo! Points: NA
NASCAR.com Points: NA
Draft Kings Points: NA
Avg. Last 6 races ^
Cup results: NA

28. Danica Patrick

Yahoo! Group: B
Wins at Track/Attempts: 0/4
Top-fives: 0 (.000)
Top-10s: 0 (.000)
Last 3 Years
Current Track: 20.33
Yahoo! Points: 54.67
NASCAR.com Points: 17.00
Draft Kings Points: 18.13
Avg. Last 6 races ^
Cup results: 25.71

29. Chris Buescher

Yahoo! Group: B
Wins at Track/Attempts: 0/1

Top-fives: 0 (.000)
Top-10s: 0 (.000)
Last 3 Years
Current Track: 30.00
Yahoo! Points: 32.00
NASCAR.com Points: 17.00
Draft Kings Points: 20.00
Avg. Last 6 races ^
Cup results: 21.14

30. Cole Whitt

Yahoo! Group: C
Wins at Track/Attempts: 0/3
Top-fives: 0 (.000)
Top-10s: 0 (.000)
Last 3 Years
Current Track: 27.67
Yahoo! Points: 36.67
NASCAR.com Points: 18.50
Draft Kings Points: 20.00
Avg. Last 6 races ^
Cup results: 26.57

31. Michael McDowell

Yahoo! Group: C
Wins at Track/Attempts: 0/5
Top-fives: 0 (.000)
Top-10s: 0 (.000)
Last 3 Years
Current Track: 32.33

Yahoo! Points: 27.33
NASCAR.com Points: -9.00
Draft Kings Points: -7.50
Avg. Last 6 races ^
Cup results: 23.00

32. David Ragan

Yahoo! Group: C
Wins at Track/Attempts: 0/10
Top-fives: 0 (.000)
Top-10s: 0 (.000)
Last 3 Years
Current Track: 35.67
Yahoo! Points: 20.67
NASCAR.com Points: -8.75
Draft Kings Points: -8.75
Avg. Last 6 races ^
Cup results: 21.86

33. Matt DiBenedetto

Yahoo! Group: C
Wins at Track/Attempts: 0/2
Top-fives: 0 (.000)
Top-10s: 0 (.000)
Last 3 Years
Current Track: 30.00
Yahoo! Points: 32.00
NASCAR.com Points: 14.00
Draft Kings Points: 15.50
Avg. Last 6 races ^
Cup results: 29.14

34. Landon Cassill

Yahoo! Group: C
Wins at Track/Attempts: 0/4
Top-fives: 0 (.000)
Top-10s: 0 (.000)
Last 3 Years
Current Track: 36.00

Yahoo! Points: 27.00
NASCAR.com Points: 15.50
Draft Kings Points: 17.00
Avg. Last 6 races ^
Cup results: 27.71

35. Billy Johnson #43

Yahoo! Group: C
Wins at Track/Attempts: 0/0
Top-fives: 0 (.000)
Top-10s: 0 (.000)
Last 3 Years
Current Track: NA
Yahoo! Points: NA
NASCAR.com Points: NA
Draft Kings Points: NA
Avg. Last 6 races ^
Cup results: NA

36. Josh Bilicki #51

Yahoo! Group: C
Wins at Track/Attempts: 0/0
Top-fives: 0 (.000) / Top-10s: 0 (.000)
Last 3 Years
Current Track: NA
Yahoo! Points: NA
NASCAR.com Points: NA
Draft Kings Points: NA
Avg. Last 6 races ^
Cup results: NA

