

TPR TRIBUNE POWER RANKINGS

1. Kyle Busch

Three races in three days took their toll: 43rd

2. Jeff Burton

Does this man ever have a bad race?

3. Dale Earnhardt Jr.

If not for Burton, he'd be Mr. Most Consistent

4. Carl Edwards

Eight top-10s in last nine races is remarkable feat

5. Jimmie Johnson

Sixth at Pocono should start a hot streak

6. Denny Hamlin

Third at his favorite track on the circuit, Pocono

7. Jeff Gordon

None of the Chevy drivers is as dominant now

8. Kasey Kahne

Remarkable turnaround continues for the No. 9

9. Greg Biffle

Posted six top-10s in his first eight at Michigan

10. Kevin Harvick

Solid, but just can't seem to contend this year

Disagree? E-mail Tribune motor sports writer Jay Drew at drew@sltrib.com

Sprint Cup

Busch Kurtailing his enthusiasm

BY JAY DREW
The Salt Lake Tribune

It is a good thing his beloved Chicago Cubs have the best record in Major League Baseball right now.

Otherwise, 2004 NASCAR Sprint Cup Series champion Kurt Busch would be having a really bad year.

The older brother by seven years of the hottest driver on the planet — that would be Kyle Busch — has had to sit back and watch his kid brother's phenomenal success this year and take it like just another Kansas City Royals fan.

At least Kurt Busch isn't saying "wait 'til next year."

"Sure, I would like to be having the kind of season Kyle is having," he said in a NASCAR teleconference last week. "I'm waiting for when it's my turn to get hot. We want something in our notebook to click and to turn our car into a top-five car each week. Maybe it's just around the corner."



CAROLYN KASTER/The Associated Press

Kurt Busch has had two top-10 finishes this season and is 21st in the point standings, 647 points behind his younger brother.

The driver of the No. 2 Miller Lite Dodge, who grew up in Las Vegas, is currently 21st in points and unlikely to be among the top 12 drivers who make the Chase. He is 647 points behind his brother, and has just one top-five finish all season.

That came in the first race, the Daytona 500, when he finished second behind Penske Racing teammate Ryan Newman. Since then, he has had

only one top 10 finish — last week at Pocono Raceway when he finished eighth.

Kurt Busch said the fact that his younger brother is having a great year doesn't make his woes seem any better or worse.

"I would say that we both want to race hard to win and to put on a great show for the fans," Kurt Busch said. "That's where we're very similar. . . . I'm probably still just

Oh, brother

While Kyle Busch leads the Sprint Cup points standings and is the hottest race car driver on the planet, his older brother, Kurt Busch, is having one of the worst seasons in his career.

the guy around the corner, or the regular Joe, so to speak."

And Kyle?

"His sunglasses are pretty wild right now and he's definitely putting on this new image," Kurt joked.

There's plenty of season for the older brother to get it turned around, though, and he believes the eighth-place finish at Pocono signals the start of that.

More will be known after today's Lifelock 400, because Michigan International Raceway has always been one of Busch's favorite tracks. Two of his 17 career Cup wins have come at Michigan, including last August, and his average

finish there is 18th.

A Dodge or a Ford has won each of the last 13 races at Michigan, which used to be owned by team owner Roger Penske.

Kasey Kahne, who drives a Dodge, has won three of the past four Sprint Cup events, including the non-points All-Star Race, so that gives Busch hope that his Dodge will start running in front again, too.

"Kahne looked like he was struggling a few weeks back, but now he's winning races," Busch said. "So, maybe it is just right around the corner for us."

Then again, if it doesn't work out, there are always the Cubs.

"I love how hot the Cubs are," Busch said. "It's great and it's fun to watch them. It's been 100 years since they've been this hot and led this early in the standings with this record. . . . Hopefully, around our Chicago race, I'll have an opportunity to make it over to Wrigley Field. This could be the year."

NASCAR Nationwide Series

Logano youngest winner ever

BY WILL GRAVES
The Associated Press

SPARTA, Ky. — Joey Logano became the youngest winner in Nationwide Series history Saturday night, cruising to victory in the Meijer 300

at Kentucky Speedway.

The 18-year-old Logano, making his third series start, took the lead from teammate Kyle Busch with 53 laps remaining and rolled on after Busch spun out with 37 laps to go.

Logano, at 18 years, 21 days old, broke the age record of 18 years, 10 months, 26 days set by Casey Atwood in 1999.

Logano's father, Tom, watched from the pits as his son carefully guided his No. 20 car over the final laps at the

1.5-mile tri-oval, then celebrated with what he called the best Father's Day present ever.

"I figured about 10, but he did it in three," his father, Tom Logano, said when asked how long he thought it would take the driver to win his first NASCAR race.

Logano, hailed as a prodigy by NASCAR star Mark Martin when Logano was just 15, became the second Kentucky

victor to win from the pole and the eighth different winner in eight races since the race's inception.

The way Logano dominated the field over the final 37 laps, the path to Victory Lane could become awfully familiar. He flattened two tires while showing off for the fans after the race, a show of youthful exuberance that belies the steady hand Logano showed while making history.

Utah motorsports notes

NASA to land at Miller Motorsports Park

BY JAY DREW
The Salt Lake Tribune

TOOELE — Motorcycles have ruled at Miller Motorsports Park the past few weekends, but four-wheeled racing is back at the road course and here for the rest of the summer.

The Rocky Mountain Region of the National Auto Sports Association (NASA) is making its annual visit to Utah this weekend with three

days of racing, which concludes today.

NASA, which was founded in 1991, stages more than 120 events for auto racers and driving enthusiasts around the country.

