



NASCAR NATIONWIDE SERIES

News & Notes

RACE 3 @ Las Vegas Motor Speedway

Fast Facts

The Race: Sam's Town 300

The Place: Las Vegas Motor Speedway (1.5-mile oval)

The Date: Saturday, Feb. 27

The Time: 4:30 p.m. ET

The Distance: 300 miles / 200 laps

TV: ESPN2, 4 p.m. ET

Radio: PRN/SIRIUS NASCAR Radio

2009 Winner: Greg Biffle

2009 Polesitter: Scott Speed

Event Schedule (all times PT):

Friday—Practice, 11-11:50 a.m.; Final Practice—1:40-3 p.m.;

Saturday – Qualifying, 9 a.m.

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2010 STANDINGS

	Driver	Points
1	Carl Edwards	335
2	Joey Logano	311
3	Kyle Busch	304
4	Justin Allgaier	303
5	Brad Keselowski	299
6	Brian Vickers	297
7	Steve Wallace	289
8	James Buescher	271
9	Greg Biffle	265
10	Paul Menard	256

- **Double Down: Busch, Gaughan Race At Home In Las Vegas**
- **LVMS Marks Patrick's Final NNS Appearance Until June**
- **Mike, Steve Wallace Add To Racing Family's National Series Stats**



Happy Homecoming? Reigning Series Champ Busch Hopes So

Since when is **Kyle Busch (No. 18 Z-Line Designs Toyota)** the underdog?

Looks like it's nearly every time he comes to his home track, Las Vegas Motor Speedway, to compete in a NASCAR Nationwide Series race.

That he's the reigning series champion, is now tied for third in all-time series victories (31) with **Jack Ingram** thanks to his win at Auto Club Speedway last week, and seems to be breaking series records every time he runs doesn't seem to matter all that much when he hits the Strip.

Almost invincible everywhere else, Busch's NASCAR Nationwide roll has come up snake eyes in Las Vegas.

Although he got the elusive home win in NASCAR Sprint Cup Series competition last year, he's very un-Busch like in his NASCAR Nationwide Series events at the 1.5-mile track.

In six races at LVMS dating back to his rookie season of 2004, Busch has only one top five, a runner-up finish in 2007. That was one of the usual miniscule margin-of-victory finishes at Vegas; Busch and **Jeff Burton** were banging door-to-door down the frontstretch before Busch spun out and Burton took the checkered flag. The average MOV in the last four races at LVMS is .349 seconds.

Otherwise, Busch's average finish at Las Vegas is shocking — 23.0. And in his last two Las Vegas races, he's been forced out due to accidents, finishing 31st and 39th, respectively. His result there last year was his worst finish in 2009.



*His 39th-place finish at LVMS last year was the worst result of the 2009 season for **Kyle Busch**.*

Vegas Last NASCAR Stop For Patrick Until June

Las Vegas is the second of two consecutive West Coast races for the NASCAR Nationwide Series.

It's also the last series race for **Danica Patrick (No. 7 GoDaddy.com Chevrolet)** before she turns her attention to her full-time ride with Andretti Autosport in the IZOD IndyCar Series, which opens its season March 14 in Sao Paulo, Brazil.

After Saturday's race at Vegas, she'll compete solely in IndyCar's first eight races before pulling her own form of "double-duty." She will return to the NASCAR Nationwide Series for the June 26 race at New Hampshire Motor Speedway.

She'll compete in both series thereafter, with 10 NASCAR Nationwide Series races and eight IndyCar events. There will be crossover for Patrick at two tracks during that span. She'll compete in IndyCar and in the NASCAR Nationwide Series at Chicagoland Speedway (July 9 in NNS; Aug. 28 in IndyCar) and Homestead-Miami Speedway (Oct. 2 in IndyCar's season finale; Nov. 20 in the final 2010 race for NNS).

Patrick has shown improvement since her first NASCAR national series race at Daytona International Speedway on Feb. 13, where she finished 35th after getting caught in a 10-car accident on Lap 68. Last Saturday at Auto Club Speedway, Patrick improved to 31st, finishing the race three laps behind winner **Kyle Busch**.

Patrick's **JR Motorsports** teammate, **Kelly Bires**, also is entered at Las Vegas in the **No. 88 Hendrickcars.com Chevrolet**. He made his season debut at Auto Club and had an impressive run, starting 32nd and finishing seventh.

Rookie Repeat? Look For Strong Runs From Young Drivers At Vegas



Last year, the 2009 Raybestos Rookie of the Year class was touted as one of the strongest in

series history.

At Las Vegas, they proved why.

