

NASCAR

THIS WEEK

SPEED FREAKS

3 questions we had to ask — ourselves

Does Pocono start a winning trend for Truex?

ROB'S RAMBLINGS: I want to say, "No," that you can't stay hot forever. Then I remember Harvick has been in the top two 10 of 14 races. So yes, he'll go into the Chase with two or three.
KEN'S CALL: He broke the seal on Victory Lane, so yes, I'm thinking a few more in the next two moths.

Big picture: Is Truex a championship possibility?

ROB'S RAMBLINGS: Still rooting for a non-winner to take the Chase title, but you certainly have to throw him into the mix.
KEN'S CALL: Let's not get ahead of ourselves. This year's championship belongs to Jimmie or Harvick.

Who's our next first-time winner in 2015?

ROB'S RAMBLINGS: Jeff Gordon at Indianapolis. That's an easy one.
KEN'S CALL: I'm going with AJ Allmendinger at Sonoma in a few weeks.

ONLINE EXTRAS

NJ news-journalonline.com/nascar

f facebook.com/nascardaytona

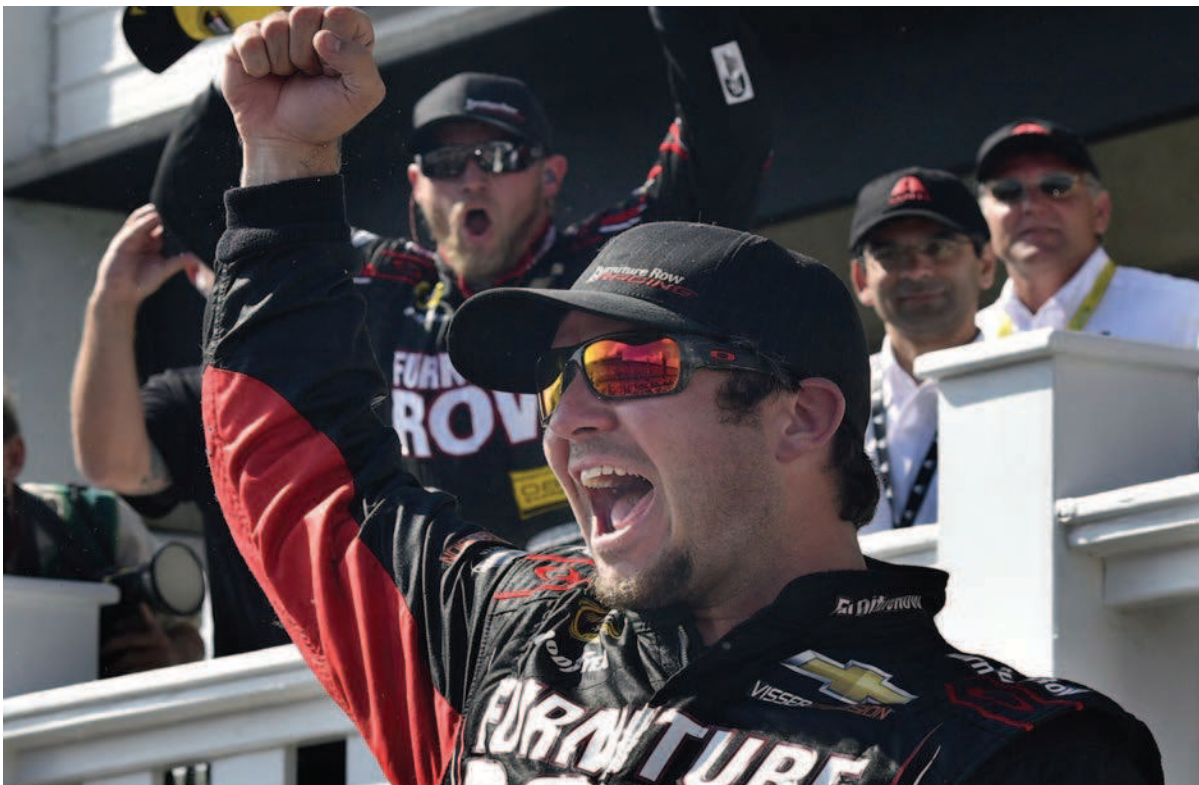
t @nascardaytona

Questions? Contact Godwin Kelly at godwin.kelly@news-jrnl.com or Ken Willis at ken.willis@news-jrnl.com

