

**NSCS Race Recap: Bowyer wins at Talladega as Chase tightens**

In a win that was vindication for Clint Bowyer, all three leading Chase contenders dodged potential trouble Sunday at Talladega Superspeedway as the Chase for the NASCAR Sprint Cup tightened dramatically.

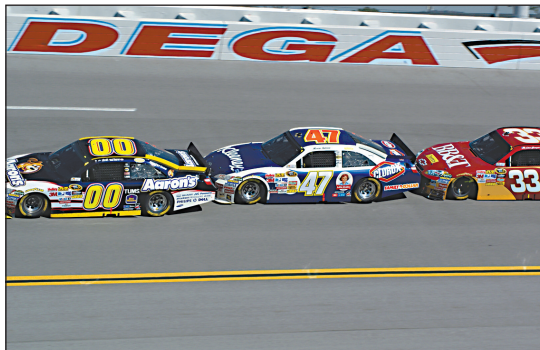
Bowyer had nosed ahead of Richard Childress Racing teammate Kevin Harvick in Turn 1 on the 188th and final lap of the Amp Energy Juice 500 when a violent wreck behind them sent AJ Allmendinger upside down into the inside wall, caused the fifth caution of the race and froze the field as it ran.

By virtue of his runner-up finish, Harvick trimmed his points deficit to Chase leader Jimmie Johnson to 38 points. On the strength of a late surge from the rear of the field, Johnson came home seventh, two positions ahead of Denny Hamlin, his closest pursuer in the championship battle.

The victory—Bowyer's first at a restrictor-plate track—was his second of the Chase, his second this season and the fourth of his career. It also eased the sting of a 150-point penalty after his win in the first Chase race at New Hampshire, when his car failed post-race inspection by 60 thousandths of an inch.

In memory of Jim Hunter, NASCAR VP of communications death on Friday, October 29th, all the cars had a commemorative sticker on display.

Photos by Elwin Schwartz for MSA. See more pictures at [www.motorsportamerica.com](http://www.motorsportamerica.com).



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