

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

By GREG BEACHAM  
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 fifth.

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



AP Photo/Isaac Brekken  
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 triple-digit 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-of-stage 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

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

#### COLLEGE BASEBALL

Saturday  
Shoreline at BMCC (DH), 11 a.m.  
Sunday  
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  
No. 1 Silverton 64, No. 16 Sandy 47  
No. 2 Crater 51, No. 15 Hermiston 40  
No. 3 Thurston 58, No. 14 Pendleton 43  
No. 4 Wilsonville 55, No. 13 Central 31  
No. 5 Springfield 62, No. 12 La Salle Prep 45  
No. 6 Mtn. 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. 2 Dayton 55  
Third Place  
No. 4 Blanchet Cath. 52, No. 3 Santiam Christ. 45  
Fourth Place  
No. 6 Cascade Christian 55, No. 8 Irrigon 45

#### Class 2A State Tournament

Championship  
No. 2 Columbia Christian 65, No. 1 West-ern 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 Prairie City 50  
Third Place  
No. 11 Jordan Valley 54, No. 4 Triad 39  
Fourth Place  
No. 2 Sherman 65, No. 9 Hosanna Christian 55

#### OSAA GIRLS PLAYOFFS

Saturday's Games  
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

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

W	L	Pct	GB	
Toronto	45	17	27.6	—
Boston	45	20	69.2	1½
Cleveland	37	26	58.7	8½
Indiana	37	27	57.8	9
Washington	36	28	56.3	10
Philadelphia	34	28	54.8	11
Miami	34	30	53.1	12
Milwaukee	34	30	53.1	12

#### WESTERN CONFERENCE

W	L	Pct	GB	
Detroit	29	35	45.3	17
Charlotte	28	36	43.8	18
New York	24	40	37.5	22
Chicago	21	42	33.2	24½
Brooklyn	20	44	31.3	26
Orlando	20	44	31.3	26
Atlanta	20	44	31.3	26

### NCAA

#### 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 Championship), 6 p.m. (ESPN)

#### 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 Championship)  
No. 19 South Florida 74, Central Florida 59 (AAC Semifinal)  
Tuesday's Games  
No. 22 Green Bay 66, Youngstown St 45 (Horizon League semifinal)

### Hockey

#### Monday's Games

Cleveland 112, Detroit 90  
Indiana 92, Milwaukee 89  
Miami 125, Phoenix 103  
Utah 94, Orlando 80  
San Antonio 100, Memphis 98  
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.

### NHL

#### Monday's Games

Tampa Bay 66 45 17 4 94 240 182  
Boston 63 40 15 8 88 209 158  
Toronto 68 39 22 7 85 223 195  
Florida 63 32 25 6 70 189 199  
Detroit 65 26 29 10 62 170 193  
Montreal 65 25 29 11 61 167 200  
Ottawa 65 23 32 10 56 177 227  
Buffalo 66 21 34 11 53 159 214

#### Atlantic Division

GP W L OT Pts GF GA

### NASCAR

#### Monday's Games

Pittsburgh 4, Calgary 3, OT  
Buffalo 5, Toronto 3  
Tuesday's Games  
Ottawa 3, Dallas 2, OT  
Edmonton 4, Arizona 3, OT  
Vancouver 4, N.Y. Islanders 3, OT  
Wednesday's Games  
Winnipeg at N.Y. Rangers, 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.  
Colorado at Chicago, 5:30 p.m.  
Washington at Anaheim, 7 p.m.

#### Auto Racing

NASCAR Cup Series  
Pennzoil 400 presented by Jiffy Lube

### Metropolitan Division

GP W L OT Pts GF GA

Washington 65 37 21 7 81 203 193  
Pittsburgh 67 38 25 4 80 219 203  
Philadelphia 66 34 21 11 79 197 193  
New Jersey 66 33 25 8 74 193 199  
Columbus 66 33 28 5 71 176 186  
Carolina 66 29 26 11 69 176 198  
N.Y. Islanders 67 29 29 9 67 216 241  
N.Y. Rangers 66 30 30 6 66 189 209

#### Central Division

GP W L OT Pts GF GA

Nashville 65 42 14 9 93 214 168  
Winnipeg 65 39 17 9 87 220 175  
Minnesota 66 37 22 7 81 204 190  
Dallas 66 37 23 6 80 195 174  
Colorado 65 35 24 6 76 205 193  
St. Louis 66 35 26 5 75 180 176  
Chicago 66 28 30 8 64 188 195

#### Pacific Division

GP W L OT Pts GF GA

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  
Arizona 65 20 34 11 51 158 213

#### Monday's Games

Pittsburgh 4, Calgary 3, OT  
Buffalo 5, Toronto 3  
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Ottawa 3, Dallas 2, OT  
Edmonton 4, Arizona 3, OT  
Vancouver 4, N.Y. Islanders 3, OT  
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Winnipeg at N.Y. Rangers, 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.  
Colorado at Chicago, 5:30 p.m.  
Washington at Anaheim, 7 p.m.

#### Auto Racing

NASCAR Cup Series  
Pennzoil 400 presented by Jiffy Lube

### Race Statistics

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 for 209 laps; J. Logano, 2 times for 23 laps; M. McDowell, 1 time for 10 laps; K. Busch, 2 times for 8 laps; M. Truex, 1 time for 5 laps; R. Blaney, 1 time for 0 laps.

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