Four rookies finished in the top 10 in that race, and should once again be threats for a solid run this weekend. **Michael McDowell (No. 81 MacDonald Motorsports Dodge)** was sixth, **Brendan Gaughan** seventh, **Justin Allgaier** eighth and **Scott Lagasse Jr. (No. 43 DRGmail.com)** was ninth.

Though he had the third-best finish of the bunch, the statistically strongest member of that rookie class at Vegas was Allgaier. In the 2009

race, the eventual Raybestos Rookie of the Year scored a **Driver Rating** of 111.3, an **Average Running Position** of 6.0, 11 **Fastest Laps Run** and ran 207 of the 209 laps among the top 15.

McDowell had the best finish of the group, scoring a Driver Rating of 100.0, an Average Running Position of 8.6 and ran 197 Laps in the Top 15.

Gaughan just missed scoring a Driver Rating over 100. Instead he notched a Driver Rating of 97.8, an Average Running Position of 9.9 and ran 198 Laps in the top 15.

Lagasse had a Driver Rating of 90.4, an Average Running Position of 11.2 and ran 151 Laps in the Top 15.

The best bet for repeat success this week-

end looks to be Allgaier, who sits fourth in the standings with some of the best statistics in the series. In the first two races, Allgaier has a Driver Rating of 91.7, an Average Running Position of 12.0, four Fastest Laps Run and a Laps in the Top 15 percentage of 68.8%.

Allgaier's patience might be his most impressive attribute, though. His average mid-race position is 21.0. His average finish – 6.5.

As for rookies in Saturday's race, look no further than **James Buescher (No. 1 Phoenix Racing Chevrolet)**, who has been impressive early. Currently eighth in the standings, Buescher has a Driver Rating of 85.7 and an Average Running Position of 14.2.

Gaughan Looking To Vegas For Jump-Start To 2010 Season

Two races into the 2010 season, **Brendan Gaughan (No. 62 South Point Hotel and Casino Toyota)** is looking for a little momentum.

Perhaps a return to his hometown – and his home track – will do the trick.

Gaughan, a Las Vegas native, is suffering a reversal of fortune from one year ago.

After two races in 2009, he was eighth in the driver standings and was leading the Raybestos Rookie rankings. He went on to finish ninth in the final points standings and was second in the rookie race to **Justin Allgaier (No. 12 Verizon Wireless Dodge)**.

This year following the first two races, it's

quite the opposite. Gaughan finished 30th at Daytona after an accident ended his day on Lap 92. Last Saturday at Auto Club Speedway, he was a disappointing 24th.

LVMS has been good in the short term to Gaughan, who finished seventh in 2009 in his NASCAR Nationwide Series track debut. His result was the highest among four rookies who finished in the top 10.

Over the long term, however, the track hasn't been all that kind to Gaughan. He does have a win there, from the pole in 2003 while driving in the NASCAR Camping World Truck Series.

But in his other nine truck races, his aver-

age finish is 22.1.

Gaughan, 34, is in his second year with **Rusty Wallace Racing** and teammate **Steve Wallace**. He has a degree in business from Georgetown University (1997), where he played football and basketball for the Hoyas.

He began his racing career in 1991 running in the desert, and won three consecutive CORR Pro-2 championships from 1996-98.

His rise through NASCAR's ladder system began with NASCAR K&N Pro West Series titles in 2000-01, which eventually propelled him into the NASCAR Camping World Trucks before a full-time ride in NASCAR Sprint Cup in 2004.

By The Numbers: Milestones For Mike, Steve Wallace Add To Racing Family's Totals

Racing is a numbers game for the **Wallace** family, led by the five members who have competed in NASCAR's national series.

Rusty Wallace, the 1989 NASCAR Sprint Cup champion, started 706 races (winning 55) in that series in addition to running in 42 NASCAR Nationwide Series events.

His brother, **Kenny Wallace (No. 28 Federated Auto Parts Chevrolet)**, winner of nine NASCAR Nationwide races, will make his 456th series start Saturday at Las Vegas. **Chrissy Wallace** made her NASCAR Nationwide debut two weeks ago at Daytona International Speedway.

Also at Las Vegas, two more Wallaces move the beads on the family racing abacus.

Mike Wallace (No. 01 Chevrolet) will make his 350th NASCAR Nationwide start to supplement his four series victories. He was able to

race with his daughter, Chrissy, a second time in national series competition at Daytona. The father-daughter duo also had done so last October at Talladega Superspeedway in the NASCAR Camping World Truck Series.

Steve Wallace (No. 66 5-Hour Energy Toyota) will prepare for his 125th series start.

