

MOTORSPORTS INSIDER

No. 23 at the track

Basketball great Michael Jordan will serve as Grand Marshall for the May 19 NASCAR All-Star Challenge, Lowe's Motor Speedway has announced. Jordan, the managing member of basketball operations for the Charlotte Bobcats, will give the command, "Gentlemen, start your engines."

S4

The Salt Lake Tribune

WWW.SLTRIB.COM | SUNDAY, MAY 6, 2007

TPR TRIBUNE POWER RANKINGS

1. Jeff Gordon

Go away, Chase! Lead is 203 points

2. Jimmie Johnson

Thank goodness for the Chase

3. Jeff Burton

Talladega was '07's first bad race

4. Denny Hamlin

Will first win come in home state?

5. Matt Kenseth

Ford's only reliable driver in '07

6. Tony Stewart

Let it go, Smoke, let it go

7. Kevin Harvick

He's toned down his act; can Tony?

8. Kurt Busch

Building some momentum after 'Dega

9. Kyle Busch

Before this week, average finish at Richmond: 3.8

10. Dale Earnhardt

Embarrassed by his fans last week

11. Jamie McMurray

Slowly moving up the list of elites

12. Elliott Sadler

Running in top 20 weekly, be just one top-10

13. David Stremme

Second top-10 of the season at Talladega

14. Martin Truex Jr.

DEI just might have another star

15. Mark Martin

Needs a top-10 to get back to Chase contention

16. Bobby Labonte

Busch win was a thing of beauty

17. Juan Pablo Montoya

First Talladega race was accident-free

18. Carl Edwards

Blown engine at Talladega - again

19. Clint Bowyer

Two good runs at Richmond last year

20. Tony Raines

Hall of Fame Racing is holding steady

Jeff Gordon

Unwelcome winner

When Gordon passed Dale Earnhardt on NASCAR's career winners list with his 77th win, Earnhardt fans were less than gracious

By ED HINTON
The Orlando Sentinel

ORLANDO, Fla. — There were two drivers Dale Earnhardt never messed with, on or off the racetrack: Bobby Allison and Cale Yarborough. He knew better.

Maybe if Earnhardt's toughness-loving cult realized that, they'd heed those two regarding Jeff Gordon's 77 victories and counting.

With Gordon having passed Earnhardt's 76 wins for sixth on the career NASCAR winners list, Yarborough (83 wins) is next up for third with 84 wins, would be next.

All-time wins

1. Richard Petty	200
2. David Pearson	105
3t. Darrell Waltrip	84
3t. Bobby Allison	84
5. Cale Yarborough	83
6. Jeff Gordon	77

passing his mark. "It's when he gets there, which is going to be pretty soon."

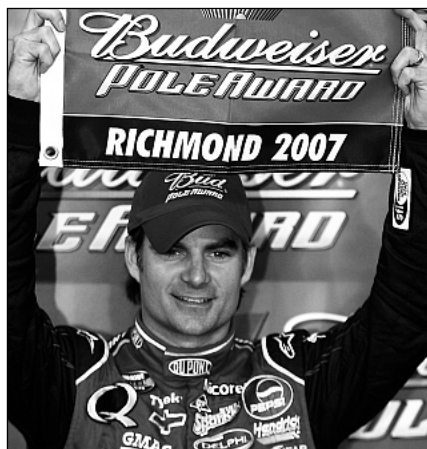
"If he catches and passes me, more power to him," Yarborough said.

So this is sure to be a more pleasant pursuit for Gordon than the last one.

Nobody ever has understood passion for NASCAR racing, and outrage over its outcomes, more than Allison and Yarborough; witness their notorious fight after the 1979 Daytona 500.

Yet neither can understand what possessed the people who met Gordon's milestone with barrages of full beer cans last Sunday at Talladega, Ala.

"Childish imbeciles," Allison called the disruptive fans at the track where he and his late son Davey Allison, in



WAYNE SCARBERRY/The Associated Press

Jeff Gordon holds the pole for today's rescheduled Circuit City 400 at Richmond International Raceway.

their time, were worshipped even more than Earnhardt.

"I've never seen anything like that in this sport," Yarborough said.

Out of the Earnhardtian storm now, Gordon can move on into the clearing skies of NASCAR history, where the top five all-time winners, so long obscured by the foolishness over sixth place, reside.

Gordon said last week he never will threaten the top two. Richard Petty has 200 wins.

"I guarantee I won't be passing David Pearson with 105," Gordon said at Talladega. "I don't plan on racing until I'm 45," and he'll turn 36 in August. But Allison believes Gordon already would have passed Pearson, and be chasing Petty for the all-time lead right now, had Gordon and Ray Evernham, the crew chief who launched him, stayed together.

"He's a tremendous race driver —

Rain forces Richmond postponement

Rain washed out the NASCAR Nextel Cup race at Richmond International Raceway after only 12 caution laps Saturday night, forcing officials to postpone the event until 11 a.m. today.

