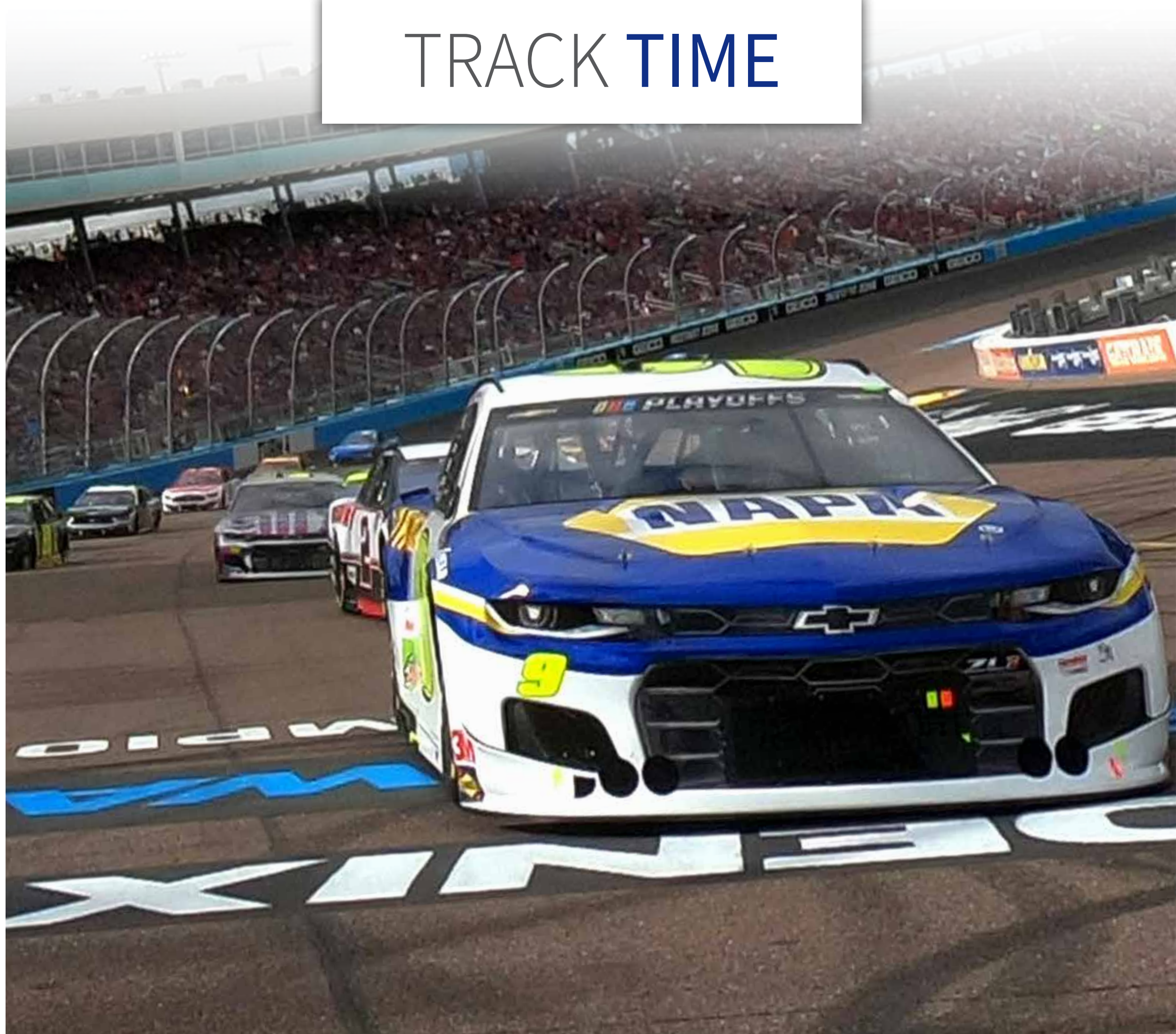


TRACK TIME



Bristol's 60th Anniversary

To celebrate its 60th anniversary, Bristol Motor Speedway will challenge drivers to a throwback race on the dirt track.

