

## **Edwards wins from last in Nationwide, Hamlin falters**

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*[http://www.sovanow.com/index.php?/sports/article/edwards\\_comes\\_from\\_rear\\_for\\_win/](http://www.sovanow.com/index.php?/sports/article/edwards_comes_from_rear_for_win/)*

RICHMOND -- Coming from the rear of the field and winning is not a problem for Carl Edwards. For the third time this year and the fifth in his career, Edwards plowed through the grid from 43<sup>rd</sup> to secure his fourth NASCAR Nationwide victory of the year Friday night in the Virginia 529 College Savings 250 at Richmond International Raceway.

Kevin Harvick finished second, with Kyle Busch in third, Brad Keselowski in fourth, and David Reutimann rounding out the top five.

“It was a great effort all around,” Edwards said after the race.

“We had something wrong with a spark plug, the guys fixed it.” Team owner Jack Roush later reported the problem was within the ignition and not the spark plug. The change would drop Edwards to dead last when he started. But 250 laps later, an injured Edwards limped out of his car in victory lane due to a broken foot from a Frisbee game.

“The car was a rocket ship. They [his crew] made my job easy. It was a full team effort tonight.”

Edwards is taking a positive outlook on his injured foot and thinks it will not affect his driving style for the remainder of the season.

“It's fine, it's not the weak link right now. It feels good... it shouldn't be an issue.”

The race appeared to be in Chesterfield native Denny Hamlin's hands from the beginning. Hamlin started on the front row along with teammate Kyle Busch starting second. Hamlin would lead three times for the most laps with 101 laps led.

The only problem holding Hamlin back was slow pit stops. Each pit stop Hamlin would lose positions and then have to plunge back up to first. Kevin Harvick, who started 18<sup>th</sup>, eventually charged through the ranks and battled Hamlin for the lead at lap 201.

Both cars stayed side by side and it was then Hamlin's luckless streak at his home track came to fruition. Hamlin got the car sideways coming off turn four and rubbed a tire due to contact with Harvick. After an unscheduled stop he fell back to 18<sup>th</sup> a lap down. Hamlin would eventually finish 17<sup>th</sup>.

“I was doing everything I could just to hold him off,” Hamlin said of the incident.

“I just over drove it into turn four and got into the side of him.”

Hamlin was disappointed with his result. “We had a car that could contend for a win.”

“It was a good day for the Z-Line Toyota, but I just got a little loose.”

Hamlin's teammate Busch was content with a third place finish.

“It was a good night, but unfortunately not good enough where we were competitive enough to win,” Busch said.

“Third place was alright... we'll take it.”

“We've got to battle the points and look at that I guess more than trying to get wins. You still like to get wins, it sure would be nice.”

Busch still leads the Nationwide standings over Edwards by 201 points with eight races to go. The next Nationwide race will be at Dover on September 26 at 3 p.m.