Following introductions and other prerace festivities, the race began on time, but still with jet dryers on the track and the cars circling under caution.

On the 12th lap, as a light drizzle that grew stronger fell, NASCAR saw the forecasts for more rain coming true, and ordered the cars to pit road. The next time they moved was to the garage, to wait to start all over at 11:15 a.m. today (Ch. 13).

one of the best there ever was," Yarborough said of Gordon. "He's won his share, and he's going to win some more. But I just don't understand why the fans get upset over that."

The anti-Gordon silliness among fans "has stuck with him for a long time, and I really don't know why because he's a good fellow," Yarborough said. "I feel kind of sorry for him, really, because he's just doing his job."

"Here's a man who hasn't done anybody any wrong along the way," Allison said, "just giving his full effort to what he's doing."

Allison actually mentored the tough young Earnhardt on his way up and knew him as well as anybody ever has.

"I think Dale would be very disappointed that somebody who was a Dale Earnhardt fan threw a piece of trash on the track because somebody caught him (in wins) fair and square," Allison said.

Utah racing notes

Racing 2 Save Lives wraps up today

By JAY DREW
The Salt Lake Tribune

Today is the final day to catch Racing 2 Save Lives, a four-day, non-competitive motorcycling event at Miller Motorsports Park that began on Thursday.

Tickets are \$5 and can be purchased at the MMP Welcome Center or online at www.ticketmaster.com.

R2SL is a Colorado-based nonprofit organization that supports children's charities within the motorcycle racing community through donations, corporate sponsorship and fundraising events.

Last year, the festival attracted 350 participants from 19 states and raised \$65,000, half of which was distributed through **Larry H. Miller** Charities, and \$27,000 of which went directly to the Tooele and Grantsville school districts.

A number of racing celebrities will be on hand to ride and sign autographs, including AMA Pro Racing Yamaha factory riders **Eric** and **Ben Bostrom**, Celtic Racing's **Chaz Davies** and 13-year-old phenom **P.J. Jacobson**.

Monday motoring at MMP

Monday, MMP will host the Tire Rack Cannonball One Lap of America, an event organized by legendary automotive journalist Brock Yates. It is the descendant of Yates' original Cannonball Sea-to-Shining-Sea Memorial Trophy Dash, a no-holds-barred race from New York City to Redondo Beach, Calif., in the early 1970s that was memorialized in the movie "Cannonball Run."

Now, the event has evolved into an eight-day, 4,000-mile journey that starts and ends in South Bend, Ind., at Tire Rack headquarters. Along the way, 90 cars will travel to eight racetracks and compete in on-track events for points.

The tour even has a local entrant. **Aaron Pfadt** of Salt Lake City will compete in the No. 8 Outdoor Lighting Perspectives/Pfadt Race Engineering Corvette with **Steve Stubbs** of Isle of Palms, S.C.

RMR update

Due to excessive rainfall, Friday's Plaza Cycle Motocross race No. 2 at Rocky Mountain Raceways was post-

poned. The race has been rescheduled for May 25.

Saturday, the ASA Weekly Racing Series continues at RMR with Sprint Cars, Legends, Figure 8s, Trains, Focus Midgets and Hornets all scheduled to run on the oval track. Racing begins at 6 p.m.

Points leaders heading into Saturday night's events were West Valley City's **Mathew Webster** (Figure 8s), Herriman's **Tim Savage** (Focus Midgets), Salt Lake City's **Mike Bradley** (Mini Cups), Sunset's **Tod Alonzo** (Modifieds) and **Kody Swanson** of Kingsburg, Calif. (Sprints).

Where are the Utahns

Nascarmedia.com enables writers to search all the teams in the Nextel Cup Series, Busch Series and Craftsman Trucks Series for names of team members, their duties and their home states.

Alas, not one of the thousands of drivers, mechanics, fabricators, tire changers or the like hails from Utah. as a member of its marketing department.

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Auto racing notes

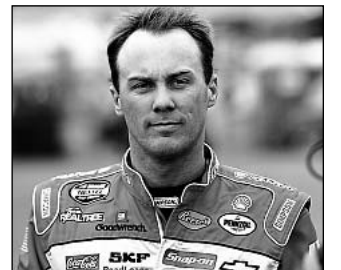
Unser Jr. at Indy

Two-time Indianapolis 500 winner **Al Unser Jr.** will drive for Foyt Racing and carry the No. 50 on his car at the storied race later this month in recognition of **A.J. Foyt's** 50 years there, Unser Jr. acknowledged last week.

He will become the 50th driver to race for Foyt.

"A.J. has so much history at the Speedway, and the Unser's are part of that history," Unser Jr. said. "A.J. played a big role in getting my dad started at Indy in '65, so when A.J. called me to drive for him, I felt honored."

Unser Jr. will be seeking his 19th start at Indianapolis. He was 24th last year.



