

NASCAR

# Edwards walking away from final year with Gibbs

By JENNA FRYER  
Associated Press

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — In a stunning decision, NASCAR driver Carl Edwards is walking away from the final year of his contract with Joe Gibbs Racing less than two months after nearly winning his first Cup championship, two people with knowledge of the situation told *The Associated Press* on Tuesday.

Joe Gibbs Racing scheduled a pair of news conferences Wednesday in which Edwards is expected to announce he will not drive the No. 19 Toyota next season. The second announcement is that reigning Xfinity Series champion Daniel Suarez will replace Edwards in the Cup Series. The two people spoke to AP on condition of anonymity because the team and Edwards had not

announced the move.

The 37-year-old Edwards informed team owner Joe Gibbs right before Christmas that he no longer wanted to compete, the people told AP, confirming a decision first reported by Fox Sports.

“This is comparable to Barry Sanders’ retirement back in 1999, shocking and with loads of ability and time left in a very successful career,” said Texas Motor Speedway President Eddie Gossage. Edwards was a four-time winner at Texas in the Cup Series.

“I talked to Carl about a month ago and he didn’t give any indication that he was considering this,” Gossage said. “It is a shock that just doesn’t seem real.”

Edwards may not be done for good: He could simply be sitting out one year of competition for a myriad of reasons, and there could be



AP Photo/Steve Helber, File

In this Oct. 30, 2016, file photo, Sprint Cup Series driver Carl Edwards (19) greets fans during driver introductions for the NASCAR Sprint Cup auto race at Martinsville Speedway in Martinsville, Va.

jobs waiting for him in 2018. Tony Stewart has retired and has a four-car lineup that is moving this year to Ford, where Edwards was closely aligned before he spent the last two seasons driving for Gibbs.

Also, concerns about Dale Earnhardt Jr.’s concussion history, plus underperformance by Kasey Kahne, could open seats in the future at Hendrick Motorsports. Edwards, who is married to a doctor who specializes in

neurological rehabilitation, could also be spooked by Earnhardt’s concussion problems.

Edwards has given no indication what he’s thinking or what the future may hold. In a text message to *The Associated Press*, he wrote: “I’m kinda hungry. Going to Subway!” in reference to his longtime sponsor. He also stated simply: “All good.”

Neither Fox Sports or NBC Sports have roles planned for Edwards in 2017, although he has done analyst work on a semi-regular basis the last several years.

Edwards came oh-so-close to winning his first Cup championship in November’s season finale. He was leading all championship contenders with 10 laps remaining at Homestead-Miami Speedway until a caution set up a restart that bunched the field. Edwards tried to block

Joey Logano’s attempt to take the lead, and it caused a crash that ended Edwards’ title bid.

The class and dignity in which Edwards showed after the accident — he walked from his wrecked car to the pit box for Logano and wished that team luck in the closing laps — was widely lauded. He also came close to a title in 2011, finishing second to Stewart in a tiebreaker.

Edwards, who is extremely private, has two young children that he steadfastly refuses to discuss in interviews. He lives in his home state of Missouri, while most of NASCAR’s drivers live in North Carolina.

Edwards won three races in 2016 as JGR dominated the regular season and put two drivers in the final four. He spent 13 years in the Cup Series and has 28 career victories in 445 starts.

## SCOREBOARD

### Local Slate

**BOYS PREP BASKETBALL**

**Today**  
Hermiston at La Grande, canceled

**Thursday**  
Nixyaawii at Wallowa, 7:30 p.m.

**Friday**  
Pilot Rock at Culver, 6 p.m.

**Friday-Saturday**  
Pendleton at Sunset, 7:15 p.m.  
Irrigon at Riverside, 7:30 p.m.  
Heppner at Stanfield, 7:30 p.m.  
Ione at Arlington, 7:30 p.m.  
Condon/Wheeler at South Wasco, 7:30 p.m.  
Powder Valley at Echo, 7:30 p.m.  
Nixyaawii at Helix, 7:30 p.m.

**Saturday**  
Umatilla at Irrigon, 1 p.m.  
Stanfield at Culver, 2:30 p.m.  
Heppner at Weston-McEwen, 4 p.m.  
Baker at Mac-Hi, 5:15 p.m.

**Girls Prep Basketball**

**Thursday**  
Nixyaawii at Wallowa, 6 p.m.

**Friday**  
Pilot Rock at Culver, 4:30 p.m.  
Irrigon at Riverside, 6 p.m.  
Heppner at Stanfield, 6 p.m.  
Ione at Arlington, 6 p.m.  
Condon/Wheeler at South Wasco, 6 p.m.  
Powder Valley at Echo, 6 p.m.  
Nixyaawii at Helix, 6 p.m.

