

NASCAR SPRINT CUP KANSAS SPEEDWAY (USA), OCTOBER 5 RD 30/36

Logano makes it as big guns struggle

JOEY LOGANO BECAME THE FIRST driver to secure himself a spot in the next round of NASCAR's Chase after picking up his fifth win of the season at Kansas Speedway.

The Penske Ford driver led 122 of the 267 laps and held off the Chevrolet of Chip Ganassi Racing youngster Kyle Larson over the closing laps to seal the win.

"It makes Talladega [the final race of the Contender 12 phase] a lot easier, that's for sure," Logano said. "We can focus on a few more races coming up, and capitalise on what we are doing."

Logano took the lead from polesitter Kevin Harvick at mid-distance, and shook Harvick's threat off for good when the Stewart-Haas Chevrolet driver made a stop under green, suspecting a puncture, and fell back into the pack.

But Larson's constant presence in the latter stages meant that Logano never had an opportunity to relax. The pair took off together at the final restart, and crossed the line with just 0.5s between them. Kyle Busch rounded out the podium in his Joe Gibbs Racing Toyota.

Elsewhere, Busch's team-mate Denny Hamlin did well to salvage a seventh place from his starting position of 25th, but it was a disastrous afternoon for many of the other Chase contenders. Jimmie Johnson, who started from near the back following a spin in qualifying,



Logano is already in the Chase final eight

was eliminated in an early four-car crash, and both Dale Earnhardt Jr and Brad Keselowski were flicked into the wall after suffering tyre failures. They all face a tough task to clamber into the next round over the following two weekends at Charlotte and Talladega.

The barriers also accounted for Kasey Kahne, who hit the concrete just 30 laps from the end, while

long-time points leader Jeff Gordon managed no better than 14th after struggling with handling problems.

● Mark Glendenning

RESULTS

1 Joey Logano (Ford Fusion), 267 laps in 2h49m17s; 2 Kyle Larson (Chevrolet SS), +0.479s; 3 Kyle Busch (Toyota Camry); 4 Martin Truex Jr (Chevy); 5 Carl Edwards (Ford);

6 Ryan Newman (Chevy); 7 Denny Hamlin (Toyota); 8 Austin Dillon (Chevy); 9 Paul Menard (Chevy); 10 Brian Vickers (Toyota).

Contender 12 1 Logano, 1 win/3048 points;

2 Kyle Busch, 3042; 3 Edwards, 3039; 4 Newman, 3039; 5 Hamlin, 3037; 6 Kevin Harvick, 3033; 7 Matt Kenseth, 3031; 8 Jeff Gordon, 3031; 9 Kasey Kahne, 3023; 10 Brad Keselowski, 3009; 11 Dale Earnhardt Jr, 3006; 12 Jimmie Johnson, 3004.

FORMULA RENAULT ALPS JEREZ (E), OCTOBER 5 RD 7/7

Bonifacio is hero to zero

CHAMPION NYCK DE VRIES WAS narrowly defeated in the first race by Bruno Bonifacio, but finished the ALPS season in suitable style with a win later in the day.

Dutchman de Vries kept the pressure on Brazilian Bonifacio throughout race one, but the Prema driver made no slip-ups. Egor Orudzhev was on his own in third, but Briton Matt Parry had to hold off Dennis Olsen for fourth.

There was no such joy for Bonifacio in race two – he went out at Turn 1 after clambering over Jack Aitken's car in an incident

that also eliminated Anthoine Hubert. After a safety car, de Vries romped home in his Koiranen GP car, while Orudzhev fended off a challenge from Parry for second.

Olsen took fourth, under pressure from Jake Hughes, who had a good race with the new-to-FR2.0 Strakka Racing. Another Brit, George Russell, took a best result of eighth this time out.

Seventh place for Charles Leclerc, just behind Matevos Isaakyan, confirmed the series runner-up spot for the Monegasque.

● Jurgen Stiftschraube

RESULTS

Race 1 1 Bruno Bonifacio, 16 laps in 27m26.899s; 2 Nyck de Vries, +0.534s; 3 Egor Orudzhev; 4 Matt Parry; 5 Dennis Olsen; 6 Charles Leclerc. **Race 2 1 de Vries**, 13 laps in 28m08.114s; 2 Orudzhev, +3.840s; 3 Parry; 4 Olsen; 5 Jake Hughes; 6 Matevos Isaakyan. **Points 1 de Vries, 300**; 2 Leclerc, 199; 3 Isaakyan, 180; 4 George Russell, 123; 5 Simon Gachet, 78; 6 Alessio Rovera, 65.



GERMAN F3 HOCKENHEIM (D), OCTOBER 4-5 RD 8/8

Tan gets a day in the sun

MALAYSIAN WEIRON TAN WAS THE star of weekend with a double win in his Van Amersfoort Racing Dallara.

Champion Markus Pommer passed Tan for the lead in the opener, but lost ground with a drive-through penalty. This also promoted Indy Dontje – who had earned his first pole – to second and Nabil Jeffri to third, the last-named moving up when Nicolai Sylvest was excluded for a technical infringement.

Jeffri was leading the other non-reversed-grid race when he hit trouble with a technical problem, allowing fellow Malaysian Tan to win again. Dontje and Sam MacLeod were also on the podium, MacLeod having gone out in race one in a collision with Nikita Zlobin.

Pommer beat Dontje and Jeffri in a Motopark 1-2-3 in the reversed-grid second race of the weekend.

● Rene de Boer

RESULTS

Race 1 1 Weiron Tan (Dallara-VW F308), 19 laps in 31m34.324s; 2 Indy Dontje (D-V F308), +2.467s; 3 Nabil Jeffri (D-V F311); 4 Markus



Pommer (D-V F311); 5 Andres Mendez (D-V F309); 6 Konstantin Tereschenko (D-V F308).

Race 2 1 Pommer, 12 laps in 21m13.424s; 2 Dontje, +2.599s; 3 Jeffri; 4 Nicolai Sylvest (D-V F309); 5 Nicolas Beer (D-Mercedes F311); 6 Tereschenko. **Race 3 1 Tan**, 19 laps in 30m25.063s; 2 Dontje, +0.943s; 3 Sam MacLeod (D-V F311); 4 Sylvest; 5 Mendez; 6 Beer. **Points 1 Pommer, 424**; 2 Jeffri, 277; 3 Dontje, 266; 4 MacLeod, 243; 5 Tan, 182; 6 Sylvest, 182.