It's been a solid start to the 2010 season for Mike and Steve. Mike was 12th last week at Auto Club Speedway, his best result since placing ninth at Phoenix International Raceway in 2008.

Steve, meanwhile, has been tabbed by many as a dark horse candidate to challenge for the NASCAR Nationwide Series championship. Rusty's son comes to Vegas seventh in the standings, having registered two top-10 finishes in the first two races. That's a career first for him.

Mike joins Kenny as one of just 13 drivers with more than 300 series starts, and he's chas-

ing his younger brother to join the elite 400-start club where only three drivers — Jason Keller (No. 35 Chevrolet) with 493; Kenny and **Tommy Houston** (417) reside.

The NASCAR Nationwide Series is the one national series in which each member of the Wallace family has at least one start.

Combined, the family has put up some heady numbers as far as their NASCAR national series starts (below):

Wallace	NSCS	NNS	NCWTS	Total
Rusty	706	42	1	749
Kenny	344	455	11	810
Mike	190	349	114	653
Steve	0	124	0	124
Chrissy	0	1	7	8
Totals	1,240	971	133	2,220

NNS Etc: Las Vegas Edition

► Changes All Around For Standings Leader Edwards, No. 60 Team

Drew Blickensderfer didn't stay out of the crew chief chair long.

After moving from the No. 17 NASCAR Sprint Cup team of **Matt Kenseth** following the Daytona 500, he's come full circle, returning to **Carl Edwards' No. 60 COPART Ford** in the NASCAR Nationwide Series.

The duo teamed for 19 NNS races in 2008, earning seven wins, two poles and a second-place series points finish while closing the season with nine consecutive top-five runs.

Mike Kelley, who had served as Edwards' NNS crew chief, will assume the role of competition director for **Roush Fenway Racing's** NASCAR Nationwide Series effort.

Edwards is the current standings leader, which is an odd occurrence for the 2007 series champion.

Since his first full-time NNS season in 2005, Edwards has led the standings at least once in each odd-numbered year. He didn't lead in 2006 or 2008, finishing second in the standings in each of those seasons.

He has yet to win at LVMS in NASCAR Nationwide Series competition.

► Biffle A "10" For Baker Curb

Defending Sam's Town 300 race winner and 2002 series champion **Greg Biffle (No. 27 Red Man Moist Snuff Ford)** registered the first-ever top-five finish for **Baker Curb Racing** last Saturday at Auto Club Speedway with his eyelash-close second-place finish. The .051-second result was the 10th-closest margin of victory in series history.

For Biffle, it was his 10th runner-up finish for the Nashville-based team in 45 starts since 2005.

The team, formerly known as Brewco Motorsports, last secured a top-five finish in June 2007 when **Jason Keller** (now driving the **No. 35 Tri-Star Motorsports Chevrolet**) was fifth at Milwaukee.

► Leffler, Scott Kick Back Before Vegas **Jason Leffler (No. 38 Great Clips Toyota)**

will start his Las Vegas race weekend by competing in Thursday night's USAC Midget race at the one-half mile Dirt Track at Las Vegas Motor Speedway.

Leffler's NASCAR career was jump-started by his open-wheel success in the late 90s. He became the first driver in 37 years to win three consecutive USAC Midget National titles (1997-1999).

Leffler has unfinished business at LVMS. He was in second place, contending for the win last year before running out of fuel on the last lap, relegating him to a fourth-place finish.

Leffler's **Brian Scott (No. 11 StopRepairBills.com Toyota)**, had a similar run last week at Auto Club Speedway.

The rookie was running second midway through the race and was a constant in the top five before finishing 10th.

A native of Boise, Idaho, Scott used the time in between California and Las Vegas to visit the Pacific Northwest.

"It's always great to come back and see the town I grew up in," he said. "I like seeing how things have changed.

"We're on the road so much that I don't see

my family very often, so I always enjoy any chance I can to catch up with them."

► Vegas Cooking Class In Session

The annual Raybestos Rookie Cooking Challenge at the ESPN Zone Las Vegas is set for Thursday, Feb. 25, from 2-4 p.m. PT.

The event pits members of the 2010 NASCAR Nationwide Series rookie class in a scaled down "Iron Chef" competition.

The drivers scheduled to participate — rookie standings leader **James Buescher**; **Colin Braun (No. 16 Roush Fenway Ford)**; **Brian Scott** and **Ricky Stenhouse Jr. (No. 6 Roush Fenway Ford)** — will be instructed on basic cooking skills by the ESPN Zone culinary team before embarking on the competition. Kids from the Boys & Girls Clubs of Las Vegas will be the judges.

