



AMP Energy 500 NASCAR Sprint Cup Series FAST FACTS

- WHAT:** AMP Energy 500 NASCAR Sprint Cup Series race at Talladega Superspeedway. Race 33 of 36-race schedule; race 7 in the Chase for the NASCAR Sprint Cup
- WHEN:** Sunday, Nov. 1, 2009; 12 pm.
- WHERE:** Talladega Superspeedway, Talladega, Ala.
- TV/RADIO:** Live on ABC and MRN Radio Network
- RACE LENGTH:** 500.08 miles (188 laps)
- PURSE:** \$5,492,493
- DEFENDING RACE WINNER** Tony Stewart (3 hr., 36 min., 10 sec.)
- QUALIFYING:** Foodland/Food Giant Qualifying for the NASCAR Sprint Cup Series is Saturday, Oct. 31, starting at 11:15 a.m.
- DEFENDING POLE SITTER:** Travis Kvapil (187.364 mph)
- QUALIFYING RECORD:** Bill Elliott, 212.809 mph; April 30, 1987
- RACE RECORD:** Mark Martin, 188.354 mph (2 hr., 29 min., 18 sec.); May 10, 1997
- TICKETS:** Contact the Talladega Superspeedway ticket office at 1-877-Go2-DEGA or log on to www.talladegasuperspeedway.com.

TICKETS, Continued:

Foodland/Food Giant Qualifying for the NASCAR Sprint Cup Series followed by the Mountain Dew 250 fueled by Fred's NASCAR Camping World Truck Series race is set for Saturday, Oct. 31: Two-day Saturday/Sunday tickets start at \$60; Single-day Saturday tickets are \$40 for grandstands and \$50 for towers. Kids age 11 and younger admitted free with a ticketed adult (Frontstretch Lower General Admission Grandstands only).

The AMP Energy 500 NASCAR Sprint Cup Series race set for Sunday, Oct. 5: Two-day Saturday/Sunday tickets start at \$60; Single-day Sunday tickets start at \$40.

PARKING:

Day parking for automobiles is free on Talladega Superspeedway grounds.

TRACK INFO

WEB ADDRESS: www.talladegasuperspeedway.com

TRACK PR

CONTACT:

Kristi R. King, 256.223.0370 (cell); 256.761.4705 (office);
256.761.4717 (fax); 256.761.4945 (media center);
kking@talladegasuperspeedway.com (email)

NOTES OF INTEREST:

40th ANNIVERSARY

When the checkered flag falls on the Nov.1 AMP Energy 500, fans will have witnessed the 81st NASCAR Sprint Cup Series race at Talladega Superspeedway, thus bringing an end to Talladega's 40th anniversary celebrations.

HISTORY OF THE TOP 12 CHASE CONTENDERS AT TALLADEGA – Below is an analysis of the 12 Chase contenders with their past performance at Talladega Superspeedway:

1. MARK MARTIN – No. 5 CARQUEST/Kellogg's Chevrolet

Team: Hendrick Motorsports

Talladega Statistics – Starts: 43 Wins: 2 Poles: 2 Top 5's: 10 Top 10's: 22 Average Finish:16

2008 AMP Energy 500 Finish: 8th

2009 Aaron's 499 Finish: 43rd

SPEED STAGE SCHEDULE

Friday, October 3, 2008

NASCAR Live	3:30-4:00 p.m.
Tradin' Paint	4:30-5:00 p.m.
NASCAR Performance	5:30-6:15 p.m.
Trackside Live	6:30-7:30 p.m.

Sunday, October 5, 2008

NASCAR Live	8:30-8:45 a.m.
NASCAR Race Day	10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
NASCAR Victory Lane	TBD

ULTIMATE CHASE WILDCARD - Mark Martin has another appropriate label for racing at Talladega: "The Lotto." The inherent unpredictability of restrictor-plate racing creates the potential for some serious shake-ups in the points, meaning no lead is safe, starting with the 118-point spread Jimmie Johnson has over second-place Martin this week.

Adding to Talladega's appeal this year is that it's several weeks later in the Chase, making an already tense weekend even more so.

BIG COMEBACK STILL POSSIBLE - Though Jimmie Johnson's 118-point lead seems daunting, history suggests that it's not an impossible one to erase.

In 1992, Alan Kulwicki overcame a 144-point deficit to Bill Elliott with four races remaining to capture the championship. That was the largest comeback since the current points system was implemented in 1975.

The second-largest lead to vanish with four races remaining was Jeff Gordon's 111-point cushion over Terry Labonte in 1996. Labonte went on to win his second championship that season.

In the Chase era (2004-Present), the points leader after six races has gone onto win the championship in two of the five Chases. In 2006 and 2007, Johnson overtook Matt Kenseth and Gordon, respectively, to win his first two titles.

Prior to the Chase's inception, from 1975-2003, five drivers won the championship after trailing with four races to go.

FORMER CHAMPS GIVING CHASE - The comeback potential is keeping the title hopes alive for two former series champions. Four-time titlist Gordon is third in points, 150 behind Johnson. Two-time champion Tony Stewart is fourth, 196 behind Johnson.

Both former champs should be confident this weekend. Stewart is the race's defending champion while Gordon is the series leader among active drivers in 'Dega wins with six.

SPOILER ALERT - The unpredictability of Talladega heightens the chance of a driver outside the Chase being the one to visit Victory Lane. Two potential spoilers to consider: Dale Earnhardt Jr., a five-time Talladega winner and Kyle Busch, who won at 'Dega in the spring of 2008.

TALLADEGA MILESTONES - Sunday's AMP Energy 500 is the 100th NASCAR Sprint Cup Series race to be held in the state of Alabama. All but 20 of those races have been held at Talladega Superspeedway. Six other Alabama tracks held events from 1951 through 1968; the most recent at Montgomery Speedway, a .5-mile track. That race, was won by the NASCAR Hall of Fame nominee **Bobby Allison**. Allison, from Hueytown, won four times at Talladega.

Kurt Busch will make his 325th start. **Martin Truex (No. 1 Bass Pro Shops/Tracker Chevrolet)** will make his 125th.

ULTIMATE WILDCARD - There have been five editions of the Chase format. And on three occasions — 2004, 2005 and 2006 — the points leader entering the AMP Energy 500 has failed to win the title.

Conversely, the points leader after Talladega — **Jimmie Johnson (No. 48 Lowe's Chevrolet)** in 2007, **Tony Stewart (No. 14 Office Depot Chevrolet)** in 2005 and **Kurt Busch (No. 2 Miller Lite Dodge)** in 2004 — went on to become champion.

VICTORY LANE SPECIAL – 40 years ago, Richard Brickhouse was awarded a Winner's Wreath at the conclusion of the inaugural Talladega 500 (now AMP Energy 500). Talladega is restoring the tradition during with the 2009 AMP Energy 500. The winner will receive a modern version of the wreath, created by local floral shop Scot Wedgeworth Weddings Events and Entertaining. Brickhouse will be part of the Victory Lane celebrations and present the wreath to the winner.



PRE-RACE DIGNITARIES – The 82nd Airborne Division's "All-American" Chorus from Ft. Bragg, N.C., will perform the national anthem prior to the AMP Energy 500 at Talladega Superspeedway. Reverend Billy Wyatt of Pleasant Grove Baptist Church will perform the invocation. Jeff Dubiel, Vice President of Sports for Pepsi-Cola North America Beverages will give the drivers' command as Grand Marshal and Ken Strnad, Senior Marketing Manager, AMP Energy Brand Team, will wave the green flag as Honorary Starter. Also appearing on stage will be Sergeant Major of the Army Kenneth O. Preston.