Avg. Start at Sonoma			
Rank	Driver	Avg. Start	Attempts
1	AJ Allmendinger	1.67	3
2	Kurt Busch	3.67	3
3	Kyle Larson	4.00	3
4	Martin Truex Jr	11.00	3
5	Brad Keselowski	11.67	3
6	Joey Logano	12.00	3
7	Denny Hamlin	12.33	3
8	Kyle Busch	13.00	3
9	Ryan Newman	13.33	3
10	Matt Kenseth	13.33	3
11	Jamie McMurray	13.33	3
12	Danica Patrick	14.33	3
13	Kevin Harvick	16.00	3
14	Clint Bowyer	16.33	3
15	Jimmie Johnson	16.67	3
16	Paul Menard	16.67	3
17	Dale Earnhardt Jr	16.67	3
18	Kasey Kahne	22.00	3
19	David Ragan	23.33	3
20	Michael McDowell	23.67	3
21	Austin Dillon	29.00	3
22	Trevor Bayne	29.50	2
23	Ricky Stenhouse Jr	30.33	3
24	Matt DiBenedetto	31.50	2
25	Cole Whitt	32.00	3
26	Landon Cassill	37.67	3

37. Tommy Regan #55

Yahoo! Group: C
 Wins at Track/Attempts: 0/0
 Top-fives: 0 (.000) / Top-10s: 0 (.000)
 Last 3 Years
 Current Track: NA
 Yahoo! Points: NA
 NASCAR.com Points: NA
 Draft Kings Points: NA
 Avg. Last 6 races ^
 Cup results: NA

^ The last six races average is from the last six races of this season; the driver may not have run in all of those events. This statistic and the average finish for the last three years include failures to qualify (DNQ) as if they were actually finishes; i.e. the first non-qualifier is credited with a 44th-place finish. This is true for the statistics at all levels of the game, but is more like to skew the numbers in Group C where DNQs are a more frequent way of life.

Number of Top-10s Backed up With Another

This is the number of times in 2017 that a driver backed up

one top-10 with another finish of 10th or better, (total number of top-10s for the season in parenthesis):

Truex.: 7 (11)
 Keselowski: 7 (10)
 Kyle Larson: 6 (10)
 Joey Logano: 6 (9)
 Chase Elliott: 6 (9)
 Kevin Harvick: 5 (9)
 Kyle Busch: 5 (8)
 J McMurray: 3 (9)
 D Hamlin: 3 (7)
 K u Busch: 2 (7)
 Stenhouse Jr.: 2 (6)
 J Johnson: 1 (6)
 Matt Kenseth: 1 (6)
 R Newman: 1 (5)
 Clint Bowyer: 1 (5)
 Daniel Suarez: 1 (4)
 K Kahne: 1 (3)
 Almirola: 1 (3)

Ryan Blaney: 0 (5)
 Erik Jones: 0 (3)
 Dale Earnhardt Jr.: 0 (3)
 Austin Dillon: 0 (2)
 AJ Allmendinger: 0 (2)
 Paul Menard: 0 (2)
 Trevor Bayne: 0 (2)
 Michael Waltrip: 0 (1)
 Matt DiBenedetto: 0 (1)
 David Ragan: 0 (1)
 Danica Patrick: 0 (1)
 Chris Buescher: 0 (0)
 Ty Dillon: 0 (0)
 Michael McDowell: 0 (0)
 Landon Cassill: 0 (0)
 Cole Whitt: 0 (0)
 Jeffrey Earnhardt: 0 (0)
 Corey LaJoie: 0 (0)
 Reed Sorenson: 0 (0)
 Gray Gaulding: 0 (0)
 Timmy Hill: 0 (0)
 Derrike Cope: 0 (0)
 Cody Ware: 0 (0)
 Brendan Gaughan: 0 (0)
 Elliott Sadler: 0 (0)
 Darrell Wallace Jr.: 0 (0)
 Joey Gase: 0 (0)
 DJ Kennington: 0 (0)
 Ross Chastain: 0 (0)
 Ryan Sieg: 0 (0)
 JJ Yeley: 0 (0)

DRIVER PERFORMANCE

Here are the top performances by driver so far this season. The full list can be found each week by clicking on the "Driver Performance" link in the "Research" section of your team roster:

Yahoo! Group A:

(6) Martin Truex Jr.: Las Vegas (week 3), Auto Club (week 5), Kansas 1 (week 11), Charlotte 1 (week 12), Dover 1 (week 13), Michigan 1 (week 15)

(4) Kyle Busch: Phoenix (week 4), Martinsville 1 (week 6), Talladega 1 (week 10), Pocono 1 (week 14)

(2) Kevin Harvick: Atlanta (week 2), Texas 1 (week 7)

(2) Joey Logano: Daytona 1 (week 1), Richmond 1 (week 9)

(1) Jimmie Johnson: Bristol 1 (week 8)

Yahoo! Group B:

Top two each week.