**Saturday**  
Umatilla at Irrigon, 3 p.m.  
Baker at Mac-Hi, 3:30 p.m.  
Pendleton at Lewiston (ID), 4 p.m.  
Stanfield at Culver, 4 p.m.  
Mitchell/Spray at Condon/Wheeler (Fossil), 4 p.m.  
Arlington at Horizon Christian (Hood River), 4 p.m.  
Dufur at Ione, 4 p.m.

Echo at Wallowa, 4 p.m.  
Joseph at Helix, 4 p.m.  
Nixyaawii at Pine Eagle, 4 p.m.  
Riverside at Burns, 5 p.m.  
Heppner at Weston-McEwen, 5:30 p.m.  
West Valley (WA) at Hermiston, 7:30 p.m.

**PREP WRESTLING**

**Friday-Saturday**  
Hermiston, Pendleton, Mac-Hi, Riverside, Irrigon, Heppner at Oregon Classic (Deschutes County Fairgrounds), TBD

**Saturday**  
Echo at Bonanza Tournament, 9 a.m.

**PREP SWIMMING**

**Saturday**  
Pendleton, Hermiston at Madras Meet, 10 a.m.

**MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL**

**Today**  
Blue Mountain at Yakima Valley, 8 p.m.

**Thursday**  
Eastern Oregon at Oregon Tech, 7:30 p.m.

**Saturday**  
Columbia Basin at Blue Mountain, 4 p.m.  
Eastern Oregon at Southern Oregon, 7:30 p.m.

**WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL**

**Today**  
Blue Mountain at Yakima Valley, 6 p.m.

**Thursday**  
Eastern Oregon at Oregon Tech, 5:30 p.m.

**Saturday**  
Columbia Basin at Blue Mountain, 2 p.m.  
Eastern Oregon at Southern Oregon, 5:30 p.m.

**COLLEGE WRESTLING**

**Saturday**  
Eastern Oregon (women only) at Oregon Classic, TBD

**Prep Scores**

**BOYS BASKETBALL**

**Tuesday's Games**  
Churchill 86, North Eugene 37  
Forest Grove 91, North Salem 60  
Glencoe 67, Liberty 54  
McMinnville 56, West Albany 40  
McNary 95, McKay 62  
North Bend 50, Sutherlin 36  
North Marion 67, Molalla 35  
Sheldon 61, Roseburg 42

Siuslaw 54, Junction City 44  
South Eugene 77, Grants Pass 64  
South Umpqua 61, Elmira 48  
Springfield 63, Marist 54  
Thurston 61, Ashland 39  
Tillamook 65, Newport 48  
Valley Catholic 68, Yamhill-Carlton 36  
West Salem 79, Sprague 55  
Willamette 58, South Medford 57  
Wilsonville 59, Hillsboro 44  
POSTPONEMENTS AND CANCELLATIONS  
Mac-Hi at Hood River Valley  
Pendleton at La Grande  
Weston-McEwen at Umatilla  
Arlington at Condon/Wheeler

**GIRLS BASKETBALL**

**Tuesday's Games**  
Astoria 66, Estacada 45  
Carly 78, Tualatin 50  
Central 53, South Albany 49  
Central Linn 25, Kennedy 24, OT  
Churchill 74, North Eugene 47  
Corvallis 53, Lebanon 21  
Crater 57, Eagle Point 33  
Elmira 54, South Umpqua 50  
Glencoe 66, Liberty 39  
Grants Pass 60, South Eugene 32  
Hillsboro 48, Wilsonville 46  
McNary 71, McKay 22  
North Marion 48, Molalla 26  
Sheldon 52, Roseburg 32  
Silverwood 43, Lakeridge 34  
Sherwood 70, Woodburn 12  
South Medford 64, Willamette 35  
Sutherlin 43, Stayton 36  
Thurston 59, Ashland 38  
Valley Catholic 51, Yamhill-Carlton 49  
West Albany 49, McMinnville 39  
West Linn 60, Lake Oswego 53  
West Salem 55, Sprague 40  
CANCELLATIONS AND POSTPONEMENTS  
Weston-McEwen at Umatilla  
Arlington at Condon/Wheeler  
Mac-Hi at Hood River Valley  
Sunniessa (WA) at Hermiston  
La Grande at Pendleton

**Football**

**NFL**

**Divisional Playoffs**

**Saturday**

Seattle at Atlanta, 1:35 p.m. (FOX)  
Houston at New England, 5:15 p.m. (CBS)