This will be the first time NASCAR Cup Series racers have performed on this type of terrain since Richard Petty won at the State Fairgrounds in Raleigh, North Carolina, in 1970. For the BMS, 2021 will be the third time the raceway will convert into a dirt facility.

The event is dubbed the Food City race and will roll into Bristol on March 28. The weeks following up to the dirt-track race is loaded with fun for racing enthusiasts. Pack your bags and make the trip to northeast Tennessee to be included in a significant part of history.

BRISTOL MOTOR SPEEDWAY HISTORY

The high-banked oval track is nicknamed "The Last Great Colosseum" due to its racing surface being surrounded by grandstands on all sides. NASCAR fans have visited the course since its opening in 1961, when it hosted its first Sprint Cup Series race.

The maiden win was attributed to Jack Smith, even though relief driver Johnny Allen actually piloted his car across the checkered flag. The track that features banks arranged at 24 to 28 degrees began as a half-mile course before becoming the familiar



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.533-mile course in 1970.

DIRT NATIONALS

One week before the NASCAR crews line up for the Cup Series race, the dirt track will host the nation's best short-track racers during the first Bristol Dirt Nationals.

March 15-20 will give fans their first look at the converted race-track and get a taste of the action to come in the following days.

While the robust Super Late Models will headline the show, numerous other classes will take the track, including:

- Modified and Sport Mods.
- Stock cars.
- Both 602 and 604 Late Models.
- Hornets and open modified.

The competition will be high level as the combined purse exceeds \$400,000.

CUP SERIES

This won't be the last time professional drivers compete at Bristol during the 2021 season. The famous track will also host a playoff event on Sept. 18. Unfortunately, the surface will be reformed back to its normal concrete course.



Briscoe



Bowyer



Bowman



Wallace

2021 Driver Changes

The 2021 NASCAR season wouldn't be complete without drivers leaving teams or hanging up their racing gloves.

Don't be surprised if you see your favorite racers taking on new roles this year. Here are a few notable changes you will notice going into this season.

CHASE BRISCOE

Fresh off an impressive run throughout the NASCAR Xfinity Series, Chase Briscoe will replace the

retiring Clint Bowyer in the Cup Series. As a driver of the No. 14 Stewart-Haas Racing car, he will look to extend on his 11 career victories in the amateur circuit. Briscoe is considered a lead contender for the Sunoco Rookie of the Year honors and is expected to be a dominant force in playoff contention.

CLINT BOWYER

Bowyer will hang up his racing gloves and join Mike Joy and Jeff Gordon in the FOX booth. He will retire with 10 career wins after competing in the Cup Series for 16 years. Throughout his career, he commanded cars for Richard Childress Racing,

Michael Waltrip Racing, HScott Motorsports and ultimately retired from Stewart-Haas Racing after four years. This won't be his first stint in the broadcast booth as he worked as a regular analyst during NASCAR Xfinity Series races.

ALEX BOWMAN

Bowman will enter his fourth full season with Hendrick Motorsports by taking over for the retiring Jimmie Johnson. As the famous No. 48 Chevrolet driver, the 2018 Daytona 500 pole winner looks to clinch his fourth playoff spot since entering the Cup Series. Bowman is familiar with taking over the wheel for legends. His

debut with the team arose after replacing an injured Dale Earnhardt Jr.

BUBBA WALLACE

Wallace left his long-time team, Richard Petty Motorsports. He will spend the season driving for the newly formed 23XI racing organization. The new crew was developed through a partnership between NBA legend Michael Jordan and Daytona 500 champion Denny Hamlin. Wallace serves as the team's single driver and will make the team's highly anticipated NASCAR Cup Series debut in Daytona on Feb. 14 in the No. 23 Toyota.

