



**#33 Ron Hornaday Jr.** (clinched his fourth Camping World Truck Series championship; became only the fourth driver in NASCAR history (after Richard Petty, Dale Earnhardt and Jeff Gordon)): “I couldn’t pick a better track to clinch. I love Phoenix. It looked pretty good for awhile, but it’s not over. We’re racing Kyle Busch for owner points, and that’s a true goal. That shows how great our team is, and Kyle has been really running strong with six or seven wins this year. We’re going to enjoy the weekend, go down to Homestead, but at least we go down there and have a little fun and race a little different now. (Re: the refueling penalty causing him to make two pit stops on laps 35 and 37) We tried to race smart, but we left the gas can out in the back (attached to the truck). It put me pretty far back. I thought my front tires were going to go. It was definitely a good run because Kevin is in the top five and he was really coming strong. (Re: his history) Jack (Sprague) and I have been fighting for wins and championships back and forth. It’s been a fun battle with Jack, and I wish he was still out here.”

**#51 Kyle Busch** (second): (re: who is the driver of the year?) “You have to put together a whole year. Everybody puts it all in the (Sprint) Cup series, a year in the Cup Series. I guess if you are the champion in the Cup Series you seem to win all of the awards. So, Jimmie (Johnson) has won it the past whatever years, but the Driver of the Year award goes to guys from all over the forms of motorsports. There have been some times when other guys deserved it outside of NASCAR and they have gotten it. And vice versa. Do I feel like I have deserved it? Nah. (re: Saturday’s Able Body Labor 200) I am looking forward to tomorrow. It should be fun. We’re working on it. It’s hard to say just after one week of being on top of the box (winning twice in Texas before running out of gas in the Cup race). From what happened last week and the things that we have done so far this week, I feel like our chances are better. We have had good stuff and good runs here as of late. We just need to keep putting that into building through the off-season and coming off of the box strong. (did he lose focus running in too many different series) I felt like coming into the Cup Series that we were a contender for the championship. Now, I feel like it’s as good a shot as any. Cutting back some of the truck and the Nationwide stuff, hopefully that helps. Then you guys can be right, that it does hinder my performance. But I am hoping to prove you wrong. I can’t close the gap. I have to beat it. They (the champion #33 Hornaday team) are going to race next week as hard as ever. They are going to go and try and win the race. It is going to be their plan. They have the drivers’ championship locked up. They are going to try and win the race. If they are successful at that, then we can’t catch them. If they go out to try and win the race and have problems, by having issues – if they wreck or lose an engine or a tire – it could be anything. That is why we race races. Hopefully we can battle it out, have a good, strong run and see if we can’t beat them (in the truck owner’s championship). It’s going to be hard to do. (re: off-season plans) I’m going to go down and run the Snowball Derby and run the two races that are down there. It will feel like a Nationwide and a Cup race anyway. But, after that, it’s going to be down time. Fortunately, I’m going to go on vacation. I’m finally going to get some vacation time to get away a little bit. Go relax somewhere. I can’t just go home and relax because then I would just be going to the race shop. I have to get out of the country and go somewhere in order to sit down and relax and get a sunburn.”

This concludes Pit Notes for Friday. Join us tomorrow for Qualifying for the **Able Body Labor 200** at 10:05 a.m. followed by Sprint Cup practice and the **Able Body Labor 200** NASCAR Nationwide Series race at 2:30 p.m. Good Night.