(8) Kyle Larson: Atlanta (week 2), Las Vegas (week 3), Phoenix (week 4), Auto Club (week 5), Texas 1 (week 7), Bristol 1 (week 8), Dover 1 (week 13), Pocono 1 (week 14), Michigan 1 (week 15)

(4) Ryan Blaney: Daytona 1 (week 1), Texas 1 (week 7), Kansas 1 (week 11), Pocono 1 (week 14)

(3) Clint Bowyer: Auto Club (week 5), Bristol 1 (week 8), Kansas 1 (week 11)

(3) Ryan Newman: Phoenix (week 4), Richmond 1 (week

Season to Date Grid										
Driver	Starts	Wins	Top-5s	Top-10s	Avg Fin	Start	Laps	Poles	DNFs	DNQs
Kyle Larson	15	2	7	10	7.93	11.20	4,558	2	1	
Michael Waltrip	1			1	8.00	30.00	200			
Martin Truex Jr	15	2	5	11	8.87	7.47	4,643		1	
Kevin Harvick	15		5	9	11.93	9.13	4,464	3	1	
Brad Keselowski	15	2	8	10	12.67	7.07	3,821	1	3	
Kyle Busch	15		5	8	13.13	8.80	4,451		2	
Chase Elliott	15		5	9	13.27	11.13	4,252	1	2	
Jamie McMurray	15		2	9	13.40	9.60	4,147		3	
Joey Logano	15	1	7	9	13.73	10.73	4,563	1	3	
Clint Bowyer	15		2	5	14.33	13.53	4,579		1	
Denny Hamlin	15		3	7	14.40	11.20	4,514		1	
Jimmie Johnson	15	3	3	6	14.53	19.80	4,527		2	
Ricky Stenhouse Jr	15	1	3	6	15.00	15.67	4,249		2	
Daniel Suarez	15			4	16.47	16.00	4,593		1	
Trevor Bayne	15			2	16.60	18.67	4,639		2	
Kurt Busch	15	1	2	7	16.73	11.40	4,137		2	
Matt Kenseth	15		3	6	16.73	9.40	4,426	1	3	
Ryan Newman	15	1	2	5	16.73	13.87	4,527		2	
Aric Almirola	11		2	3	17.27	22.36	3,425		1	
Erik Jones	15		1	3	18.00	17.27	4,147		4	
Brendan Gaughan	2				18.50	35.50	383			
Elliott Sadler	2				18.50	37.50	390			
Austin Dillon	15	1	2	2	18.73	18.53	4,622		1	
Kasey Kahne	15		2	3	19.00	20.27	4,455		3	
Ryan Blaney	15	1	3	5	19.33	9.33	4,525	1	2	
Ty Dillon	15				19.67	23.40	4,447		2	
Ross Chastain	1				20.00	36.00	403			
AJ Allmendinger	15		1	2	21.73	24.13	4,541		2	
Paul Menard	15		1	2	21.73	20.67	4,512		2	
Dale Earnhardt Jr	15		1	3	22.00	16.87	4,099		4	
Joey Gase	2				22.00	34.00	387			
Darrell Wallace Jr	2				22.50	21.00	359			
Chris Buescher	15				23.53	28.60	4,130		2	
Michael McDowell	15				23.67	24.60	4,620		1	
David Ragan	15			1	24.73	29.93	4,507		2	
Cole Whitt	15				26.00	31.40	4,467		4	
Danica Patrick	15			1	26.47	23.87	4,284		6	
JJ Yeley	2				26.50	30.00	725			
Landon Cassill	15				26.80	28.33	4,427		2	
Matt DiBenedetto	15			1	27.33	28.40	4,247		3	
Regan Smith	2				28.00	27.50	728		1	
Ryan Sieg	2				29.50	32.50	596			
Corey LaJoie	14				30.36	33.29	3,669		3	
Gray Gaulding	13				30.85	33.23	3,962		3	
Carl Long	1				31.00	40.00	256			
Reed Sorenson	13				31.77	33.69	3,850		1	1
Timmy Hill	10				33.20	37.60	2,893		3	1
Jeffrey Earnhardt	15				33.60	35.20	3,284		8	
Derrike Cope	9				34.78	36.56	2,413		1	
DJ Kennington	1				36.00	28.00	127		1	1
Cody Ware	3				37.67	38.33	392		3	