CUP POINTS

1. Kevin Harvick.....	559
2. Martin Truex Jr.....	520
3. Jimmie Johnson.....	481
4. Joey Logano.....	480
5. Dale Earnhardt Jr.....	465
6. Brad Keselowski.....	441
7. Jamie McMurray.....	427
8. Kasey Kahne.....	417
9. Matt Kenseth.....	415
10. Jeff Gordon.....	411
11. Paul Menard.....	385
12. Kurt Busch.....	379
13. Denny Hamlin.....	379
14. Aric Almirola.....	379
15. Ryan Newman.....	374
16. Carl Edwards.....	368
17. Clint Bowyer.....	354
18. Greg Biffle.....	343
19. Kyle Larson.....	333
20. Danica Patrick.....	328
21. Casey Mears.....	308
22. AJ Allmendinger.....	300
23. David Ragan.....	290
24. Austin Dillon.....	290
25. David Gilliland.....	260
26. Sam Hornish Jr.....	255
27. Tony Stewart.....	253
28. Ricky Stenhouse Jr.....	243
29. Justin Allgaier.....	234
30. Trevor Bayne.....	228
31. Cole Whitt.....	227
32. Brett Moffitt.....	204
33. Alex Bowman.....	192

3 THINGS WE LEARNED AT POCONO



Associated Press/DERIK HAMILTON

Even Martin Truex Jr. might have been wondering when he was going to break through.

1. It was a matter of time

Sooner or later, you knew the "W" was coming for Martin Truex Jr., and Sunday was his day. He has been on fire lately and, after this race, has led the most laps in the past four Sprint Cup races. Talk about momentum. "Right now, I feel we're as good as anyone out there," Truex said after his win.

2. Lost chance for Gordon

This was a two-race stretch where there was much hope for a Jeff Gordon win in his final season. After all, he has 11 wins at the last two tracks, Dover and Pocono. But it wasn't to be. Gordon led just one lap and never really contended in the race, slipping back to mid-pack by the end. Gordon finished 14th.

3. Runner-up, take 8

This is getting ridiculous. Kevin Harvick's propensity to finish as the runner-up continued, marking the eighth time in 14 races this season he has finished second. Don't forget, Harvick also has two victories, which makes him 10 of 14 in finishing in the top two this season.

— Rob Ullery
robert.ullery@news-jrnl.com

3 THINGS TO WATCH FOR AT MICHIGAN

1. Anybody have Menard to win?

A little fact for your Cup pool: Paul Menard had back-to-back fourths here last year. Any chance he takes the checkered flag Sunday? Maybe not, but a top 5 definitely is in play.

2. You won't believe this

Bet you can't guess where Kevin Harvick finished in last year's races here — rats, you were right: Second. Both times. So maybe his incredible run of runner-up finishes continues.

3. Is it Ford's turn?

Ford has a whopping 34 NSCS wins at this track, which Ford considers to be in its back yard. But Chevy won both the pole and race in both trips there in 2014, so the battle is on.

— Rob Ullery



News-Journal file/JIM TILLER

Paul Menard is in the Chase window on points, but with the "win and you're in" system, a victory would be nice.

KEN WILLIS' MICHIGAN PICKS



Ken Willis has been covering NASCAR for The Daytona Beach News-Journal for more than 30 years. Reach him at ken.willis@news-jrnl.com

THE WINNER: Joey Logano.
REST OF TOP 5: Kevin Harvick, Martin Truex, Ryan Newman, Jamie McMurray.
DARK HORSE: Sam Hornish.

FIRST OUT: Aric Almirola.
DON'T BE SURPRISED IF: This turns into one of those old-fashioned Michigan fuel-mileage contests.

QUESTIONS & ATTITUDE

Compelling questions ... and maybe a few actual answers



Associated Press/DERIK HAMILTON

Brian France, left, knows not even the "Driver's Council" can make everyone happy all the time.

You're telling us Brian France has a good point?

Yes I am. We know how easy it is to take shots at those in charge, especially in a game like NASCAR. Someone, somewhere, always is frustrated, and it's easy to blame "The Man."

Not this time?

On Sunday at Pocono, France said the new "driver's council" isn't likely to trigger changes that'll improve the on-track product in a way everyone will be happy, because (here's his good point) what's good for one driver isn't necessarily good for others. "They can't agree because they're competing with one another," France said.

So what happens?

It'll continue as it has since Barney Oldfield's senior prom. Good stretches, dull stretches and some in-between stuff. Unless you start a Figure 8 series, you're subjected to those laws of auto racing.

FEUD OF THE WEEK



RYAN NEWMAN



AJ ALLMENDINGER

RYAN NEWMAN VS. AJ ALLMENDINGER: AJ said he lost grip, Ryan got wrecked, Ryan got snippy and vowed payback.
KEN WILLIS' TAKE: "If Ryan would get up there in the lead every now and then, there'd be less chance of these things happening."

