Kevin Harvick dominates Vegas for back-to-back NASCAR wins

AP Sports Writer

LAS VEGAS — From his dynamic opening laps to his comfortable cruise to the checkered flag, Kevin Harvick was the safest bet in Sin City this weekend.

Harvick's air of inevitability increased with each lap around the Las Vegas Motor Speedway on Sunday, and the rest of the NASCAR Cup field must be a bit worried about how they're going to catch up this year.

Harvick raced to his second straight NASCAR Cup win with a dominant performance in Vegas on Sunday, earning his 100th career win across the three national series.

"There was no catching that 4 (car)," second-place finisher Kyle Busch said. "He was on rails, and lights out."

Harvick followed up his stellar performance last weekend in Atlanta with

another victory in his Stewart-Haas Racing Ford. He led a track-record 214 of the 267 laps, won all three stages and capably held off Busch's late hometown charge to win in Vegas for the second time in four years.

"These last two weeks, we've just hit on everything we needed to," said Harvick, $who\,cruised\,home\,2.9\,seconds$ ahead of Busch. "My (team has) done their homework on a number of things. Just really proud of everybody."

Busch got close to his second career victory in his hometown with his Joe Gibbs Racing Toyota, but couldn't overcome the dominant leader. Kyle Larson finished third after winning the Xfinity Series race on Saturday, while defending champion Martin Truex Jr. was in fourth and pole-sitter Ryan Blaney in

Harvick has already matched his Cup win total from last season in three — and he's headed to



Kevin Harvick performs a burnout after winning the Pennzoil 400 NASCAR race Sunday in Las Vegas.

Phoenix, where he has won five times since 2012.

Harvick also took a moment to savor a milestone. Only Richard Petty, Kyle Busch and David Pearson have won more races across the three national circuits than Harvick, the 42-year-old Californian with plenty of good years left on his tires.

"It's been a lot of years accumulated with a lot of great race teams and people and situations," Harvick said.

"When you tag that tripledigit number to it, it really lets you realize that you've been fortunate to accomplish a lot of things."

Not many wins are more emphatic than Harvick's 100th.

Harvick led 144 of the first 160 laps and comfortably won the first two stages. He was fourth out of the end-ofstage caution after Stage 2, with Joey Logano getting in front with an exceptional pit Stop.

But Harvick reclaimed

the lead off another restart with 73 laps to go after Kurt Busch wrecked along with Chase Elliott. Harvick emerged from his last pit stop with a three-second lead on Brad Keselowski, and Busch couldn't catch up.

Here are more things to know about the race on the Strip

DOING RECON: For the first time, NASCAR is returning to Vegas in the fall for a second race, which will also be the playoff opener. Teams used this trip to gather data and information for the return trip in September, although the temperature could easily be 50 degrees higher than the balmy 53 degrees at Sunday's race. "The adjustments we made today are going to help in the fall," Kyle Busch said. (Although) I think the track is going to be a lot slower with the heat."

KUBU CAN'T DO: Kurt

Busch's career-long victory drought in his hometown continues. Busch lost control and ran Elliott into the wall shortly after a restart early in the final stage. The crash necessitated a long caution for fluid cleanup. The 39-year-old Busch has never won at Las Vegas Motor Speedway, which was built while he grew up in town. Kurt Busch failed to win the Cup race in Vegas for the 17th time. He has started on the pole twice, but has only one top-five finish here despite calling it a top priority in his career.

THREE STRIKES: The car chiefs for Jimmie Johnson and Ross Chastain were ejected after their cars failed inspection three times during the pre-race checks. Johnson had to start at the back after his chief, Jesse Saunders, got the gate. Johnson also will have practice time taken away next week in Phoenix. The seven-time champion still rallied to finish 12th.

SCOREBOARD

Local slate

WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Thursday EOU vs. Reinhardt (NAIA Championship First Round - at Sioux City, Iowa), 10:15 a.m.

COLLEGE BASEBALL Saturday Shoreline at BMCC (DH), 11 a.m.

Linn-Benton at BMCC (DH), 11 a.m.

