

# PIR NASCAR FALL RACE WEEKEND

CHASE FOR THE SPRINT CUP: NOVEMBER 11-13, 2016 / PHOTOS BY RANDALL BOHL

**P**hoenix International Raceway hosted the Can-Am 500 on Sunday, November 13, the semifinal race in the 2016 Chase for the NASCAR Sprint Cup Series season. Under the Chase for the Sprint Cup format, the 500-km race in Phoenix (312 laps, 312 miles) was the last of the Eliminator Round, determining the final four contenders for the championship the next weekend at Homestead-Miami. In all, there were three races over three days, Friday through Sunday.

**FRIDAY NOV 11: LUCAS OIL 150**  
**DANIEL SUÁREZ SCORES LATE VICTORY**

Friday's Lucas Oil 150 at PIR was setting up to be a dominant win for 18-year-old William Byron, driver of the No. 9 Liberty University Toyota Tundra, who led for 112 laps. But with 10 laps to go, both the race win and the hope of a NASCAR Camping World Truck Series championship went up in smoke—Byron fin-

ished 27th after a blown engine. He had six wins this season, but did not advance to the Championship 4 at Homestead.

Instead it was Daniel Suárez, Byron's Kyle Busch Motorsports teammate, driving the No. 51 ARRIS Toyota, who took home the victory. Suárez held off No. 21 Johnny Sauter on a restart with five laps to go, to earn his first NASCAR Camping World Truck Series win by 0.551 seconds—Suárez's second NASCAR win at PIR after a victory in the 2014 NASCAR Mexico Series race.

The four drivers heading to the next week's championship would be Sauter, who won the first two races of this round; No. 88 Matt Crafton, who finished third; No. 4 Christopher Bell, seventh; and No. 17 Timothy Peters, fifth.

Suárez would be back in action the next day, competing in the Ticket Galaxy 200 for a spot in the Championship 4 in the NASCAR XFINITY Series.

**SATURDAY NOV 12: TICKET GALAXY 200**  
**KYLE BUSCH 10-RACE RECORD AT PIR**

Kyle Busch, driver of the No. 18 NOS Energy Toyota, dominated in Saturday's Ticket Galaxy 200 for his 10th win at PIR, a track record for a single series. Busch led 190 of 200 laps, the fourth consecutive XFINITY race at Phoenix where he has led at least 175 of the 200 laps. He lost the lead on the final restart to Justin Allgaier, but never sweated the outcome.

It was Busch's 13th overall win at PIR, tying Kevin Harvick for second place on the track's all-time win list. Versatile racing legend Ken Schrader, with 16 career wins, is tops.

Behind Busch, eight drivers in contention fought hard for the final four spots in the inaugural XFINITY Series Chase. Daniel Suárez came in fifth and would compete at Homestead-Miami, along with Justin Allgaier, Erik Jones and Elliott Sadler.

Busch would return to the track on Sunday

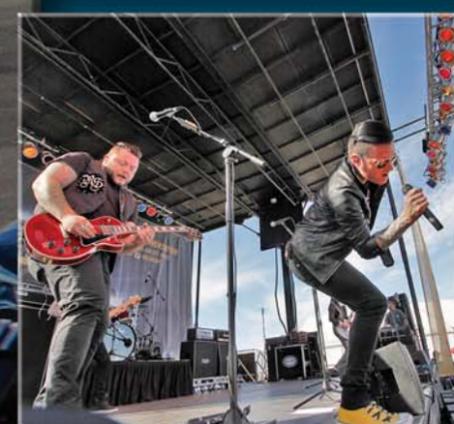
for the Can-Am 500, hoping to advance to the Championship 4 in search of a second-consecutive NASCAR Sprint Cup Series title.

**SUNDAY NOV 13: CAN-AM 500**  
**WILD FINISH GIVES LOGANO THE WIN**

Joey Logano would need a good finish to advance to the NASCAR Sprint Cup Series championship finale. The race was extended by 12 laps (to 324) due to two late collisions that significantly affected both the race and the Chase. In the second overtime, Logano held off Busch over the last two laps to win by 0.587 seconds. For Logano, it was the best finish possible at Sunday's Can-Am 500.

"Everyone's racing for a championship," said Logano, who led 58 laps and averaged 102.865 mph. "This isn't just a race. This is for the championship, or at least a shot at it next week. The No. 22 car is going there, we've got a hell of a shot at it, and I couldn't be more proud of this team executing under pressure. They were better today under pressure, and I couldn't be more proud of everybody and giving me the opportunity to do what I can on that last restart."