**Sunday**  
Pittsburgh at Kansas City, 10:05 a.m. (NBC)  
Green Bay at Dallas, 1:40 p.m. (FOX)

**Basketball**

**NBA**

**EASTERN CONFERENCE**

**Atlantic Division W L Pct GB**  
Toronto 25 13 658 —  
Boston 23 15 605 2  
New York 17 21 447 8  
Philadelphia 10 25 286 13½  
Brooklyn 8 29 216 16½  
**Southeast Div. W L Pct GB**  
Atlanta 22 16 579 —  
Washington 19 18 514 2½  
Charlotte 20 19 513 2½  
Orlando 16 23 410 6½  
Miami 11 29 275 12  
**Central Division W L Pct GB**  
Cleveland 28 9 757 —  
Indiana 20 18 526 8½  
Milwaukee 19 18 514 9  
Chicago 19 20 487 10  
Detroit 18 22 450 11½

**WESTERN CONFERENCE**

**Southwest Div. W L Pct GB**  
San Antonio 30 8 789 —  
Houston 31 9 775 —  
Memphis 24 16 600 7  
New Orleans 15 24 385 15½  
Dallas 11 27 289 19  
**Northwest Div. W L Pct GB**  
Utah 24 16 600 —  
Oklahoma City 23 16 590 ½  
Portland 17 23 425 7  
Denver 14 23 378 8½  
Minnesota 12 26 316 11

**Pacific Division W L Pct GB**  
Golden State 33 6 846 —  
L.A. Clippers 26 14 650 7½  
Sacramento 18 22 421 16½  
L.A. Lakers 15 27 357 19½  
Phoenix 12 26 316 20½

**Tuesday's Games**  
Washington 101, Chicago 99  
Atlanta 117, Brooklyn 97  
Toronto 114, Boston 106

Houston 121, Charlotte 114  
Milwaukee 109, San Antonio 107  
Utah 100, Cleveland 92  
Golden State 107, Miami 95  
Portland 108, L.A. Lakers 87  
Sacramento 100, Detroit 94

**Today's Games**  
New York at Philadelphia, 4 p.m.  
Houston at Minnesota, 5 p.m.  
Memphis at Oklahoma City, 5 p.m.  
Washington at Boston, 5 p.m.  
Cleveland at Portland, 7:30 p.m.  
Orlando at L.A. Clippers, 7:30 p.m.

**NCAA**

**Men's Top 25**

**Tuesday's Games**  
No. 10 West Virginia 89, No. 1 Baylor 68  
No. 2 Kansas 81, Oklahoma 70  
No. 3 Villanova 79, No. 15 Xavier 54  
No. 6 Kentucky 87, Vanderbilt 81  
No. 9 Florida State 88, No. 7 Duke 72  
No. 23 Florida 80, Alabama 67  
Texas Tech 66, No. 25 Kansas State 65

**Today's Games**  
No. 8 Creighton vs. No. 12 Butler, 6 p.m.  
No. 11 North Carolina at Wake Forest, 5 p.m.  
No. 14 Louisville vs. Pittsburgh, 4 p.m.  
No. 24 Minnesota at Michigan State, 4 p.m.

**Women's Top 25**

**Tuesday's Games**  
No. 1 UConn 102, No. 20 South Florida 37  
Michigan State 94, No. 11 Ohio State 75  
No. 16 Texas 66, Oklahoma State 35  
No. 21 DePaul 78, St. John's 66

**Today's Games**  
No. 2 Baylor vs. TCU, 5 p.m.  
No. 3 Maryland vs. Penn State, 3:30 p.m.  
No. 14 Miami vs. No. 15 Virginia Tech, 4 p.m.  
No. 18 West Virginia at Texas Tech, 4:30 p.m.  
No. 22 Oklahoma at Iowa State, 5 p.m.  
No. 25 Kansas State vs. Kansas, 5 p.m.

**Hockey**

**NHL**

**EASTERN CONFERENCE**

**Atlantic Division GP W L OT Pts GF GA**  
Montreal 41 25 10 6 56 125 97  
Boston 44 22 17 5 49 110 108

Ottawa 39 21 14 4 46 99 102  
Toronto 39 18 13 8 44 120 116  
Florida 42 18 16 8 44 98 113  
Tampa Bay 42 19 19 4 42 118 127  
Buffalo 40 16 15 9 41 93 110  
Detroit 41 17 18 6 40 103 119