COLLEGE SOFTBALL

Thursday Clackamas at BMCC, 1 p.m. Friday SW Oregon CC at BMCC (DH), Noon

Saturday

Northwest Christian at EOU (DH), 11 a.m. Sunday Northwest Christian at EOU (DH), 11 a.m.

Basketball

BOYS OSAA PLAYOFFS Saturday's Games Class 6A Tournament

Second Round
No. 1 Jefferson 77, No. 16 Grants Pass 52
No. 2 Grant 85, No. 15 McMinnville 66
No. 3 Southridge 63, No. 19 Roosevelt 55
No. 8 Jesuit 66, No. 9 North Medford 51 No. 10 West Salem 72, No. 7 West Linn 62 No. 11 Lincoln 82, No. 81 Lake Oswego 81, 2OT No. 12 Tualatin 61, No. 5 McNary 41 No. 20 Barlow 84, No. 4 Sprague 62 Class 5A Tournament

First Round

First Round

No. 1 Silverton 64, No. 16 Sandy 47

No. 2 Crater 51, No. 15 Hermiston 43

No. 3 Thurston 58, No. 14 Pendleton 40

No. 4 Wilsonville 56, No. 13 Central 31

No. 5 Springfield 62, No. 12 La Salle Prep 45

No. 6 Mrn. View 88, No. 11 Crescent Valley 81, OT

No. 7 South Albany 49, No. 10 Summit 43 No. 8 Churchill 83, No. 9 Bend 39 Class 4A Tournament

First Round
No. 1 Banks 102, No. 16 Madras 58
No. 2 Seaside 43, No. 15 Gladstone 32
No. 3 Marshfield 61, No. 14 Baker 44

No. 4 La Grande 64, No. 13 Stayton 58, OT No. 5 Valley Cath. 57, No. 12 Cascade 45 No. 6 Newport 73, No. 11 Sutherlin 54 No. 7 Mazama 61, No. 10 Philomath 44 No. 8 Sisters 72, No. 9 Henley 60

Class 3A State Tournament Championship
No. 1 De La Salle North Catholic 68, No.

Third Place No. 4 Blanchet Cath. 52. No. 3 Santiam Christ. 45

No. 6 Cascade Christian 55, No. 8 Irrigon 45
Class 2A State Tournament

Championship
No. 2 Columbia Christian 65, No. 1 Western Mennonite 61

Third Place

No. 11 Vernonia 55, No. 5 Oakland 50 Fourth Place No. 10 Kennedy 54, No. 8 Grant Union 45 Class 1A State Tournament

Championship No. 1 Pacific 73, No. 7 Prarie City 50 No. 11 Jordan Valley 54, No. 4 Triad 39
Fourth Place

No. 2 Sherman 65, No. 9 Hosanna Christian 55

OSAA GIRLS PLAYOFFS Class 3A State Tournament

Championship No. 2 Dayton 35, No. 1 Salem Academy 26 Third Place

No. 5 Blanchet Catholic 44, No. 3 Rainier 28 Fourth Place
No. 7 Coquille 36, No. 8 Nyssa 28
Class 2A State Tournament

Championship No. 1 Kennedy 53, No. 2 Monroe 40

Third Place No. 6 St. Paul 47, No. 5 Faith Bible 36 Fourth Place No. 4 Grant Union 54, No. 3 Oakland 44

Class 1A State Tournament

Class in Grace No. 1. Championship
No. 1 Country Christian 56, No. 2 Nixyaawii 54
Third Place
No. 3 Powder Valley 63, No. 4 Days Creek 44

Fourth Place No. 9 Joseph 65, No. 11 Hosanna Christian 42

NBA EASTERN CONFERENCE

L Pct 17 .726 20 .692 Pct GB W Toronto 45 45 26 .587 27 .578 28 .563 28 .548 Cleveland 8½ 9 10 11 12 12 Indiana Washington Philadelphia Miami 30 .531 30 .531 Milwaukee 35 .453 36 .438 40 .375 17 18 22 29 28 24 21 20 Charlotte New York Chicago 42 .333 24½ 44 .313 26