9), Dover 1 (week 13)

(3) Chase Elliott: Las Vegas (week 3), Martinsville 1 (week 6), Michigan 1 (week 15)

(2) Ricky Stenhouse Jr.: Richmond 1 (week 9), Talladega (week 10)

(2) Kurt Busch: Daytona 1 (week 1), Charlotte 1 (week 12)

(2) Austin Dillon: Martinsville 1 (week 6), Charlotte 1 (week 12)

(1) Kasey Kahne: Atlanta (week 2)

(1) Jamie McMurray: Talladega (week 10)

Yahoo! Group C:

(5) Daniel Suarez: Phoenix (week 4), Auto Club (week 5), Richmond 1 (week 9), Kansas 1 (week 11), Dover 1 (week 13)

(5) Erik Jones: Atlanta (week 2), Martinsville 1 (week 6), Charlotte (week 12), Pocono 1 (week 14), Michigan 1 (week 15)

(3) Ty Dillon: Texas 1 (week 7), Bristol 1 (week 8), Talladega (week 10)

(1) Michael Waltrip: Daytona 1 (week 1)

(1) Michael McDowell: Las Vegas (week 3)

NASCAR.com Fantasy Live

Top five game finishes

(9) Kyle Larson: Atlanta (week 2), Las Vegas (week 3), Phoenix 1 (week 4), Auto Club (week 5), Texas 1 (week 7), Bristol 1 (week 8), Dover 1 (week 13), Pocono 1 (week 14), Michigan 1 (week 15)

(8) Martin Truex Jr.: Las Vegas (week 3), Auto Club (week 5), Texas 1 (week 7 – tied for fifth with Earnhardt), Bristol 1 (week 8), Kansas 1 (week 11), Charlotte 1 (week 12), Dover 1 (week 13), Michigan 1 (week 15)

(8) Chase Elliott: Atlanta (week 2), Las Vegas (week 3), Phoenix 1 (week 4), Auto Club (week 5), Martinsville 1 (week 6), Dover 1 (week 13), Pocono 1 (week 14), Michigan 1 (week 15)

(7) Kevin Harvick: Atlanta (week 2), Texas 1 (week 7), Bristol 1 (week 8), Richmond 1 (week 9), Kansas 1 (week 11), Dover 1 (week 13), Pocono 1 (week 14)

(7) Kyle Busch: Phoenix 1 (week 4), Martinsville 1 (week 6), Talladega (week 10), Kansas 1 (week 11), Charlotte 1 (week 12), Pocono 1 (week 14), Michigan 1 (week 15)

(6) Brad Keselowski: Atlanta (week 2), Las Vegas (week 3), Phoenix 1 (week 4), Martinsville 1 (week 6), Richmond 1 (week 9), Kansas 1 (week 11)

(6) Jimmie Johnson: Las Vegas (week 3), Texas 1 (week 7), Bristol 1 (week 8), Talladega (week 10), Charlotte (week 12), Charlotte 1 (week 12), Dover 1 (week 13)

(5) Joey Logano: Daytona 1 (week 1), Auto Club (week 5), Martinsville 1 (week 6), Bristol 1 (week 8), Richmond 1 (week 9)

