

Team Penske lose 3rd consecutive race because of late caution

Palou makes late surge to win IndyCar race at Road America

ELKHART LAKE, Wisconsin, June 21, (AP) — Alex Palou sailed past Josef Newgarden with two laps remaining to win at Road America and reclaim the IndyCar points lead as Team Penske lost its third consecutive race because of a late caution.

CAR RACING

Newgarden started from the pole and led 32 of the 55 laps until Ed Jones' spin brought out the yellow with four to go. Newgarden got a good jump on the restart but Palou dipped left and sped around him for the lead.

Newgarden appeared to have a mechanical problem and plummeted from the lead to a 21st-place finish. He's led 99 of 125 laps the last two IndyCar races but was denied a win a week ago in Detroit when Pato O'Ward ran him down following another late restart.

Tokyo Olympics to allow limit of 10,000 local fans in venues

TOKYO, June 21, (AP) — The Tokyo Olympics will allow some local fans to attend when the games open in just over a month, organizing committee officials and the IOC said on Monday.

Organizers set a limit of 50% of capacity up to a maximum of 10,000 fans for all Olympic venues.

The decision was announced after so-called Five Party talks online with local organizers, the International Olympic Committee, the International Paralympic Committee, the Japanese government and the government of

The driver who led the most laps has not won in IndyCar the last six races, and Team Penske is still seeking its first victory of the year through nine races. Its the deepest into a season Penske has gone without a victory since its 1999 winless season.

Palou, meanwhile, became the first Chip Ganassi Racing driver other than

metropolitan Tokyo.

The decision contradicts the country's top medical adviser, Dr. Shigeru Omi, who recommended last week that the safest way to hold the Olympics would be without fans. He had previ-

OLYMPICS

ously called it "abnormal" to hold the Olympics during the pandemic.

The Tokyo Games are set to open on July 23.

Fans from abroad were banned several months ago. Officials say local fans will be under strict rules. They will not be allowed to cheer, must wear masks, and are being told to go straight home afterward.

Organizers say between 3.6-3.7 million tickets are in the hands of Japanese residents.

Having fans in the venues presents a risk of spreading the COVID-19 infections, and not just at the venues, since it causes more circulation on commuter trains, in restaurants and other public spaces.



Alex Palou celebrates after winning an IndyCar race at Road America in Elkhart Lake, Wis., on June 20. (AP)



Alex Palou leads a group in a turn during an IndyCar race at Road America in Elkhart Lake, Wis., on June 20. (AP)

Larson 'romps' to yet another win for Hendrick Motorsports

Chastain 2nd

LEBANON, Tenn., June 21, (AP) — Kyle Larson won again - that's all he does these days - this time in the Cup debut at Nashville Superspeedway, where Hendrick Motorsports' new star drove to victory lane for the fourth consecutive week.

CAR RACING

Larson led 264 of 300 laps for his third consecutive win in a points race, fourth straight including last weekend's All-Star race. That win at Texas Motor Speedway kicked off a stretch of four wins in seven days as Larson collected the \$1 million All-Star payout then traveled to Ohio to pocket the \$6,000 purses in two sprint car races.

Rick Hendrick's cars have been to victory lane six consecutive weeks



Kyle Larson celebrates with the winner's guitar and trophy after winning a NASCAR Cup Series auto race at Nashville Superspeedway, on June 20, in Lebanon, Tenn. (AP)

dating to Alex Bowman's May 16 win at Dover.

Nashville Superspeedway reopened this weekend after a decade of dormancy to host its first ever Cup race. NASCAR's top series last raced in the Nashville-area 37 years ago at the Fairgrounds, where Geoff Bodine won in the No. 5 Chevrolet for Hendrick.

To celebrate his win in his new No.

5, Larson did burnouts along the entire Nashville frontstretch to put on a show for the sold-out crowd of 40,000.

"There's a lot of fans out there and we had enough rubber and enough fuel there to do a good burnout at the end," Larson said.

Next up for Larson is a trip to Brandon, South Dakota, for Monday and Tuesday night World of Outlaws races at Huset's Speedway.

Larson's fourth Cup points win of the season was the first with sponsor Valvoline on his hood, which marked just the third time in 17 races so far this season that Larson featured a non-Hendrick company on his car. He's largely unsponsored after missing all but four races last season during a NASCAR suspension for using a racial slur while participating in an online race.