Kevin Harvick

Harvick, McMurray fined

Daytona 500 winner **Kevin Harvick** and Roush Fenway driver **Jamie McMurray** have been fined \$25,000 apiece by NASCAR for bumping during the last lap of the Aaron's 499 Nextel Cup race at Talladega Superspeedway last week.

Both drivers were put on probation until Oct. 3. The penalties were imposed because the bumping took place during a caution period, according to NASCAR spokesperson **Kerry Tharp**.

The bumping was discovered when officials reviewed video of the closing lap to determine finishing order. McMurray, driver of the No. 26 Ford Fusion, took fifth and Harvick was sixth in the No. 29 Chevy Monte Carlo.

No small sum

For the last three weeks, Nextel Cup cars have all displayed a Virginia Tech logo with a black background in a show of support.

On Saturday night, in the series' first visit to the state since **Seung-Hui Cho** killed 32 fellow students and faculty members at Virginia Tech before also killing himself, the decals were just a symbol, and the support was something more tangible: money.

In prerace introductions, Virginia drivers **Jeff** and **Ward Burton**, **Elliott Sadler** and **Denny Hamlin** presented Hokies football coach **Frank Beamer** with a check for \$120,000 for the Hokies Spirit Memorial Fund. Richmond International Raceway president **Doug Fritz** presented him with a check for \$40,000, also for the memorial fund.

Derby

► Continued from S1

quarter in 2:02.17 for a two-and-a-half-length victory. In the racing history books, it will say that Street Sense became the first winner of the Breeders' Cup Juvenile to win the Kentucky Derby, and the first 2-year-old champion to wear the roses since Spectacular Bid in 1979.

Street Sense's performance, however, was far more than that. Not only was he dominating but he did it so effortlessly so that Borel believes that he has yet to

see the best of the colt.

"I really don't know how good he is," said Borel, a 40-year-old journeyman who captured his first Derby in his fifth try.

Cowtown Cat, whose part-owner, Lance Robinson, grew up in Farmington and attended Weber State, finished last.

Street Sense, a son of Street Cry out of the mare Bedazzle, was plenty good Saturday. While Hard Spun, Cowtown Cat and Teuflesberg took the field through a brisk half mile of 46.26 seconds, Borel actually asked Street Sense to slow down.

"I knew they were going quick and so I backed him up," Borel said.

In a box at the finish line, the colt's trainer and owner, Carl Nafzger and Jim Tafel, liked what they saw.

"Calvin has a clock in his head that is unreal," said Nafzger, who won his second Kentucky Derby 17 years after he captured his first with Unbridled in 1990.

Tafel, 83, began believing that the prophecy Nafzger recited to him last October was about to be fulfilled. "We're going to win the Kentucky Derby," Nafzger had told his owner of 23 years after Street Sense had finished third in a race at Keeneland in Lexington, Ky.

Even though Street Sense did not win that race, the Breeders'

Cup Futurity, he had demonstrated an ability to relax behind horses and rocket past them when Borel asked.

"He had learned his lessons," Nafzger said.

The crowd of 156,635 — the third largest in Derby history — was about to see how well street Sense had comprehended the racing business. As they hit the far turn, Cowtown Cat and Teuflesberg started backing up.

Hard Spun, however, was still running. First, Sedgefield and then Nobiz Like Shobiz took a run at him. Borel again was not worried — the rail was wide open and Street Sense was polishing it. Street Sense was sent off the 9-2

favorite, after all.

"The ones in front of me were getting tired and drifting apart," he said. "It was wide open."

It was time. Street Sense slung shot off the turn and zoomed outside of Sedgefield. Hard Spun was next. From the middle of the track, Borel took aim at the leader. He knew the race was over.

"It was just a matter of how far he wins by," Borel said.

In an instant, Street Sense streaked by Hard Spun and the jockey Mario Pino.

The trainer of Hard Spun, Larry Jones, held faint hope that his colt would win. "I felt pretty good around the turn," he said. "I could only see one horse moving. But he came with authority."

Payouts

\$2 Exacta (7-8) Paid \$101.80.
\$2 Trifecta (7-8-2) Paid \$440.00. \$2 Superfecta (7-8-2-5) Paid \$29,046.40. \$2 Daily Double (7-7) Paid \$87.00. Daily Double Pool \$2 Daily Double (OAKS/DERBY 11-7) Paid \$23.80. Daily Correct Paid \$4,783. 40 Pick 4 Pool \$2 Pick 6 (7-7-7-7-7) 3 Correct Paid \$927.60. Pick 3 Pool. \$2 Pick 4 (3-7-7-7) 4 Correct Paid \$4,783. 40 Pick 4 Pool \$2 Pick 6 (7-7-7-7-7) 5 Correct Paid \$1,263.00. Pick 6 Pool \$2 Pick 6 (7-7-7-7-7) 6 Correct Paid \$231,225. 40 Pick 6 Pool \$2 Future Wager (POOL 1-22) Paid \$22.80. \$2 Future Wager (POOL 2-20) Paid \$18.20. \$2 Future Wager (POOL 3-20) Paid \$15.40.