



## Stewart Seeks Strength from Shootout

### *Old Spice/Office Depot Driver Scores 10<sup>th</sup> Top-10 Finish in 11 Shootout Starts*

**Date:** Feb. 6, 2010  
**Event:** Budweiser Shootout (non-points race)  
**Series:** NASCAR Sprint Cup Series  
**Location:** Daytona (Fla.) International Speedway  
**Start/Finish:** 13<sup>th</sup>/9<sup>th</sup> (Running, completed 76 of 76 laps in a green-white-checkered finish)  
**Winner:** Kevin Harvick of Richard Childress Racing (Chevrolet)

Tony Stewart took full advantage of his time in Saturday night's Budweiser Shootout at Daytona (Fla.) International Speedway. The driver of the No. 14 Old Spice/Office Depot Chevrolet Impala for Stewart-Haas Racing (SHR) came from his 13<sup>th</sup>-place starting spot in the non-points race to lead twice for six laps, and he made other drivers who tried their hand at the lead work hard to hold onto it. Stewart ended up ninth, but the result was not indicative of the overall performance.

"I wouldn't say we had a very strong car, but we did get good track position," said Stewart after logging his 10<sup>th</sup> top-10 finish in 11 career Budweiser Shootout starts. "We had to be in clean air. We got really tight even if we were second in line."

With 10 laps remaining, the handling on Stewart's red No. 14 machine tightened up considerably. A caution on lap 71 allowed Stewart to come to pit road for a four-tire change and fuel fill-up. Both would allow his Old Spice/Office Depot ride to handle better, as the new tires would provide better grip and the heavy fuel load would weigh down the rear of the car. The downside was that of those who pitted with Stewart, which was all but two of the lead-lap cars, many took only two tires, leaving Stewart 13<sup>th</sup> when the race restarted on lap 75 in a green-white-checkered shootout.

Time would be of the essence for Stewart when the green flag dropped, but when a multi-car crash happened as the field came through turns three and four of the 2.5-mile oval, the race was effectively over. The yellow caution flag came out, another lap was run, and then the checkered flag fell. The race was over, and the scoring pylon displayed a ninth-place finish for Stewart.

"We have a lot of work to do this week," Stewart said. "We're going to take advantage of every minute we get."

Stewart's SHR teammate, Ryan Newman, fared worse, as he was caught up in the accident that ultimately ended the race. The driver of the No. 39 Haas Automation Chevrolet Impala finished 19<sup>th</sup>, but was credited with a DNF (Did Not Finish) as he had to pull his car into the garage area two laps short of the finish.

The Budweiser Shootout is an exhibition race featuring the following, with eligibility based on a driver having competed in the NASCAR Sprint Cup Series within the last two seasons:

- The 12 drivers that qualified for the 2009 Chase for the Championship
- Past Sprint Cup champions
- Past Budweiser Shootout winners
- Past Daytona 500 winners
- Past Coke Zero 400 winners
- The reigning Raybestos Rookie of the Year

This year's field included 24 drivers.

Kevin Harvick won the Budweiser Shootout for the second straight year. It was his first Sprint Cup victory of any kind since winning last year's Shootout. Kasey Kahne finished second, while Jamie McMurray, Kyle Busch and Denny Hamlin rounded out the top-five. Jeff Gordon, Joey Logano, Brian Vickers, Stewart and Juan Pablo Montoya comprised the remainder of the top-10.

Next up for Stewart and Co. is the Gatorade Duel – twin 150-mile heat races that set the majority of the 43-car Daytona 500 field. Those get underway at 2 p.m. EST on Thursday, Feb. 11 with live coverage on SPEED. The green flag waves for the 52<sup>nd</sup> Daytona 500 at 1 p.m. EST on Sunday, Feb. 14, with live coverage provided by FOX beginning with its pre-race show at noon.

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