

HARVICK WINS NOVEMBER RACE IN WILD FINISH

What might have been a dominating victory by Kyle Busch in the AdvoCare 500 NASCAR Sprint Cup race turned into a wild finish, as Kevin Harvick raced his No. 29 Budweiser Chevrolet to the win in the closing 15 laps. Harvick sealed the deal on the strength of a fierce restart with eight laps to go, and another on a green-white-checkered finish.

The race was thrown into overtime with a caution period, just a split second before the white flag was to wave. Instead of freezing the field and ending the race in the regulation 312 laps—with Harvick as the winner—a red flag was displayed for 14 minutes and 58 seconds, to clean a four-car wreck. It also extended the event to 319 laps.

Slow-running Jeff Gordon, black-flagged for running lower than the required minimum speed, was in the race groove in turn four and at the focal point of the controversial crash. Seventh-running Clint Bowyer (third place runner, still clinging to faint title hopes), Joey Logano and Aric Almirola crashed with Gordon just before new leader Harvick reached the finish line. (Bowyer's angry crew next took after Gordon's team in a heated skirmish in the garage.)

All this threw the sellout PIR crowd into a frenzy—which only grew wilder when multiple cars wrecked as they took the checkered flag after the extra seven laps.

With the 2012 NASCAR Sprint Cup Championship in its closing stages, all eyes had been on upstart Brad Keselowski, who started seven points behind five-time champion Jimmie Johnson in the season's penultimate race. But Johnson cut his right front tire on lap 235 and suffered suspension damage when he hit the turn 1 wall. He finished 32nd, 38 laps down, and fell 20 points behind Keselowski in the hunt.

Busch led for by far the most laps, 237. Keselowski barely made it past the Gordon-Bowyer wreck on his way to a sixth place finish. While the new points leader was bitterly angry over what he considered late-race retaliation by some drivers, he joked about the good luck he received when Johnson hit the wall. Race winner Harvick, who claimed his first checkered flag this season and third in 20 races at PIR, also offered a light touch when commenting on the fisticuffs between the Bowyer and Gordon teams: "Fights? This sport was made on fights. We ought to have more fights." ■

2012 WRAP 2013 SCHEDULE



2013 SCHEDULE

PIR will host a total of eight races in 2013: two NASCAR Sprint Cup Series races, two NASCAR Nationwide Series races, one NASCAR Camping World Truck Series race, two NASCAR K&N Pro Series West races and the inaugural NASCAR Mexico Toyota Series race.

As the only facility in the West with two Sprint Cup Series events, PIR will host the first and last appearances on the West Coast for NASCAR's top series.

MARCH 1-3, 2013

The SUBWAY Fresh Fit 500™ will kick off PIR's 2013 event season, featuring races in NASCAR's three top series.

- The NASCAR Mexico Toyota Series 75 takes place for the first time in the United States, on Friday, March 1.
- The event weekend will also feature the Bashas' Supermarkets 200 NASCAR Nationwide Series and Talking Stick 60 K&N Pro Series-West races on Saturday, March 2.
- The SUBWAY Fresh Fit 500™ NASCAR Sprint Cup Series race will take place on Sunday, March 3.

NOVEMBER 8-11, 2013

NASCAR returns to PIR for its traditional fall weekend in November, with the NASCAR Sprint Cup Series semifinals in the Chase for the Sprint Cup—the AdvoCare 500—on Sunday, November 10.

The AdvoCare 500 event weekend will also feature the Great Clips 200 Nationwide Series race, the Lucas Oil 150 Camping World Truck race and the K&N Pro Series-West Championship race.

TICKETS

- **INDIVIDUAL TICKET OPTIONS** are available for both 2013 race weekends, with Sprint Cup tickets starting at \$25, Nationwide Series at \$15, Camping World Truck Series at \$7 and the NASCAR Mexico Toyota Series at \$20. Free daily on-site parking, regular tram service, live music entertainment and interactive fun on PIR's Midway deliver fans the "best value in NASCAR."
- **SEASON TICKET PACKAGES** start at \$99, with significant savings, plus fan appreciation events, the option to purchase additional seats at season prices, first opportunity to upgrade seats and a dedicated phone line to a PIR Customer Relationship Manager.

PhoenixRaceway.com/Tickets
1-866-408-RACE (7223) ■