WESTERIN CONFERENCE							
	W	L Pct GE	3				
Houston	49	13 .790 —	_				
Golden State	49	14 .778 1/2	2				
Portland	38	26 .594 12	2				
New Orleans	36	26 .581 13	3				
San Antonio	37	27 .578 13	3				
Minnesota	38	28 .576 13	3				
Oklahoma City	37	28 .569 137	2				
Denver	35	28 .556 147	2				
L.A. Clippers	34	28 .548 15	5				
116-1		00 504 44					
Utah	34	30 .531 16	o				
L.A. Lakers	28	35 .444 217	2				
Sacramento	20	44 .313 30)				
Dallas	19	45 .297 3	1				
Memphis	18	45 .286 317	2				
Phoenix	19	47 .288 32	2				

.313

44 .313

Monday's Games

Monday s dames Cleveland 112, Detroit 90 Indiana 92, Milwaukee 89 Miami 125, Phoenix 103 Boston 105, Chicago 89 San Antonio 100, Memphis 98 Utah 94, Orlando 80 Portland 108, L.A. Lakers 103

Tuesday's Games
Atlanta at Toronto, 4 p.m.
Miami at Washington, 4 p.m.
Philadelphia at Charlotte, 4 p.m. Houston at Oklahoma City, 5 p.m Denver at Dallas, 5:30 p.m.

New York at Portland, 7 p.m. Brooklyn at Golden State, 7:30 p.m New Orleans at L.A. Clippers, 7:30 p.m.

NCAA Men Top 25 Schedule

Monday's Games
No. 6 Gonzaga 88, San Francisco 60
(WCC Semifinal) BYU 85, No. 20 Saint Mary's 72 Tuesday's Games

No. 6 Gonzaga vs. BYU (WCC Champion-ship), 6 p.m. (ESPN) Pac-12 Tournament Wednesday First Round

Arizona St vs. Colorado, Noon California vs. Stanford, 2:30 p.m. Oregon State vs. Washington, 6 p.m. Washington St. vs. Oregon, 8:30 p.m.

NCAA Women

Monday's Games No. 1 UConn 75, Cincinnati 21 (AAC Semifinals) No. 2 Baylor 77, No. 8 Texas 69 (Big 12

No. 19 South Florida 74. Central Florida 59 (AAC Semifinal) No. 22 Green Bay 66, Youngstown St 45

(Horizon League semifinal)
Tuesday's Games

No. 22 Green Bay vs. Wright State, 9 a.m. (ESPNU) (Horizon League championship) No. 1 UConn vs. No. 19 South Florida, 2 p.m. (ESPN2) (AAC Championship)

Hockey

NHL EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Di							
	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Tampa Bay	66	45	17	4	94	240	182
Boston	63	40	15	8	88	209	158
Toronto	68	39	22			223	
Florida	63	32	25	6	70	189	199
Detroit	65	26	29	10		170	
Montreal	65	25	29	11		167	
Ottawa	65	23	32	10	56	177	227
Buffalo	66	21	34	11	53	159	214

Metropolitan Division GP W L Washington 65 37 21 7 81 203 193 4 80 219 203 11 79 197 193 25 21 Philadelphia 66 34 21
New Jersey 66 33 25
Columbus 66 33 28
Carolina 66 29 26
N.Y. Islanders67 29 29 8 74 193 199 5 71 176 186 11 69 176 198 9 67 216 241

6 66 189 209 WESTERN CONFERENCE Central Division
GP W
Nashville 65 42
Winnipeg 65 39 OT Pts GF GA 9 93 214 168 9 87 220 175 7 81 204 190 6 80 195 174

Chicago	66	28	30	8	64	188	195
Pacific Division							
	GΡ	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GΑ
Vegas	65	42	18	5	89	225	180
San Jose	66	35	22	9	79	196	184
Anaheim	66	33	21	12	78	186	183
Los Angeles	66	36	25	5	77	192	165
Calgary	67	32	25	10	74	188	199
Edmonton	66	28	34	4	60	187	219
Vancouver	66	25	32	9	59	180	217
A	0.5	α	0.4	44	E 4	150	010

Monday's Games

Colorado

Pittsburgh 4, Calgary 3, OT Buffalo 5, Toronto 3 Ottawa 3, Dallas 2, OT Edmonton 4, Arizona 3, OT Vancouver 4, N.Y. Islanders 3, OT **Tuesday's Games** Winnipeg at N.Y. Rangers, 4 p.m.