Ross Chastain finished second for Chip Ganassi Racing and Hendrick driver William Byron was third in a Chevrolet podium sweep.

"My goodness, we don't have anything for those Chevrolets right now," said Ford driver Aric Almirola, who finished fourth after starting from the pole.

His Stewart-Haas Racing teammate finished fifth in one of the better days for the slumping organization. The pair of top-fives came the same day team co-owner Tony Stewart was at his first Cup race since the start of the pandemic.

Traffic issues leading into the speedway delayed the start the race by 10 minutes.

NASCAR asked television partner NBC Sports to push back its first Cup race of the season to allow for more fans to get seated before the race began. NBCSN had an NHL playoff game scheduled Sunday night and could only afford the 10-minute delay.

last weekend's doubleheader in Detroit because his car would not start out at a late red flag, finished third for Penske.

Dixon was fourth and followed by Romain Grosjean and Marcus Ericsson, who won his first race at Power's expense in Detroit and at Road America put three Ganassi cars in the top six.

Manuel bounces back

Dressel, Ledecky lead powerful US swim team headed to Tokyo

OMAHA, Neb., June 21, (AP) — With Michael Phelps five years into retirement, the stage is set in Tokyo for Caeleb Dressel. Katie Ledecky is ready to extend her dominance, competing in four individual events plus relays at the pandemic-delayed Olympics.

They lead a powerful U.S. swimming team that is expected to top the medals standings once again. No world records were set at the eight-day trials that ended, but the Americans figure to flash their speed with gold on the line.

Dressel made the team in the 50 and 100 freestyles and the 100 butterfly. He could swim in at least three relays in Tokyo, including the new mixed 4x100 medley featuring men and women.

He closed his trials by tying his American record of 21.04 seconds in the 50 free, fastest in the world this year.

Five years ago in Rio, Dressel won two gold medals as part of relays. Since then, he won 13 gold medals and two silvers at the world championships in 2017 and 2019.

Tabbed as the potential successor to Phelps, Dressel will be under intense pressure and scrutiny in Tokyo.

Ledecky will swim the 200, 400, 800 and 1,500 freestyles in Tokyo. She'll be the favorite to defend her 800 title and win the longest race for women - a new event at next month's games - in which she owns the world record.

But she won't be favored in the 200 or 400, where Ledecky faces a poten-

tial showdown with Ariarne Titmus of Australia. Ledecky surprised herself with times that were not as fast as she had expected in Omaha.

Simone Manuel fought back after missing the team in the 100 freestyle, winning the 50 free on the last night of trials.

Days after revealing she had been diagnosed with overtraining syndrome in March, Manuel gathered enough speed to hold off Abbey Weitzeil by one-hundredth of a second, winning in 24.29.

It was a popular victory, with fans on their feet cheering. Weitzeil was silently cheering as she raced alongside Manuel.

Manuel won't defend her historic gold in the 100 free from Rio, where she was the first Black woman to win an Olympic swimming medal. She'll be joined in Tokyo by Natalie Hinds, a Black swimmer who made her first Olympic team at 27.

SWIMMING

Manuel's teammates are glad to have her experience and leadership.

Lydia Jacoby is the first swimmer from Alaska to make a U.S. Olympic team.

The 17-year-old from Seward qualified in the 100 breaststroke. This fall she plans to return to high school for her senior year after being home-schooled during the pandemic. She has verbally committed to swim at Texas. When she's not in the pool, Jacoby plays double bass, guitar, piano and sings.

Jake Mitchell made the most of his do-over.

He went too slow in the 400 free to meet the Olympic qualifying standard, finishing second behind winner Kieran Smith in a time of 3 minutes, 48.17 seconds. Usually second is good enough to earn a spot on the Olympic team, but not this time.

Mitchell got a second chance, though.

He swam a time trial in the temporary 50-meter pool all by himself. He went over 2 seconds faster than his previous time, touching in 3:45.86 to punch his ticket to Tokyo. That was good enough to meet the qualifying standard of 3:46.78.

Mitchell, of Carmel, Indiana, recently wrapped up his first year at Michigan, where he was named Big Ten freshman of the year.



Simone Manuel reacts after winning the women's 50 freestyle during wave 2 of the U.S. Olympic Swim Trials on June 20, in Omaha, Neb. (AP)

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