

Toyota Post-Race Recap
NASCAR Xfinity Series (NXS)
New Hampshire Motor Speedway
Race 18 of 33 – 211.6 miles, 200 laps
July 21, 2018

TOYOTA FINISHING POSITIONS

1st, CHRISTOPHER BELL
*2nd, Brad Keselowski**
3rd, RYAN PREECE
*4th, John Hunter Nemechek**
*5th, Matt Tifft**
6th, BRANDON JONES

21st, CHAD FINCHUM
29th, BAYKEY CURREY
34th, JOSH BILICKI
38th, TIMMY HILL
**non-Toyota driver*

TOYOTA DRIVER POINT STANDINGS**

<i>1st, Daniel Hemric*</i>	<i>650 points</i>	<i>5th, Justin Allgaier*</i>	<i>602 points</i>
2nd, CHRISTOPHER BELL	644 points	7th, BRANDON JONES	543 points
<i>3rd, Elliot Sadler*</i>	<i>643 points</i>	<i>*non-Toyota driver</i>	
<i>4th, Cole Custer*</i>	<i>637 points</i>	<i>**unofficial point standings</i>	

- Camry driver Christopher Bell took the checkered flag for Saturday's NASCAR Xfinity Series (NXS) race at New Hampshire Motor Speedway to claim his second-straight victory.
- Bell started second and led the field three times for a race-high 93 laps (of 200) to finish first. Bell also won the race's first stage and was eighth at the conclusion of the second stage.
- With his performance, Bell jumped to second in the NXS point standings and leads the Playoff points with 18 marks to eight for his next-closest competitor.
- Bell now has three victories in his first, full-time season at the NXS level.
- Bell's Joe Gibbs Racing teammates also finished in the top-10 overall with Connecticut-native Ryan Preece in third and Brandon Jones in sixth.

TOYOTA QUOTES

CHRISTOPHER BELL, No. 20 Rheem Toyota Camry, Joe Gibbs Racing

Finishing Position: 1st

How did you hold off Brad Keselowski?

"The better tires, they didn't hurt us that's for sure. Always nice to – Jason (Ratcliff, crew chief) was able to put four on there and, man, we got going there that long green flag run and I was getting really nervous because I didn't have a tach (tachometer), so I didn't really know how I was going to get down pit road, but luckily I've got the best spotter on the roof, man, and Tony (Hirschman) was able to kind of guide me and let me know, 'Alright, I think you can pick it up a little bit,' and then a couple times he told me to slow it down, so it worked out for us. We were able to take four tires there and that was a big deal."

Did you ever dream while growing up that Kyle Busch and Brad Keselowski in consecutive weeks?

"That's pretty special. I never dreamed I would be here at Joe Gibbs Racing. I never dreamed I'd be racing in the NASCAR Xfinity Series honestly, but, man, I'm just proud of this entire group at Joe Gibbs Racing. This No. 20 team works their butts off and really happy for all of our partners at Rheem, Ruud, GameStop, Toyota, obviously everyone at TRD (Toyota Racing Development) and bottom line I'm really thankful for Jack Irving (director of Team & Support

Service for TRD, U.S.A.), Tyler Gibbs (senior vice president and GM for TRD, U.S.A.), Pete Willoughby, Keith Kunz (team owner of Keith Kunz Motorsports). Those guys are the ones that took – put their neck out on the line – so those guys right there put their neck out on the line for me and here I am today.”

-MORE-

PAGE 2

CHRISTOPHER BELL, No. 20 Rheem Toyota Camry, Joe Gibbs Racing (continued)

Why did you give the checkered flag to the young fan?

“I hope it means a lot more to that kid than it is to me. You know, we get trophies, we get all sorts of trophies, so hopefully it means a lot to that kid.”

Was that fun racing Brad Keselowski at the end?

“Oh, it’s – I don’t know if it’s fun, but it’s stressful, that’s for sure. You know, he (Brad Keselowski) on tires there, he didn’t have left sides and we had four, so that was a big advantage for me and I was able to get a really good launch on the restart, so, you know, that was really the key there. I think he had a little bit better car than us, but pretty much all through practice we were really equal, so this place has been really good to me in the past, you know? I’ve never been much for a flat track, let it roll, easy in, easy off-type of deal, but this place has been really good to me.”