WHAT'S ON TAP

SPRINT CUP: Quicken Loans 400
SITE: Michigan International Speedway
TV SCHEDULE: Friday, practice (Fox Sports 1, 11:30 a.m.); qualifying (Fox Sports 2, 4:15 p.m.); Saturday, practice (Fox Sports 1, 9 a.m. and noon); Sunday, race (Fox Sports 1, 1 p.m.)
XFINITY: Great Clips 250 Benefiting Paralyzed Veterans of America
SITE: Michigan International Speedway
TV SCHEDULE: Friday, practice (Fox Sports 1, 1 p.m. and 2:30 p.m.); Saturday, qualifying (Fox Sports 1, 10:15 a.m.), race (Fox Sports 1, 1:30 p.m.)
TRUCKS: American Ethanol Presents the Drivin for Linemen 200
SITE: Gateway Motorsports Park
TV SCHEDULE: Saturday, qualifying (Fox Sports 2, 5:30 p.m.), race (Fox Sports 1, 8:30 p.m.)
ARCA: Corrigan Oil 200
SITE: Michigan International Speedway
TV SCHEDULE: Friday, qualifying (10 a.m.); race (5:45 p.m.)



WEEKLY DRIVER RANKINGS — BASED ON BEHAVIOR AND PERFORMANCE

KEVIN HARVICK It's his turn at top again	JIMMIE JOHNSON No longer just a 2-man draft ...	MARTIN TRUEX JR. ... Because this guy has broken through	JUNIOR EARNHARDT Drew Cameroon in Women's World Cup	JOEY LOGANO Mr. Penske loves winning Michigan	BRAD KESELOWSKI See Logano	KURT BUSCH Returned to decent form at Pocono	MATT KENSETH Middle name is Roy	JAMIE MCMURRAY Next first-time winner of 2015?	KASEY KAHNE Winless streak at 25
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

Mon. & Thurs. 8:30-8:30
Tues., Wed., Fri. 8:30-6
Sat., 8:30-2

HUMES

CHRYSLER DODGE Jeep

DRIVE AND DISCOVER

ERIE'S #1 DEALER

Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram

TO BUY YOUR VEHICLE

OVER 70% RETURN TO BUY HERE AGAIN

COMPLIMENTARY SERVICE LOANER

LIFETIME PA STATE INSPECTIONS INCLUDED

CUSTOMER FOR LIFE PROGRAM

5YR./100,000 WARRANTY

<p>2015 RAM 1500 QUAD CAB 4X4 "THUNDER ROAD"</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dual Exhaust Sport Package 20" Alloy Wheels Satellite Radio Fog Lamps <p>UNDER \$19K/MO.</p> <p>HUMES SALE PRICE \$33,848 LEASE BONUS CASH -5,250 HUMES TRADE VALUE -3,000</p> <p>\$25,598</p> <p>PICK YOUR PAYMENT</p> <p>\$228/mo. \$249/mo. \$299/mo.</p>	<p>2015 CHRYSLER TOWN & COUNTRY Signature Series</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Heated Leather Seats Remote Start Rear Video Rear Camera Heated Steering Wheel <p>HUMES SALE PRICE \$29,488 LEASE BONUS CASH -4,500 HUMES TRADE VALUE -3,000</p> <p>\$239/mo.</p> <p>\$21,988</p>	<p>2015 JEEP RENEGADE 4X4 OFF ROAD CAPABLE</p> <p>THE HOTTEST NEW COMPACT SUV</p> <p>31 MPG</p> <p>HUMES SALE PRICE \$23,998 LEASE BONUS CASH -1,250 HUMES TRADE VALUE -3,000</p> <p>\$237/mo.</p> <p>\$19,730</p>	<p>2015 JEEP CHEROKEE LIMITED TRI-STATES JEEP HEADQUARTERS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leather Interior Chrome Wheels Heated Seats Heated Wheel <p>31 MPG</p> <p>HUMES SALE PRICE \$28,944 LEASE BONUS CASH -3,250 HUMES TRADE VALUE -3,000</p> <p>\$248/mo.</p> <p>\$22,694</p>	<p>2015 JEEP COMPASS HIGH ALTITUDE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leather Sun Roof Heated Seats Remote Start <p>HUMES SALE PRICE \$24,488 LEASE BONUS CASH -4,500 HUMES TRADE VALUE -3,000</p> <p>\$169/mo.</p> <p>\$16,988</p>
---	---	--	---	--

39 Month/30,000 Mile Lease. PA tax and plates excluded. Total due \$2,997, includes first month's payment and security deposit, includes all factory incentives, lease & owner loyalty. Bonus Cash on Select Vehicles. SALE ENDS 6/14/15.