**Metropolitan Division GP W L OT Pts GF GA**  
Columbus 40 28 8 4 60 135 90  
Pittsburgh 39 26 8 5 57 139 109  
Washington 40 26 9 5 57 115 84  
N.Y. Rangers 42 28 13 1 57 146 107  
Philadelphia 43 21 16 6 48 124 133  
Carolina 41 19 15 7 45 109 111  
New Jersey 42 16 18 8 40 95 124  
N.Y. Islanders 38 15 15 8 38 106 117

**WESTERN CONFERENCE**

**Central Division GP W L OT Pts GF GA**  
Chicago 44 27 12 5 59 124 107  
Minnesota 39 25 9 5 55 123 85  
St. Louis 41 21 15 5 47 117 123  
Nashville 41 18 16 7 43 114 111  
Winnipeg 43 20 20 3 43 118 126  
Dallas 42 17 17 8 42 109 127  
Colorado 39 13 25 1 27 79 130

**Pacific Division GP W L OT Pts GF GA**  
San Jose 41 25 14 2 52 110 93  
Anaheim 43 22 13 8 52 115 113  
Edmonton 43 21 15 7 49 123 118  
Calgary 43 22 19 2 46 114 119  
Los Angeles 41 20 17 4 44 102 105  
Vancouver 43 20 19 4 44 106 123  
Arizona 40 12 22 6 30 86 128

NOTE: Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss.

**Tuesday's Games**  
Carolina 5, Columbus 3  
Buffalo 4, Philadelphia 1  
Boston 5, St. Louis 3  
Chicago 4, Detroit 3, OT  
San Jose 5, Edmonton 3  
Anaheim 2, Dallas 0

**Today's Games**  
Florida at N.Y. Islanders, 4 p.m.  
Montreal at Winnipeg, 4:30 p.m.  
Pittsburgh at Washington, 5 p.m.  
San Jose at Calgary, 6:30 p.m.

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600 Recreational Vehicles	004 Bargain Bin!	135 Lots & Acreage	255 Roommates Wanted
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450 Round-Up	530 Garage Sales- Pendleton	710 Auto Parts	010 Special Notices
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155 Out of Area Property for Sale	310 Business Opportunities	420 Feed and Seed	475 Fuel and Heating
740 Trailers	015 Holiday Happenings	200 Rentals	325 Education/ Schools
485 Miscellaneous	545 Garage Sales- Athena/ Weston	800 Business/ Service Directory	020 Personals
330 Child/ Adult Care	430 Lawn and Garden	490 Household Items	555 Garage Sales- Other
705 Automobiles	445 Pets	335 Employment	500 Antiques
100 Homes For Sale	505 Wanted to Buy	100 Homes For Sale	

**Special Notices 10**

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3pm the day prior to publication

**Hermiston Herald**  
10am Tuesday

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Office Building in busy location. Lots of upgrades. Call Cathy for more info, 541-215-0103. #16363913  
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UNIQUE - This home has 2,288 sf (m/l) & is located on approx 0.38 ac. Huge "gourmet-type" kitchen, sunken living room & "stage" for all those entertainers. Hardwood floors, carpet. Large garage, lots of parking for RVs, boats, etc.. MLS# 15033690 Call Marge Lapp  
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**PENDLETON** - \$149,900  
Invest in the Weat! Triplex! Well established Two 1 bedroom units & One 2-3 possible bedrooms on large main floor. Small deck. Private yard w/garden area & patio. Off street parking. MLS# 15428504 Call Marge Lapp  
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**PENDLETON** - \$169,900  
NEW! Nice 1,1816 sf(m/l) home on .36 acre. Large country kitchen, family room. Cozy living room w/pellet stove & fireplace. 2 (possibly 3) bedrooms, 2 baths. Great shop, overhead door. RV parking, garden area.  
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**PENDLETON** - \$219,000  
Beautifully updated 4 bed, 3 bath. Updated kitchen refinished hardwood floors, newer windows, remodeled bathrooms. Storage Deluxe including office/craft room, basement pantry, bonus room and workshop. Sharp! Call Matt Vogler MLS 16267013  
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Fabulous 4 bed, 3 bath townhome with top of North Main views. Featuring high-end finishes, satin nickel fixtures, granite countertops, solid doors vaulted ceilings, detailed molding. Call Matt Vogler MLS 16221871  
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1902 Craftsman. 2060sf(m/l), 4bed, 2bath home w/new A/C system upstairs, updated floors, paint. Double lot, detached garage. Kevin 541-969-8243cell to view this home. #16633964  
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**PENDLETON** - \$99,500  
NEW LISTING 3 bdrm, 2ba manufactured home on nice North Hill lot. Garden spot, deck, carport, open floor plan. Come take a look! RMLS #16573723 Call Kal for more info 541-969-7358  
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