



## Busch more than disappointed with second place

**C**ONCORD, N.C. — At the end of a long, trying night during which he battled through adversity to lead a race-high 217 laps, second place just didn't seem good enough for Kyle Busch. Then again, it never does for Busch. "I'm supposed to win," Busch said with a grimace as he wiped sweat from his face and swigged a sports energy drink following Saturday's Bank of America 500 at Charlotte Motor Speedway.

The fact is, despite being the all-time leader in Truck Series wins at CMS and being tied with Mark Martin for the most Nationwide Series wins at the venue, Busch has never won a Sprint Cup Series race at the 1.5-mile track. He appeared to be cruising toward crossing it off his to-do list when a caution for debris came out with 26 laps remaining Saturday. That led to the final restart of the night, and the end of Busch's chances for victory when eventual winner Jamie McMurray drove right by him on the inside. "I don't know what the caution was for. You know, apparently there was a mouse that ran across the race track something," Busch said. There was, in fact, some actual debris that was caught on television. But when Busch and Joe Gibbs Racing teammate Denny Hamlin lined up behind each other on the outside for the restart — with McMurray lined up on the inside and Jimmie Johnson behind him — it appeared the advantage was going to be for the JGR boys.

It just didn't happen. "I thought for sure I was going to be second coming off Turn 2," said Hamlin, who fell back one spot to fourth and had to settle for finishing there. "But for some reason on that restart, the bottom lane took off much better than the top. That hadn't happened all night long. My car was just a little loose and I couldn't quite get it working up there on the restart, and it cost us a spot." Busch added: "Jamie got a good restart. I don't know if he got pushed from Jimmie or not, but he had a good run, good momentum getting into Turn 1. Then I got there and my car pushed up the race track ... and he was already gone. There was nothing I could do. I couldn't even stay to his outside. "His car turned better than mine. Mine plowed right up the race track and he went right by me. ... It's very, very frustrating. I gave it all I had, but McMurray was better than me."

Watching from pit road, team owner Joe Gibbs was surprised by how the end of the race unfolded, too. "You're never quite sure what's going to happen," Gibbs said. "I figured we would have another restart, to be quite honest, and we didn't."

Earlier in the race, Busch battled through other problems. At one point he complained that his throttle was sticking to the point that he had to kill the engine going into a couple of turns to keep from wrecking. Just before pitting on Lap 174, Busch complained over the radio by telling crew chief Dave Rogers: "I'm either going to drive it into the wall or spin it out. I'm out of ideas." He was running fourth at the time. Thirty laps later, he took the lead for the fifth time and held it for the next 88 laps.

"It was sticking for some reason, I'm not sure why," Busch said. "We have had a cable drive system I have not liked since I came to Joe Gibbs Racing. I don't know what happened to the mechanism, but something apparently got wedged in there for a while and I was able to work it free. It took about, I don't know, 50 laps or so but it finally got back to normal." Despite picking up four spots in the Chase standings to move into a tie for fifth with Tony Stewart, Busch was bordering on distraught afterward. Gibbs consoled Busch for several minutes after Busch climbed out of his No. 18 Toyota immediately after the race.

### **2010 Sprint Cup Series:**

November 7 - Texas Motor Speedway - Sun 3 p.m. - ESPN

### **Nationwide Series:**

November 6 - Texas Motor Speedway - Sat 12 p.m. - ESPN2