The five rookies — including **Parker Kligerman (No. 42 Smith Ironworks Dodge)** will be making their series track debuts at LVMS.



Driver

Team

Points

1. James Buescher	Phoenix	24
2. Brian Scott	Braun	22
3. Colin Braun	RFR	18
4. Ricky Stenhouse Jr.	RFR	15
5. Parker Kligerman	SPR	8

► Up Next: Open Week

The weekend of March 6-7 is the first of six open weeks for the NASCAR Nationwide Series.

► Manufacturers' Standings

	12
	12
	12
	8

Chevrolet — one of three manufacturers tied for the early Bill France Performance Cup lead — has the most wins at Las Vegas (seven).

Ford is the defending winner while **Toyota** has yet to post a series victory at LVMS.



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For information on the Web site, contact NASCAR Senior Manager of Public Relations Services Stu Hothem at (386) 310-6040 or shothem@nascar.com.



2010 NASCAR Nationwide Series Schedule / Results

DATE	RACE	FACILITY	POLESITTER	RACE WINNER
Feb. 13	DRIVE4COPD 300	Daytona International Speedway, Daytona Beach, FL	X-Kyle Busch	Tony Stewart
Feb. 20	Stater Bros. 300	Auto Club Speedway, Los Angeles, CA	Joey Logano	Kyle Busch
Feb. 27	Sam's Town 300	Las Vegas Motor Speedway, Las Vegas, NV		
March 20	Scotts Turf Builder 300	Bristol Motor Speedway, Bristol, TN		
April 3	Nashville 300	Nashville Superspeedway, Nashville, TN		
April 9	Bashas' Supermarkets 200	Phoenix International Raceway, Phoenix, AZ		
April 17	O'Reilly Auto Parts 300	Texas Motor Speedway, Fort Worth, TX		
April 24	Aaron's 312	Talladega Superspeedway, Talladega, AL		
April 30	Richmond 250	Richmond International Raceway, Richmond, VA		
May 7	Darlington 200	Darlington Raceway, Darlington, SC		
May 15	Heluva Good! 200	Dover International Speedway, Dover DE		
May 29	Tech-Net Auto Service 300 powered by CARQUEST	Charlotte Motor Speedway, Charlotte, NC		
June 5	Federated Auto Parts 300	Nashville Superspeedway, Nashville, TN		
June 12	Meijer 300 presented by Ritz	Kentucky Speedway, Sparta, KY		
June 19	Road America 200	Elkhart Lake's Road America, Elkhart Lake, WI		
June 26	New England 200	New Hampshire Motor Speedway, Loudon, NH		
July 2	Subway Jalapeño 250 powered By Coca-Cola	Daytona International Speedway, Daytona Beach, FL		
July 9	Dollar General 300 powered By Coca-Cola	Chicagoland Speedway, Chicago, IL		
July 17	Missouri-Illinois Dodge Dealers 250 presented by Ventrilo.com	Gateway International Raceway, Madison, IL		
July 24	Kroger 200 benefitting Riley Hospital for Children	O'Reilly Raceway Park at Indianapolis, Indianapolis, IN		
July 31	NASCAR Nationwide Series 250	Iowa Speedway, Newton, IA		
Aug. 7	ZIPPO 200 at The Glen	Watkins Glen International, Watkins Glen, NY		
Aug. 14	CARFAX 250	Michigan International Speedway, Brooklyn, MI		
Aug. 20	Food City 250	Bristol Motor Speedway, Bristol, TN		
Aug. 29	NAPA Auto Parts 200 presented by Dodge	Circuit Gilles Villeneuve, Montreal, Quebec, Canada		
Sept. 4	Atlanta 300	Atlanta Motor Speedway, Atlanta, GA		
Sept. 10	Virginia 529 College Savings 250	Richmond International Raceway, Richmond, VA		
Sept. 25	Dover 200	Dover International Speedway, Dover, DE		
Oct. 2	Kansas Lottery 300	Kansas Speedway, Kansas City, KS		
Oct. 9	Camping World 300	Auto Club Speedway, Los Angeles, CA		
Oct. 15	Dollar General 300	Charlotte Motor Speedway, Charlotte, NC		
Oct. 23	Gateway 250	Gateway International Raceway, Madison, IL		
Nov. 6	O'Reilly Auto Parts Challenge	Texas Motor Speedway, Ft. Worth, TX		
Nov. 13	Arizona 200	Phoenix International Raceway, Phoenix, AZ		
Nov. 21	Ford 300	Homestead-Miami Speedway, Homestead, FL		

x-denotes qualifying cancelled due to weather; field set via rule book.