



Driver Opinions of Phoenix International Raceway:

#88 Dale Earnhardt Jr. (23rd in Sprint Cup points): “Phoenix has two different types of corners and the car’s going to drive differently in each one, so you just kind of get your car turning the best you can through (turns) one and two so you can get a good run down the back straightaway. However it drives in (turns) three and four, you just do the best you can, really – you kind of just throw that corner away. However the car drives through there is just how you’re going to have to handle it all day.”

#48 Jimmie Johnson (defending race winner; currently leads Sprint Cup standings by 73 points): “I’m excited about it. Over the last three years, Phoenix has grown to be one of our stronger tracks. It’s also a track that’s been tough on some of the guys we expected to be in the Chase (for the Championship). There’s no telling what it’s going to be like going there this time, but I think it’s a track like Martinsville where we look at it and say ‘hopefully we can score some points on the guys we’re trying to beat for the championship.’ That’s kind of our outlook on it and we’re looking forward to it.”

#42 Juan Montoya (6th in Sprint Cup points): “Phoenix is pretty exciting because it’s one of the few track where both (sets of) corners are completely different. To actually make the car work (well), it is one of the hardest tracks. At most of the ovals, both ends are pretty similar but here there’s nothing in common between one corner and another. Turn one and two is pretty banked and tight where three and four is flatter and wider. It makes us (drivers) work really hard to make sure we can get a decent car at both ends.”

#16 Greg Biffle (7th in Sprint Cup points): “You kind of brake like (you would do at) a road course down into turn one. Then it really, really opens up off of turn two in kind of a dog-leg backstretch. (Turns) three and four is kind of a long, sweeping flat corner and then it really tightens up off of (turn) four down the front stretch. It’s a fun race track, but it’s really different on both ends. That’s the biggest challenge – to get your car through (turns) one and two (quickly) and not be too loose (oversteer) through three and four.”

#07 Clint Bowyer (15th in Sprint Cup points): “I’m excited. Phoenix has almost always been a good track for me and I’m really looking forward to getting back there. I love the racetrack. It’s racy, and you can get up on the (steering) wheel and make things happen there. I’m a firm believer in making your own luck, putting yourself in the right situations where you don’t have to have bad luck. But in (Sprint) Cup (races) we’ve had bad luck there. I mean, we got turned around there once when we were running good. We just had some things go wrong in the past, but we’ve run well. Even though it’s a mile long, Phoenix (International Raceway) races like it’s a short track. You can get in and root and gouge, but it’s fast to where you have to keep the fenders on it. You have to keep the (handling of the) car freed up (by minimizing understeer). But you can get in and root and gouge a little bit and get up on the (steering) wheel and make it happen. I just think it’s just one of those tracks where you can control your destiny a little bit more inside the race car than maybe on a mile-and-a-half (track) or something like that.”