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Can-Am 500 winner Joey Logano

No. 20 Matt Kenseth seemed poised to win his spot in the next round. Quick pit work and a great restart on fresh tires on lap 262 enabled him to charge past No. 11 Denny Hamlin with an aggressive short cut of the dogleg. He gradually pulled an advantage of more than three seconds, but the yellow flag came out after Michael McDowell blew a tire with less than two laps to go in the extended 324-lap race. This bunched the field for an overtime restart. Kenseth chose the outside lane and powered into the first turn, where he tried to cut down and in front of Tucson native Alex Bowman, substitute No. 88 driver in place of injured Dale Earnhardt Jr. But Bowman was also pushing hard, and the two cars collided, sending Kenseth into the outside wall as his championship hopes vanished in a cloud of tire smoke. Bowman (who had earned his first NASCAR Sprint Cup Series pole award on Friday) had had the dominant car, leading 194 of 324 laps, with a chance to retake the lead late, until the Kenseth wreck.

It was Logano's first Sprint Cup win at PIR and third overall following triumphs in the XFINITY Series races in 2012 and 2015. No. 18 Kyle Busch finished second and also advanced to the Championship 4 on points. Busch and Logano would join No. 48 Jimmie Johnson and No. 19 Carl Edwards, who advanced by winning the first two races of the Round of 8.

#### HOMESTEAD-MIAMI CHAMPIONSHIP

William Byron went on to win the Ford EcoBoost 200, Camping World Truck Series at Homestead-Miami Speedway on November 18. Daniel Suárez won the Ford EcoBoost 300, XFINITY Series, putting him over the top to win the 2016 XFINITY Series Championship, the first Latin American to do so. Jimmie Johnson won the Ford EcoBoost 400, NASCAR Sprint Cup Series, becoming a seven-time Cup champion, tied with Dale Earnhardt and Richard Petty. Joey Logano was runner up to Johnson, taking 4th place at Homestead. ■



#### COMING UP AT PIR:

### NASCAR CAMPING WORLD 500 SPRING RACE WEEKEND: MARCH 17-18-19, 2017

Phoenix International Raceway will host the Camping World 500 on Sunday, March 19, during the 2017 Chase for the NASCAR Sprint Cup Series season. In all, there are three races over three days, Friday through Sunday, March 17-18-19, 2017. Tickets during Spring Race Weekend start at just \$35, \$10 for Juniors.

**FRIDAY MARCH 17** Gatorade Pole Day, practice sessions for both NASCAR Cup Series and NASCAR XFINITY Series before the starting line-up is set for the Camping World 500.

**SATURDAY MARCH 18** Up and coming drivers in the DC Solar 200, NASCAR XFINITY Series Race.

**SUNDAY MARCH 19** See NASCAR Champions Kevin Harvick and Kyle Busch take on young guns like Kyle Larson and Chase Elliott in the Camping World 500.

### INDYCAR SERIES PHOENIX GRAND PRIX: APRIL 28-29, 2017

The 2017 Verizon IndyCar Series Desert Diamond West Valley Phoenix Grand Prix returns to PIR on Saturday, April 29, 2017, under the lights. This will be the fourth race of the 2017 Verizon IndyCar Series season, with all events broadcast by ABC and NBCSN.

Spring 2016 marked the return of IndyCar to Phoenix. "Last year's race was a great event that brought back the tradition of IndyCar racing to Phoenix Raceway," said track president Bryan R Sperber. "Our April night race has quickly become one of the most important events of the Series and one that the drivers and teams have circled on their calendars."

Young guns of the Series such as 2016 Indianapolis 500 winner Alexander Rossi and Josef Newgarden will go head-to-head with some of the most proven veterans in the sport, including Tony Kanaan, Juan Pablo Montoya and Will Power.

### NOVEMBER NASCAR RACE WEEKEND: NOVEMBER 10-11-12, 2017

Fall Race Weekend 2017 at PIR includes the Lucas Oil 150, NASCAR Camping World Truck Series Chase Race on Friday, November 10, the Ticket Galaxy 200, NASCAR XFINITY Series Chase Race on Saturday, November 11, and the Can-Am 500, Chase for the NASCAR Sprint Cup Semi-Final Race on Sunday, November 12.

#### 2017 SEASON TICKETS

Season Tickets for the 2017 season at PIR start at \$99 and range up to \$512. New for 2017, you can not just renew—you can upgrade, with an optional IndyCar Weekend. Season Tickets offer big savings off individual ticket prices—up to 70% off in select seating areas; no service fees (a \$10 savings); PIR's Season Ticket ZOOM Pass—just show and go; dedicated customer relations managers (and a toll-free number); ability to buy additional tickets at Season Ticket prices; first crack at seat upgrades; special event invitations; an exclusive e-newsletter; and a free race weekend program.

#### TICKETS

Get tickets online at PhoenixRaceway.com, or by calling 866-408-RACE (7223) or in person at the PIR ticket office, 125 S Avondale Blvd, Suite 200, Avondale AZ 85323 (Mon-Fri, 8am-5pm). ■

