

Truex tricks Harvick on track, conquers Sonoma

By GREG BEACHAM
Associated Press

SONOMA, Calif. — Martin Truex Jr. was running second as the laps dwindled in Sonoma, and crew chief Cole Pearn didn't think they were as fast as Kevin Harvick.

Pearn told his team to prepare for a pit stop on the 73rd lap, and he told Truex over the radio to bring in the car.

It was all tricky. Harvick's crew chief, Rodney Childers, called in his driver for tires and fuel in anticipation of Truex's stop — but Pearn's driver actually stayed out for seven more laps. When Truex finally pitted, he got the fresh tires he needed to blow past Harvick for a sweet victory.

"I called him off at the last second," Pearn said with a sly smile. "As far as he knew, we were pitting. I'd like to say we're smart enough to use codes, but we're not. We'd probably mess it up."

Truex won the NASCAR Cup Series race in Sonoma on Sunday because of that clever pit bluff, cruising to his second career victory on the challenging road course.

Truex easily held off Harvick for his second win in three weeks and his third victory of the season in his Furniture Row Racing Toyota. Truex led 62 laps and won by a whopping 10.513 seconds.

"The last 10 laps of the race were easy," Truex said. "A little stressful. I was just hoping for no cautions,



AP Photo/Ben Margot
Martin Truex Jr. drinks wine after winning a NASCAR Sprint Cup Series auto race Sunday in Sonoma, Calif. Truex inched past Kevin Harvick for the victory.

because I had a big lead. This place is so tricky and so technical, but when you start

to take care of your equipment and have time to think, it's almost harder. You can

overshoot a corner easily."

The defending Cup Series champion didn't make a mistake after he waited to pit until the 81st lap, a full eight laps later than Harvick's Stewart-Haas Racing Ford. With fresh tires, Truex passed Harvick for the lead around the final hairpin turn with 19 laps to go.

"That was all Cole," Truex said. "I'll do whatever he wants to do. Awesome job by him today. ... Honestly, all you're doing is begging, hoping that the caution doesn't come out and hope the engine stays together."

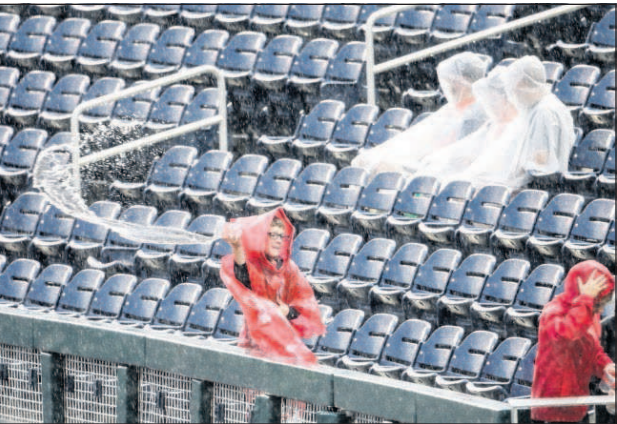
Truex's victory in his manufacturer's title race was the 18th of his career. He earned his second career victory at Sonoma in 2013 for Michael Waltrip Racing, making him the only racer to

win twice in the past decade at Sonoma.

Cup Series leader Harvick went to the pits shortly after Truex passed him, but never got the caution that would have been necessary for him to catch up. Clint Bowyer finished third and Chase Elliott was fourth.

Truex began his racing career as a kid running go-karts on road courses, and those lifelong skills are showing. After winning at Watkins Glen last year and taking Sonoma this year, his three career road course victories are second among active drivers to the four wins on non-oval tracks by Kyle Busch, who finished fifth in Sonoma.

"I enjoy them," Truex said. "I think it's fun to do something different."



AP Photo/Nati Harnik
Spectators wait in the rain as a youth bails water.

OSU: Needed a three-hour window of no rain

Continued from 1B

Buhr said. "You don't want to burn a pitcher's arm. But at the same time, you see the clouds break at 4:30 or 5 o'clock and you have sunshine, so the fans are going to think, 'There are no issues (so) why don't we start the game on time?'"

If the game was going to be played, Buhr said, at least a three-hour window with no rain was necessary. The forecast, however, called for a chance of more

rain later in the evening.

"Our guys are pretty resilient," Van Horn said. "We've been through rain delays, cold weather, doubleheaders and everything. It's such a privilege to be here, and they earned their way here. We'll stay here as long as it takes."

