

# Busch ties Petty's record with 200th career win

Logano, Keselowski complete podium

**FONTANA, Calif, March 18, (AP):** Kyle Busch was dominating yet another race when a speeding penalty on pit road dropped him to the middle of the pack at Auto Club Speedway.

Busch had to pass 17 cars in 73 laps on sizzling old asphalt to get his landmark 200th victory across NASCAR's three major series.

Busch didn't even need 50 laps. He capped a series of brilliant passes by drafting off Joey Logano and Brad Keselowski to seize the lead again, and with this superb driver behind the wheel of a standout Joe Gibbs Racing Toyota, absolutely nothing was stopping Busch's drive into history.

Busch tied Richard Petty's NASCAR record with his 200th win Sunday, making an impressive late surge to claim the Cup Series race on the same weathered Fontana track where he got his first Cup win.

"It certainly is a monumental moment for all of us," Busch said. "I knew we had a great race car and we were fast. I just wasn't sure how we were going to be able to come back through traffic and get through the field. Maybe the stars aligned a little bit more perfectly today."

Busch dominated the first two stages before that speeding penalty added a degree of difficulty to this win. After he carved through the field he was aided by a timely late caution that helped Busch take the lead for good with 26 laps remaining.

The win was the fourth Cup victory overall and the third in seven years at Fontana for Busch. He has earned 53 of his 200 wins in the Cup Series, along with 53 in the Truck Series and 94 in Xfinity.

Busch previously expressed ambivalence about the achievement, saying 200 is just a number that doesn't compare neatly with Petty's achievements. All 200 of Petty's victories

were in NASCAR's top Cup Series.

Busch's excitement was still obvious after crossing the line.

"All I do is win, win, win, no matter what," he said over the radio.

His team handed him a white flag with a logo emblazoned with "200 WINS" to display from his window during his celebratory drive across the track where he earned his first Cup victory way back in September 2005. He then stood atop his car and waved it toward his large Southern California fan base before taking his customary bow.

"Feels just like No. 1," he said. "Feels just like yesterday. That was such an awesome race car. Dang. I'm glad we put on a heck of a show for

## CAR RACING

these fans. To win 200, whatever it means, it means a lot to me."

"I just wish that we could keep it going, running strong, running well, and winning races."

Logano was 2.534 seconds in back of Busch, while Keselowski finished third, unable to catch the winning driver of their era while Busch became the first repeat winner this NASCAR season.

Busch equaled Petty's victories mark in the 998th race of his 17-year career. Petty competed in 1,184 NASCAR races over 35 years.

In the barstool debate, detractors point to Busch's many advantages in the Xfinity and Trucks series while observing that Petty's 200 wins all came in NASCAR's top series, compared to just 53 for Busch.

Busch's defenders note his impressive win percentages and the fundamentally different nature of NASCAR competition these days, when a larger field of elite drivers competes in every race all around the country as opposed to the fields of varying depth and quality faced by Petty largely in the Southeast.

Anybody watching Busch's electrifying move through the field at Fontana couldn't doubt his sublime talent.



Kyle Busch stands on his car after winning the NASCAR Cup Series auto race at Auto Club Speedway in Fontana, Calif on March 17. The win was the 200th for Busch across NASCAR's three national series. (AP)

## Chelsea allege racial abuse at Kiev

**LONDON, March 18, (RTS):** Chelsea have reported Dynamo Kiev to UEFA after one of their players was allegedly the target of racist abuse from home supporters during their Europa League last 16 second leg victory in Kiev last week, the Premier League club said on Monday.

While Chelsea did not name the player, Sky Sports reported that winger Callum Hudson-Odoi was targeted by a section of Kiev fans who direct-

ed monkey chants at the 18-year-old as Chelsea romped to a 5-0 win.

Sky said Hudson-Odoi informed team mate Cesar Azpilicueta, who in turn complained to the referee after the final whistle.

"We can confirm a report of racist abuse directed at one of our players in the final minutes of the match in Kiev from a small section of home supporters," Chelsea said in a statement on their website.