Vegas at Columbus, 4 p.m. Vegas at Columbus, 4 p.m.
Montreal at New Jersey, 4 p.m.
Detroit at Boston, 4 p.m.
Florida at Tampa Bay, 4:30 p.m.
Carolina at Minnesota, 5 p.m.
Dallas at Nashville, 5 p.m. Colorado at Chicago, 5:30 p.m.

Auto Racing

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Sunday Results
(Start position in parentheses)
1. (2) Kevin Harvick, Ford, 267 laps
2. (13) Kyle Busch, Toyota, 267.
3. (5) Kyle Larson, Chevrolet, 267.
4. (4) Martin Truex Jr, Toyota, 267.
5. (1) Ryan Blaney, Ford, 267.
6. (8) Brad Keselowski, Ford, 267.
(10) Legano Farti, 267. 6. (6) Brad Reselowski, Fold, 26 7. (10) Joey Logano, Ford, 267. 8. (9) Erik Jones, Toyota, 267. 9. (12) Paul Menard, Ford, 267. 10. (29) Aric Almirola, Ford, 266.

At Las Vegas Motor Speedway Las Vegas, Nev. Lap length: 1.50 miles

Sunday Results

11. (25) Ryan Newman, Chevrolet 12. (14) Jimmie Johnson, Chevrolet, 266

12. (14) Jimmie Johnson, Chevrolet, 26.
13. (16) Austin Dillon, Chevrolet, 266.
14. (7) Ricky Stenhouse Jr, Ford, 265.
15. (28) Chris Buescher, Chevrolet, 265.
16. (20) Alex Bowman, Chevrolet, 265.
17. (19) Denny Hamlin, Toyota, 265.
18. (11) Clint Bowyer, Ford, 265.
19. (21) Kasey Kahne, Chevrolet, 264.
20. (24) Trevor Bayne, Ford, 264.
21. (26) Darrell Wallace Jr, Chevrolet, 262.
(22) Watt DiBenedetto, Ford, 264. 22. (32) Matt DiBenedetto, Ford, 264

23. (23) David Ragan, Ford, 264 24. (31) Tv Dillon, Chevrolet, 264 (30) Cole Custer, Chevrolet, 264.
 (18) Daniel Suarez, Toyota, 263.
 (17) William Byron, Chevrolet, 263.
 (28) (34) Cole Whitt, Chevrolet, 262.

34) Cole vynitt, Chevrolet, 262.
 (33) Ross Chastain, Chevrolet, 262.
 (27) AJ Allmendinger, Chevrolet, 262.
 (36) Jeffrey Earnhardt, Chevrolet, 255.
 (37) Joey Gase, Chevrolet, 253.
 (35) Gray Gaulding, Toyota, engine, 195.
 (36) Chase Elliott, Chevrolet, accident, 183.
 (37) Kurt Busch, Engl accident, 183.

35. (3) Kurt Busch, Ford, accident, 183. 36. (22) Jamie McMurray, Chevy, accident 37. (15) Michael McDowell, Ford, engine, 100

Time of Race: 2 hours, 49 minutes, 31 seconds Margin of Victory: 2,906 seconds.
Caution Flags: 4 for 29 laps.
Lead Changes: 11 among 6 drivers.
Leaders Summary: K.Harvick, 5 times
or 209 laps; J.Logano, 2 times for 23 laps;
AMADAWEIL 11 times for 10 laps; K.P.Busch M.McDowell, 1 time for 10 laps; Kv.Busch, 2 times for 8 laps: M. Truex. 1 time for 5 laps; R.Blaney, 1 time for 0 laps.

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