Derrike Cope's Return

Thirty-one years have passed since Derrike Cope took the checkered flag in the 1990 Daytona 500. After 26 total races at the famous track, he racked up one win, a top-five finish and a top-10 finish. This year, he aims to take down the competition at the age of 62 years young.

Cope isn't new to racing during his golden years. In 2018, he competed at the Darlington Raceway in the Bojangles Southern 500. While he finished the race in 33rd place, the potential future hall-of-famer will be seeking a chance for redemption.

COPE'S BEGINNINGS

Born Nov. 3, 1958, Derrike Cope excelled as a baseball player throughout high school and college. During his collegiate career, he was scouted by Major League Baseball teams but would ultimately suffer a career-ending knee injury. Fortunately, Cope had a backup plan. He turned his focus toward racing full-time.

He made his NASCAR Winston Cup Series debut in 1982 at the Riverside International Raceway. Unfortunately, his No. 95 car

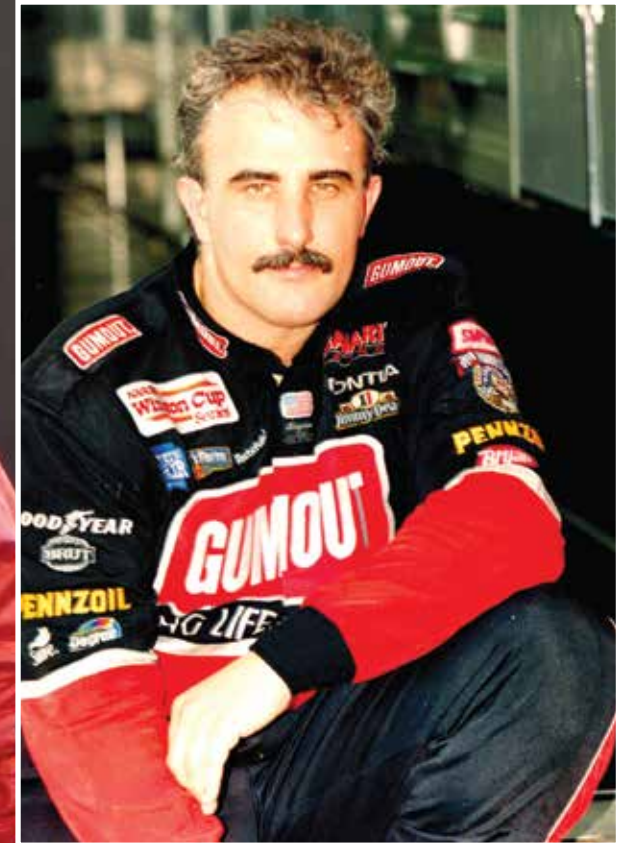


finished 36th after facing an unexpected oil leak. In 1989, he signed with Bob Whitcomb, where he took top-four finishes 10 different times.

DAYTONA WIN

His Daytona 500 Win in 1990 is considered one of the most significant upsets in NASCAR history. During the final lap, legend Dale

Earnhardt struck a piece of debris on the track, resulting in a damaged tire. Cope was able to avoid the obstructions and overtake the lead to earn him the top spot. After his



DARRYL MORAN/CREATIVE COMMONS

prestigious win, he would follow-up on the success by winning the Budweiser 500 in Dover the same year.

His success would land Cope in the national spotlight, even receiving an invitation to appear on "The David Letterman Show."

2021 RACE

This year, Cope will pilot the No. 15 Chevrolet for Rick Ware Racing. He will return to the Daytona International Speedway for the first time since 2004. Per social media, Cope said, "We were underdogs heading into the Daytona 500, and we are underdogs now. Many things have changed, but our drive and passion remain the same."

NASCARKING/CREATIVE COMMONS

All-Star Weekend

Mark your calendars for June 13 to witness one of the most exciting races of the NASCAR season. The sport's best stars unite for an All-Star Race to compete for bragging rights and a \$1 million purse.

This year, the Texas Motor Speedway earned the right to host. Eddie Gossage, the facility's president, says the event should be considered in the same realm as other top-tier races like the Daytona 500.