(3) Ryan Blaney: Daytona 1 (week 1), Texas 1 (week 7), Kansas 1 (week 11)

(3) Denny Hamlin: Richmond 1 (week 9), Talladega (week 10), Michigan 1 (week 15)

(2) AJ Allmendinger: Daytona 1 (week 1), Martinsville 1 (week 6)

(1) Paul Menard: Daytona 1 (week 1)

(1) Kurt Busch: Daytona 1 (week 1)

(1) Kasey Kahne: Atlanta (week 2)

(1) Ryan Newman: Phoenix 1 (week 4)

(1) Clint Bowyer: Auto Club (week 5)

(1) Dale Earnhardt Jr.: Texas 1 (week 7 – tied for fifth with Earnhardt)

(1) Matt Kenseth: Richmond 1 (week 9)

(1) Jamie McMurray: Talladega (week 10)

(1) Ricky Stenhouse Jr.: Talladega (week 10)

Total Top-5s: Season	
Driver	Top-5s
Brad Keselowski	8
Joey Logano	7
Kyle Larson	7
Chase Elliott	5
Martin Truex Jr	5
Kyle Busch	5
Kevin Harvick	5
Denny Hamlin	3
Jimmie Johnson	3
Matt Kenseth	3
Ricky Stenhouse Jr	3
Ryan Blaney	3
Kurt Busch	2
Ryan Newman	2
Jamie McMurray	2
Clint Bowyer	2
Austin Dillon	2
Aric Almirola	2
Kasey Kahne	2
AJ Allmendinger	1
Erik Jones	1
Paul Menard	1
Dale Earnhardt Jr	1

(1) Austin Dillon: Charlotte 1 (week 12)

(1) Erik Jones: Pocono 1 (week 14)

TWITTER LEAGUE

It's not too late to join the Dan Beaver Twitter League. Players can join or leave groups throughout the season and your team can accumulate points in up to three leagues. This is one of the most competitive leagues in the game since most or all of the players get their excellent information from the pages of these previews. Simply log onto Yahoo! Sports and navigate to the fantasy racing page (<http://racing.fantasysports.yahoo.com/auto>). Click on the "create or join a group" button and follow the instructions.

Dan Beaver's Twitter League
Group ID#: 38
Password: FantasyRace

ANY LAST MINUTE QUESTIONS?

Follow Dan Beaver on Twitter:
<https://twitter.com/FantasyRace>
 and chat during the weekend.

That is also a great place to comment on what you read in the preview and let us know what stats you would like to see in future articles.

3 Yr. Avg. Yahoo! Points at Sonoma			
Rank	Driver	Avg. Points	Attempts
1	Jimmie Johnson	84.67	3
2	Kurt Busch	81.33	3
3	Joey Logano	79.33	3
4	Kevin Harvick	78.67	3
5	Dale Earnhardt Jr	78.00	3
6	Jamie McMurray	77.33	3
7	Kyle Busch	76.67	3
8	Kasey Kahne	76.67	3
9	Paul Menard	72.67	3
10	Ryan Newman	72.00	2
11	Denny Hamlin	68.00	3
12	Clint Bowyer	63.33	3
13	Ryan Blaney	61.00	2
14	Kyle Larson	56.67	3
15	Austin Dillon	54.67	3
16	Brad Keselowski	54.67	3
17	Danica Patrick	54.67	3
18	AJ Allmendinger	53.33	3
19	Martin Truex Jr	51.67	3
20	Chase Elliott	50.00	1
21	Trevor Bayne	44.00	2
22	Ricky Stenhouse Jr	40.67	3
23	Matt Kenseth	37.67	3
24	Cole Whitt	36.67	3
25	Chris Buescher	32.00	1
26	Matt DiBenedetto	32.00	2
27	Reed Sorenson	28.00	1
28	Michael McDowell	27.33	3
29	Landon Cassill	27.00	2
30	David Ragan	20.67	3