"If you look down the road 20 years from now, you're not going to remember all the rain delays. You're going to remember the great experience and whether you won or lost."

MARINERS: Orioles manager and player ejected

Continued from 1B

for his major league-leading 28th save.

Jonathan Schoop homered and had two RBIs for the Orioles.

In the ninth inning, Baltimore reliever Darren O'Day was called for a balk and subsequently ejected by home plate umpire Stu Scheurwater for arguing. Manager Buck Showalter joined the fray, and earned his 32nd career ejection.

"He's just over-umpiring. Inventing an argument," Showalter insisted, pointing out that both of Day's career balks have been called by Scheurwater.

The manager did, however, concede that the Orioles didn't do enough to win.

"We walked 10 guys. Did have but four hits," Showalter said. "Kind of hard to win a game."

Seattle jumped on top in the second inning when Orioles starter Andrew Cashner gave up three walks and Gordon's bases-loaded single.

Schoop led off the fifth with his eighth home run, only the second long ball



AP Photo/Patrick Semansky
Baltimore Orioles relief pitcher Darren O'Day, left, argues with home plate umpire Stu Scheurwater after Scheurwater said O'Day balked in the ninth inning of a baseball game against the Seattle Mariners.

allowed by Hernandez in five starts this month.

Span answered with a solo shot in the sixth for a 3-1 lead, but Baltimore pulled even in the bottom half on run-scoring grounders by Trey Mancini and Schoop.

GOOD NEWS, BAD

NEWS

Seattle slugger Nelson Cruz was chosen AL Player of the Week after hitting .500 with 3 HRs and 8 RBIs.

TRAINER'S ROOM

Segura was back in the starting lineup Monday after missing four games with an arm infection. ... C Mike

Zunino, who's been bothered by a sore right thumb and slumping at the plate, was replaced in the starting lineup by Chris Herrmann.

UP NEXT

Mariners: James Paxton (6-2, 3.72 ERA) will be the starter Tuesday night in the second game of the series.

LEGION: Pepsi Diamondjaxx pick up their fourth and fifth wins

Continued from 1B

five RBI, while Jones was 2-for-4 with three RBI and Beers 2-for-4 with a pair of runs scored. Ryan Stahl pitched four innings and allowed five hits and seven runs (four earned) with three strikeouts, and Field threw three innings of relief.

Later versus Payette, five Hodgen players recorded a double and four recorded multi-hit games. Demianew led the way, going 3-for-3 with a double and three runs, Field was 2-for-3 with a dou-

ble, Logan Weinke 2-for-3 with a double and three RBI and Jones was 2-for-3 with a double and two runs. Demianew, Beers and Zander combined to pitch five solid innings and allow only two hits.

On Sunday against Baker, Demianew threw five good innings on the mound to earn the win, striking out five while allowing only four hits and one run, while Zander threw two shutout innings to earn the save. Hodgen had six hits in the game recorded by six dif-

ferent players, led by Quinn Doherty's 1-for-1 game with a double and a run, while Field had a hit and an RBI, Jones a hit and an RBI, and Beers a hit and an RBI.

Diamondjaxx win two, lose two

The Pepsi Diamondjaxx picked up their fourth and fifth wins of the summer over the weekend, defeating Irrigon twice by 11-4 and 9-5 scores, while losing 15-5 to La Grande and 14-13 to Homedale.

Aiden Gunter had a team-best six hits in the weekend, with a double, four RBI and four runs scored. Eric Rencken went 5-for-10 for the weekend with a double, three RBI and three runs, Jack Monkman went 4-for-6 with two doubles, four runs and four RBI, Michael Flores had four hits with five runs, and Jesse Berry had a double, a triple, four runs and four RBI.

Hermiston falls to Pasco

It's been a tough summer so far for the Hermiston Legion baseball team and the team fell to 4-15 on the season following a 3-1 loss to Pasco on Monday.

Hermiston scored its only run in its first at-bat in the top of the first inning. Chase Elliott drew a one-out walk, and Landon Jones was hit with a pitch to put a pair of runners on base. That brought Ethin Randolph to the plate, and he reached on an error by the Pasco second baseman which brought Elliott home to score.

Hermiston registered only one hit in the game, which was a triple off the bat of Jones with two outs in the sixth inning. Aside from that hit, Hermiston had only two more batters reach base in the game, both coming via Pasco errors. Pasco's offense also only recorded one hit, as Hermiston pitchers Sergio Rosales and Randolph kept the bats in check, however the duo walked seven batters and their defense registered two errors which helped lead to runs on the board.

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