

NASCAR Daytona 500, 2007 One Mans Opinion.

The NASCAR 2007 Daytona 500 delivered one of the most spectacular finishes to date. Kevin Harvick gained .02 of a second on Mark Martin right at the finish line. Clint Boyer, after sliding up side down all the way from the entrance of the pit road, gave the finish line an 'on the top' crossing with flames shooting out of the hood and over the windshield. Kevin came from 34th starting position. Jeff Burton made it home 3rd.

The NASCAR 2007 Daytona 500 marks a shift in what has been described as the all American race. The race that grew out of whisky running outlaws in the southern states of America, has mostly been American car makes and American breed male drivers. Not any more (one exception where Jaguar entered the fray in the 1950's). The 2007 Daytona will have a Toyota starting in 15th position with the 'good 'ol boy' Michael Waltrip driving it. However starting in 36th place driving a Dodge, is Juan Pablo Montoya who came from Colombia. Montoya is a serious world class racer and has winnings in F1, (7); CART, and the Indy 500. Toyota is also serious and represents the best selling car in the US.

Point to ponder! Chevrolet's Monte Carlo and the Dodge Charger is made in Canada, the Ford Fusion is made in Mexico. However the Japanese Toyota Camry is made in the Southern US state of Kentucky, that is one of the states where this whole NASCAR thing started.

NASCAR: Robert Yates Racing is back and alive. Yates (Ford) drivers David Gilliland and Ricky Rudd took the two top starting spots for the Daytona 500. Sometimes hired gun and road course expert, Boris Said, (Ford) made a good showing by ending the weekend runs in 6th position just in front of Jeff Gordon, (Chevrolet). Dale Earnhardt Jr. (Chevrolet) midst of battling his stepmother for control of the racing team ended the day 22nd.

Frank Cunningham

Feb. 2007