Would you have thought you’d have three Xfinity Series wins at this point before the year started?

“Honestly, I would have said I’d better have three wins, you know? It’s a – whenever you come to here, you step in this equipment at Joe Gibbs Racing, you’re expected to win. Pressure’s on for you to deliver and thankfully I’ve been able to deliver at least some of the time.”

How satisfying is this win?

“It’s great, man. To be able to run with the guys like running with Kyle (Busch) last week and then now (Brad Keselowski), it’s, you know, you – at one point – you hope to race those guys at one point, so I’m thankful that I get the opportunity here in the Xfinity Series to race with them and proud that I’m able to compete with them let alone beat them.”

What does it say about your team that you’ve had these runs the last two weeks?

“I’ve got the same cars as Kyle (Busch), so that’s – I can’t really – I guess Kyle Busch doesn’t have Jason (Ratcliff, crew chief), so that’s a bit advantage for me, but, you know, driving for Joe Gibbs Racing you’ve got great equipment and they’ve won before me, they’re going to win after me, so it’s my job to make sure that they win with me. That’s the bottom line. I’ve just got great race cars and thankfully I’ve been able to capitalize on that the last couple weeks.”

JASON RATCLIFF, crew chief, No. 20 Rheem Toyota Camry, Joe Gibbs Racing

What has Christopher Bell been doing different in recent weeks?

“Well, I don’t know that he’s done anything different. You know, if you look all the way back to Atlanta, you know, he’s done a nice job of running in the top-two or –three at most these tracks and competing against Kyle (Busch) and Brad (Keselowski) and Kevin (Harvick) and running up there with (Kyle) Larson and all those guys, so I think he’s doing the same thing. We’re just – we’re giving better race cars. I think we’re learning a lot about what he needs and we’re doing a better job or making adjustments through the race and it’s just coming together, you know? It’s one of those deals you stay after it and you keep doing what you do best and the thing you’re not doing well, you keep growing and hopefully in the next six or seven we just keep building on what we have right now. It’s just all coming together. I think that we started the season capable of winning races and Christopher (Bell) is – he’s doing a good job of communicating what he need with the race car each and every week. They guys are building better race cars at the shop, so I think it’s, you know, everything all around – his ability, the race cars, the pit crews are just coming together when it counts.”

What is Christopher Bell doing well right now and what does he need to work on to get to the Cup level?

“Well, wow, that’s a big question. I think that, you know, one thing that stands out to me most is just his desire to learn and be the best – not at just going out and winning races, but, you know, understanding the game, understanding the strategy. Whether it’s being the best at getting on pit road, running pit road, which he did a nice job today without a tach (tachometer) running pit road without getting a speeding penalty, but just all around good driver. I mean, you see the guys in the Cup Series that are really good, they’re more than just race car drivers. They understand the game. They understand the time lost passing cars and, you know, just the whole thing – it’s more than just going fast – and I think Christopher (Bell) has that on top of just natural ability to drive a race car fast. And, again, we’re learning and we’re learning together, but I think that’s to me the thing that stands out the most is just his desire to continue to learn and just be a sponge every week, learn and be better than the week before and that’s, you know, that’s what you need to be if you’re going to the best.”

-MORE-

PAGE 3

RYAN PREECE, No. 18 Falmouth Ready Mix Toyota Camry, Joe Gibbs Racing

Finishing Position: 3rd

What more did you need to compete with your race-winning teammate?

“Probably just be a little looser. You know, all day yesterday we fought being too loose and we kept tightening it up and, you know, as soon as I went out there in the modified, I’m like, ‘Man, this track is totally different,’ so I think if we left it alone maybe, but, you know, these guys that are on this team – the 18, Eric Phillips (crew chief), Chris Gabehart was my crew chief last year – they do a great job making me look good, so one day hopefully I can to get victory lane for New England.”

BRANDON JONES, No. 19 XYO Networks Toyota Camry, Joe Gibbs Racing

Finishing Position: 6th

How was your race?

“A decent day – kind of top-10 most of the afternoon. Two hundred laps here at Loudon (New Hampshire), I think we had a phenomenal day here. This was probably one of our worst tracks coming in to the season this year and we capitalized on today and made a sixth-place finish out of it, so I think we can run sixth here than we can definitely get us a win at some tracks we are really strong at.”

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