NASCAR Cup Series cars line up five wide in a salute to fans during pace laps for the NASCAR Cup Series auto race at Auto Club Speedway in Fontana, Calif on March 17. (AP)

## Altidore grabs winner for Toronto

# Expansion FC Cincinnati get first win

**CINCINNATI, March 18, (AP):** Allan Cruz and Mathieu Deplagne scored two minutes apart in the second half and expansion FC Cincinnati won for the first time, topping the 10-man Portland Timbers 3-0 on Sunday in their home debut.

Kendall Weston scored FC Cincy's first home goal in the MLS in the 15th minute by heading home Leonardo Bertone's free-kick in front of a sold-out crowd of 32,250 at Nippert Stadium, including MLS Commissioner Don Garber.

Cruz scored on a back-heel shot in the 61st, settling a deflected shot and rolling it inside the far post. Two minutes later, Deplagne finished off a busy sequence in the box with a redirection.

MLS expansion teams are 9-6-2 in their opening home matches. FC Cincy goalkeeper Spencer Richey denied a point-blank shot by Dairon Asprilla at the back post on a corner kick. Portland defender Larrys Mabiala received yellow cards in first-half stoppage time and the 70th for the Timbers (0-2-1).

Cincinnati striker Fanendo Adi, who spent four-plus years in a star role with Portland before being traded in July, shared greetings with his old teammates in the line-up line before the game.

FC Cincy (1-1-1) got their first point last week, rallying for a 1-1 draw against defending MLS Cup champions Atlanta United.

### Toronto FC 3, Revolution 2

In Toronto, Jozy Altidore came off the bench to score the winner in the 80th minute and Toronto FC

beat New England in its home opener.

Altidore tapped in Justin Morrow's cross. Shut down late last season to have ankle surgery, the US star came on in the 68th minute for his season debut.

Ayo Akinola, with his first MLS goal, and Jordan Hamilton, on his 23th birthday, also scored for Toronto (2-0-0). Carles Gil scored twice to pull the Revolution (0-2-1) even at 2.

### Union 1, Atlanta United 1

In Atlanta, Ezequiel Barco came on in the 67th minute and scored three minutes later to help Atlanta United tie Philadelphia.



Atlanta United midfielder Julian Gressel takes a shot on goal past Philadelphia Union defender Kai Wagner that was blocked by goalkeeper Andre Blake during the second half of an MLS soccer match that ended in a 1-1 draw on March 17 in Atlanta. (AP)

Defending champions Atlanta (0-1-2) used a series of quick passes to move to ball from the left to the right side where Julian Gressel first-timed a high entry and Barco side-netted a header inside the far post.

Brenden Aaronson, an 18-year-old homegrown making his MLS debut, ripped a right-footer that, as it went through the legs of Leandro Gonzalez Pirez, deflected off the defender's leg past goalkeeper Brad Guzan to give Philadelphia (0-3-0) the lead in the 47th minute.

### Los Angeles FC, NYC FC 2

In New York, Carlos Vela had two tying goals to help Los

Angeles FC tie New York City FC 2-2 on Sunday.

Vela tied it at 1 in the 43rd minute for LAFC (2-0-1) by getting to Latif Blessing's through ball and poking it into the back of the net. Vela leveled the match again in the 76th on a penalty kick.

Alexandru Mitrita opened the scoring in the 39th minute, running alone down the left side, cutting back two defenders in the box and finishing it into the upper corner. Alexander Ring gave NYCFC (0-0-3) a 2-1 lead in the 62nd minute.

### Sporting Kansas City 1, Rapids 1

In Commerce City, Colo, Johnny Russell scored in the closing minutes to help Sporting Kansas City tie Colorado.

Gianluca Busio drew a foul

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against defender Axel Sjoberg a few yards outside the area and Russell put away the ensuing free kick, lifting it over the leaping 6-foot-7 Sjoberg.

Sporting goalkeeper Tim Melia mishandled a pass from Seth Sinovic and Diego Rubio capitalized, charging in to finish into an empty net from the corner of the 6-yard box to open the scoring in the 54th.

Johan Blomberg was shown a yellow card in the 80th minute and again in the 87th, leaving Colorado (0-1-2) a man down. Sporting is 1-1-1.

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