TMS will see more NASCAR action this year, with a doubleheader occurring on Oct. 16-17. While there are no plans to keep the track as the future host for the All-Star Race, there is plenty of buzz that the location will soon be a duo-race location each season. In the past, the exhibition that was established in 1985 has been held at Charlotte Motor Speedway, except for 1986 and 2020.

In addition to the grand finale race, the weekend is packed with events for NASCAR fans to enjoy.

PREMIUM TICKETS

The Texas Motor Speedway offers unique views for its spectators to witness exciting matchups. Check out for available tickets for these luxury areas.



JARED C. TILTON/GETTY IMAGES

- **Victory Lane Club.** The premiere seats provide climate-controlled comfort and offer some of the house's best seats.

- **Busch Restart Bar.** A favorite amongst racegoers, offers a unique perspective of the track between turn four and the start-finish line.

- **Luxury suites.** The most exclusive seats on the track

feature panoramic views, seating is customizable based on a party's size and includes a full-service bar and food area.

SPEEDYCASH 400

All-Star Race weekend kicks off with the annual SpeedyCash.com 400 competition. The 250.5-mile event is part of the NASCAR Camping

World Truck Series. Watch as racers whip their heavily modified pickups around the famous track.

You may see drivers who turn out to become successful racers later in their careers. The Truck Series circuit gave popular names like Kurt Busch, Carl Edwards and Greg Biffle their start in the racing world.

NASCAR XFINITY SERIES

The Xfinity Cup Series is another home to future racing legends. On June 12, drivers will face off in the Texas 300 competition.

Its timing in the schedule will make the matchup extra enjoyable as some drivers can lock themselves in the season's playoffs.

A New Team's Debut

Two famous partners and one proven driver are joining the NASCAR Cup Series in 2021.

Formed by NBA legend Michael Jordan and three-time Daytona 500 winner Denny Hamlin, 23XI comes into fruition after years of planning. The No. 23 Toyota car will be piloted by Bubba Wallace, who has signed a multiyear deal.

