



Tire Leak Results in 21st-Place Finish for Matt Crafton  
*One of the Night's Fastest Trucks Finishes Two Laps Down After Tire Goes Down*

Bristol Motor Speedway Recap – O'Reilly Auto Parts 200

BRISTOL, Tenn. (August 24, 2011) – Matt Crafton and the No. 88 Menards/Goof Off crew were poised for a comeback when a tire leak put the team two laps down. After battling a tight truck in the early laps, the team worked diligently to improve the handling, but a tire going down required Crafton to pit under green, ultimately resulting in a 21st-place finish despite being one of the fastest trucks on the track.

Taking the green flag from the 18th position, Crafton immediately relayed to crew chief Bud Haefele that the No. 88 Menards/Goof Off machine was "crazy tight," but Crafton still was able to wheel the truck up to the 13th position by lap 20. By lap 30, the No. 88 was getting a little better as air pressures built up, and Crafton battled his way into the top 10, taking over the ninth spot on lap 37.

Despite two early race cautions on laps 11 and 32, strategy and track position kept the No. 88 on the racetrack until the yellow flag waved on lap 53. Crafton brought the truck in for four tires, fuel and an air-pressure adjustment, before returning to the track in the 13th position for the lap 59 restart. The caution flag flew again only five laps later, and Crafton had slipped back to 16th, stating that the truck was still "tight, tight, tight." When pit road opened, Crafton brought the No. 88 in for further chassis adjustments to improve the handling.

Emerging from the pits in 26th, Crafton felt an improvement to his truck, but unfortunately, seven laps later, he felt something else: a right-front tire going down. Crafton made three more laps to confirm his suspicion, and when Haefele concurred that the tire looked soft, Crafton brought the No. 88 to pit road for two right-side tires and fuel.

Despite fast work by the crew, Crafton emerged from the pits in 28th and two laps behind the leaders at the tiny 0.533-mile bullring. Now one of the fastest trucks on the track due to the crew's previous round of adjustments, Crafton progressed to 26th by the halfway point, but unfortunately was unable to earn a free pass or wave around as the race wore on. Safely dodging a string of wrecks and outrunning competitors who fell victim to fuel mileage, Crafton picked up five spots in the final 100 laps, ultimately crossing the finish line 21st.

The NASCAR Camping World Truck Series next heads to the ATL for a race under the lights at Atlanta Motor Speedway on Friday, September 2nd.

Race Recap:

Date: August 24, 2011

Track: Bristol Motor Speedway

Race: 16 of 25

Started: 18th

Finished: 21st

Driver's Point Standings: 7th (-63)

Up Next On The Truck Series Schedule:

Date: September 2, 2011

Track: Atlanta Motor Speedway

Event Name: Atlanta 200

Broadcast: SPEED at 8:00 p.m.

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