Nearly 200 cars in 24 different classes are competing this weekend in an event called the Rocky Mountain Summer Jam.

Fans have been treated to the American Stock Car class, which has brought almost 20

NASCAR-type stock cars to the course.

The 4.5-mile full course will be used today, after the 3.048-mile outer course was used Friday and Saturday.

"We always love coming to Miller Motorsports Park," said NASA Rocky Mountain Region director **Dave Balingit** in a track news release. "It is a world-class facility and our drivers really enjoy the opportunity to run on such a nice, safe track."

Admission is \$5 for adults, and children 12 and under are admitted free.

24 Hours of Le Mans

Several of the teams and drivers who competed in the American Le Mans Series' Utah Grand Prix at MMP last month are in France this weekend for the famed 24 Hours of Le Mans, the world's most famous endurance race.

The 76th edition of the race started Saturday.

The driving trio that handed Audi its fourth-straight win last year — **Emanuele Pirro** of Italy and **Frank Biela** and **Marco Werner** of Germany — clocked the sixth-best qualifying lap. Pirro and Biela won the inaugural race at MMP, of course, but failed to finish last month after getting clipped by a Ford with about 10 minutes remaining.

Grand Am update

The Grand-Am Rolex Series, which visits MMP on Sept. 20, is not running this week. Its next race is June 21 at the Mid-Ohio Sports Car Course in Lexington, Ohio.

Scott Pruett and **Memo Ro-**

jas lead the Daytona Prototype driver standings with 202 points, while **Marc Goossens** and **Jim Matthews** hold a slight lead, 166-153, over **Alex Gurney** and **Jon Fogarty** for second.

Checa on the track

Fresh off his sweep of the World Superbike Races at MMP two weeks ago, Spaniard **Carlos Checa** is the talk of the paddock at Nurburgring, Germany, where the series will resume this week. Checa earned 50 points in Tooele and is now just 28 points behind leader **Troy Bayliss**, who had two DNFs in Utah.

drew@sltrib.com

Prep rodeo

Wright wins again

BY CODY BRUNNER
Special to The Tribune

HEBER CITY — There aren't many surnames in Utah high school rodeo that strike a chord quite like Wright.

And with good reason.

The eldest, Cody, is in first place in the saddle bronc competition on the Wrangler Pro Rodeo Tour and was once a state champion.

He's only the first in a talent-rich rodeo family from Milford. Now, it's his little brother's turn.

Jesse continued the family tradition Saturday at the Utah High School Rodeo State Finals by finishing first in the saddle bronc competition for the second consecutive year.

"It's just something that we all got into at an early age," Jesse said. "My dad and Cody both teach me a lot."

The win qualifies him for the National High School Rodeo Championships in Farmington, N.M., July 20-26.

Jesse's state title this year was bittersweet, though.

His twin brother, Jacob, who was his biggest competition in the event, had to watch from the stands after breaking his foot in a Moab rodeo one week before the state finals. Jacob finished fourth at state last season and came into the state finals ranked second.

"It just wasn't as fun not having him out there," Jesse said.

The Wright family legacy won't end with the twins' graduation.

Spencer, a sophomore, finished third in the saddle bronc competition and will also move on to nationals.

Jesse says that, thanks to Cody, the family name gives



TRENT NELSON/The Salt Lake Tribune

Jesse Wright won the saddle bronc at the state high school rodeo state finals Saturday for the second straight year.

him and his brothers plenty of attention at Utah rodeos.

"Everybody knows you by name and recognizes you," Jesse said. "It's definitely opened a lot of doors for us."

RSL

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The players had to kill off four minutes of stoppage time before they could celebrate by pumping their fists and exchanging backslaps and hugs, but just like that, they were back in the thick of the play-off race.

The victory vaulted the team over Chivas, from fifth place in the MLS Western Conference into a tie for third with a 4-5-3 record and 15 points, with still four of its next five games at home.

Just as important, it proved RSL could hold a lead in the most unfriendly of environments.

Sure, there were plenty of anxious moments as Chivas pushed to equalize — Salt Lake City's Justin Braun had a shockingly open breakaway for Chivas in the 63rd minute, for example, only to fire his

shot right at goalkeeper Nick Rimando, and teammate Sacha Kljestan sent a header just wide in the 73rd — but ultimately, the team took a huge stride.

"I'm just so, so proud of the guys," Kreis said. "We said at halftime, 'Here we are again, in the spot that we talked about multiple times this season, so let's show everybody — let's show ourselves — that we learned something.' And the guys did a fantastic job with that. They've taken a big, big step forward."

Striker Robbie Findley gave RSL the lead in the 34th minute, running onto a beautiful through-ball from Beckerman and eluding former teammate Carey Talley — traded to Chivas last month — and goalkeeper Dan Kennedy near the top of the box to fire a left-footed shot into the top right corner of the net for his second goal in three games.

"You can only go on for so long," Findley said. "We've

been working hard at this, doing a lot of things to get to this point. I mean, you put in the hard work, it's going to pay off."

Findley was playing out wide on the left as part of a 4-5-1 formation that included midfielder Matias Cordoba making his first start for RSL.

Striker Yura Movsisyan made his first appearance in awhile, too, replacing Cordoba on the right side of the midfield in the 61st minute after missing five games because of knee surgery — though he left the game after just 26 minutes after aggravating the injury.

"We knew all along we could do it on the road, it was just bad luck and bad concentration," Rimando said. "But we proved it today. We played 90-plus, which we needed to do, and we got the result that we needed to get. It's definitely uplifting and something that's going to carry us, for sure."

mcl@sltrib.com