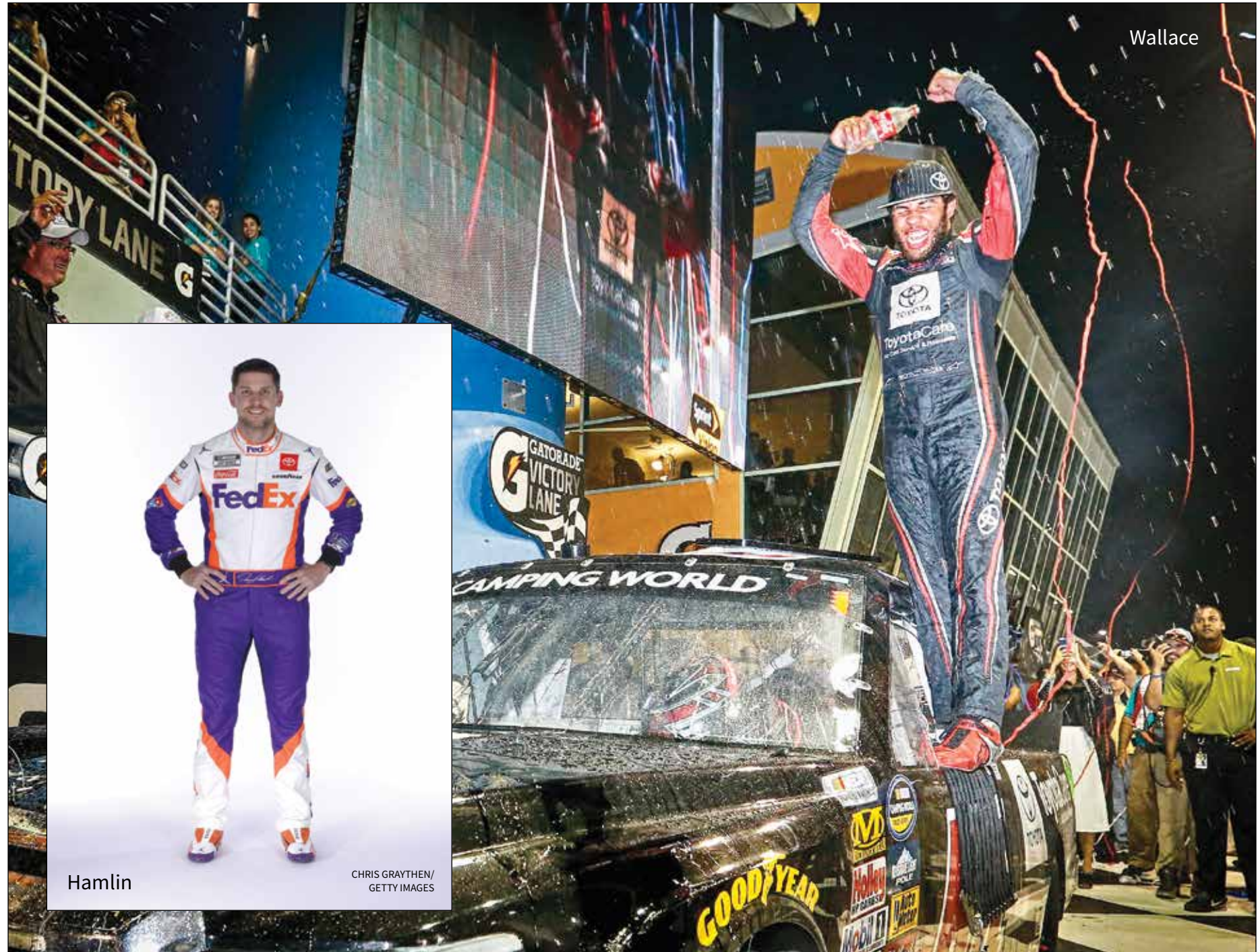
The name 23XI – pronounced twenty-three eleven – represents the stars' designated numbers. Michael Jordan won six NBA Finals as No. 23 for the Chicago Bulls, while Denny Hamlin drove the No. 11 Toyota for Joe Gibbs Racing in the Cup Series.

Jordan is a lifelong racing fan. Hamlin is a prominent race enthusiast with more than 16 years in the business. He will continue to drive for Joe Gibbs Racing while serving as a minority partner for the 23XI team.

ABOUT DENNY HAMLIN

The race car driver may spend his free time on the golf greens with other sports legends such as Michael Jordan, but his tenure on the track has been spectacular. Check out a few of his achievements as reported by 23XI.

- Has more than 43 wins over his career in the Cup Series.



Hamlin

CHRIS GRAYTHEN/
GETTY IMAGES

Wallace

SEAN GARDNER/GETTY IMAGES

- He is only one of six drivers to win the Daytona 500 at least three times.

- Obtained seven wins during the 2020 NASCAR Cup Series season.

ABOUT BUBBA WALLACE

Darrell “Bubba” Wallace is NASCAR’s only Black driver

and has pushed for equality and inclusion throughout the sport. During his rookie season in the Cup Series in 2018, Wallace finished runner-up at the Daytona 500. His tenure as a NASCAR Gander RV & Outdoors Truck Series driver led to six wins. The victories earned him the title as the

first Black driver to win a NASCAR national series in more than 50 years.

ABOUT MICHAEL JORDAN

Majority owner and former NBA legend Michael Jordan was a professional multi-sport player after performing in both basketball and Major

League Baseball. In addition to excelling on the court and field, Jordan is a significant contributor to charitable causes that promise to help at-risk and disabled children. He has recently made a 10-year, \$100 million commitment to supporting social justice initiatives.

Road Course Warriors

After last year's sudden halt to the season due to COVID-19 precautions, NASCAR drivers are looking to come back strong for a full circuit in 2021.

With legends like Jimmie Johnson and Clint Bowyer entering retirement, both up-and-comers and veterans have a chance to steal the spotlight.

This year's schedule includes seven points-paying races on road courses, providing a challenging equalizer to drivers of all statures. Here are four drivers to keep an eye on during road-course races, as suggested by a NASCAR press release.

CHASE ELLIOT

Often deemed the king of road racing, Chase Elliot's first career NASCAR Cup Series win occurred at Watkins Glen International in 2018. The No. 09 Chevrolet driver is coming off a championship season after taking the torch from teammate Jimmie Johnson. The new twists in the NASCAR schedule may help him repeat as he has grabbed five Cup Series wins on road courses. During this type of race, Elliot has an average finish of 8.9 and has combined to lead 176 laps in his last four competitions.

MARTIN TRUOX JR.

Since his win at Sonoma



JONATHAN FERREY/GETTY IMAGES

Raceway in 2019, Martin Truex Jr. is the only driver to finish in the top 10 in each of his last five road-course races. Of his four victories, three occurred at Sonoma, and the other took place at Watkins Glen in 2017. During the 2020 season, he posted respective finishes of

third and seventh at Daytona and Charlotte Motor Speedway.

KYLE BUSCH

Busch hasn't won a road-course race since 2015 at Sonoma, but he does hold a total of four victories under his belt. If he can pull off a win this

year, it will mark his fourth with a different crew chief, Ben Beshore, for the 2021 season. The driver is the active leader in laps led at road courses with an impressive 364.

RYAN BLANEY

Ryan Blaney has achieved a

win in the last nine road-course races. After his 2018 win at Charlotte, he kicked off a finishing eighth or better campaign in four consecutive road courses. He's still on a hot streak as his seven road-course top 10s occurred in his last 10 starts.

Notable Silly Season Movements

The Silly Season keeps NASCAR fans going after the final flag drops and a Cup Series winner is championed.

Unlike other sports that have trade and free agency deadlines, the NASCAR “silly season” is a cycle that usually picks up steam toward the end of each season. Teams are able to fire or hire drivers at any time of the season, and sponsors often get involved with trying to attach their brands to popular drivers and teams.

For the upcoming 2021 circuit, there are numerous notable moves from serious contenders. Check out what’s to come when the ladies and gentlemen start their engines during the 2021 Cup Series, as reported by NASCAR.

- Ryan Truex is transforming his part-time job into a full-time venture with Niece Motorsports for the 2021 Camping World Truck Series.

- The two-time title-winning crew chief Adam Stevens is leaving the two-time Cup Series

champion Kyle Busch behind. This year, he’ll look after Christopher Bell.

- A former engineer in the Xfinity Series, Ben Beshore will be taking over as new crew chief for Kyle Busch.

- Mike Wheeler will be atop the pit box for the newly established 23XI. He previously worked with co-owner Denny Hamlin, where the two won five Cup Series races together.

- Kyle Larson’s suspension from the sport expired Jan. 1. He has signed with Hendrick Motorsports and will commandeer the No. 5 Chevrolet in the Cup Series.

- Erik Jones signed a multi-year deal with Richard Petty Motorsports to fill the void left by Bubba Wallace.

- Hailie Deegan will be promoted to make runs in the Camping World Truck Series with a full

campaign during 2021.

- Clint Bowyer announced his retirement from driving on Oct. 8 but revealed plans to join the NASCAR booth during the 2021 season.

- Daniel Suarez will pilot the No. 99 Chevrolet for the newly formed Trackhouse Entertainment Group team.

- Alex Bowman will take over the No. 48 Chevrolet for Hendrick Motorsports to take the reins from the retiring Jimmie Johnson.

- Bubba Wallace leaves Richard Petty Motorsports to begin the inauguration of the 23XI team, formed by Michael Jordan and Denny Hamlin.

- Sam Mayer joins JR Motorsports to make his Xfinity Series debut in 2021 with a full-time gig beginning in 2022.

- Ben Keselowski will return to Team Penske after signing a contract extension in early August.