

2005

The season kicked off at Daytona where 57 cars entered for 43 starting spots. Jeff Gordon won the Daytona 500 to start the season as the point leader. Remember, our point system is 100 to win, 98 for second, and a one point drop to 64 points to 36th where all other starters and non-qualifiers get the same 64 points.

1, 100, 24, Jeff Gordon
2, 98, -2, 97, Kurt Busch
3, 97, -3, 8, Dale Earnhardt, Jr.
4, 96, -4, 10, Scott Riggs
5, 95, -5, 48, Jimmie Johnson

Race 2 for 2005 was at California where 48 cars entered for 43 spots. Riggs tumbled in points after finishing 33rd, as did Earnhardt finishing 32nd. Point leader Gordon wasn't much better, finishing 30th. Greg Biffle was the winner over Johnson, Kurt Busch, Jamie McMurray, and Carl Edwards. After two races, the points shuffled considerably.

1, 195, 97, Kurt Busch
2, 193, -2, 48, Jimmie Johnson
3, 187, -8, 6, Mark Martin
4, 183, -12, 99, Carl Edwards
5, 181, -14, 38, Elliott Sadler

Race 3 in 2005 was in Las Vegas with Johnson winning his first of the year over Kyle Busch, Kurt Busch, Jeff Gordon and Kevin Harvick. 49 drivers entered for 43 spots. Mark Martin dropped out of the top five in points finishing 30th, as did Elliott Sadler in 29th. The extra point for the win gave Johnson a one point lead in the standings over Kurt Busch.

1, 293, 48, Jimmie Johnson
2, 292, -1, 97, Kurt Busch
3, 269, -24, 99, Carl Edwards
3, 269, -24, 16, Greg Biffle
5, 268, -25, 2, Rusty Wallace

Race 4 of 36 for the season was March 20 in Atlanta with seven drivers missing the 43 car starting field. 32nd place cost Kurt Busch a lot of points. Rusty Wallace's stay in the top five in the standings was short lived, as he finished 27th. Kasey Kahne's best finish in three prior races was 22nd, but he cashed in his first top five of the season in fifth. Mark Martin finished fourth, getting himself to fifth in the standings. Biffle finished third, keeping him in that position in the standings. Johnson strengthened his point lead finishing second. Carl Edwards became the fourth different winner in four races, leaving him second in the standings, 22 out of the lead.

1, 391, 48, Jimmie Johnson
2, 369, -22, 99, Carl Edwards
3, 366, -25, 16, Greg Biffle
4, 360, -31, 97, Kurt Busch

5, 353, -38, 6, Mark Martin

Race 5 of 36 in the season was April 3 at Bristol, where 49 cars entered for 43 spots. 35th at the finish dropped Kut Busch from the top five. Martin also dropped after finishing 31st. Kevin Harvick became the fifth different winner in five races, earning himself a tie for fifth in the standings. Elliott Sadler, Tony Stewart, Dale Earnhardt, Jr., and Dale Jarrett were the top five in the Tennessee mountains. Johnson held his firm grip on the point lead by finishing sixth in the race.

1, 485, 48, Jimmie Johnson
2, 457, -28, 16, Greg Biffle
3, 446, -39, 20, Tony Stewart
4, 443, -42, 99, Carl Edwards
5, 440, -45, 38, Elliott Sadler
5, 440, -45, 29, Kevin Harvick

April 10, 2005 at Martinsville was race 6 of the season. 47 cars entered for 43 starting positions. The top point cars took their lumps in the Virginia mountains on this day. Point leader Johnson finished eighth and gained points on all of them with Biffle 29th, Stewart 26th, Edwards 38th, and Harvick 32nd. Ninth place moved Elliott Sadler up to second in the standings, but a long way behind at 46 points. Jeff Gordon won his second of the season over Kasey Kahne, Mark Martin, Ryan Newman, and Rusty Wallace. Wallace used it to enter the top five in points.

1, 577, 48, Jimmie Johnson
2, 531, -46, 38, Elliott Sadler
3, 528, -49, 16, Greg Biffle
4, 523, -54, 2, Rusty Wallace
5, 520, -57, 20, Tony Stewart

Race 7 of 2005 was April 17 at Texas. Greg Biffle won for the second time this season over Jamie McMurray, who earned his best finish of the season. Jimmie Johnson extended his commanding point lead after second in points Elliott Sadler finished 28th. Biffle moved from third to second in the standings with his win, now 46 out of the lead. Casey Mears and Sterling Marlin were fourth and fifth at the finish, both for their best finishes of the season.

1, 674, 48, Jimmie Johnson
2, 628, -46, 16, Greg Biffle
3, 613, -61, 2, Rusty Wallace
4, 604, -70, 40, Sterling Marlin
5, 603, -71, 38, Elliott Sadler

Race 8 of 2005 was on April 23 at Phoenix. 46 cars for 43 spots, as point leader Jimmie Johnson finished 15th and extended his point lead. It was 46, now it is 60. Easy to lead the points with an average finish of 5.25. Kurt Busch won his first of the season over Michael Waltrip in the 15, Jeff Burton, Dale Earnhardt, Jr., and Brian Vickers. Notable that Johnny Sauter had his best finish of the season in ninth, it had been 41st.

1, 759, 48, Jimmie Johnson
2, 699, -60, 97, Kurt Busch
3, 692, -67, 38, Elliott Sadler

3, 692, -67, 16, Greg Biffle
5, 688, -71, 24, Jeff Gordon

Race 9 of 2005 was May 1 at Talladega. With a massive 60 point lead entering the race, Jimmie Johnson was guaranteed to leave with the point lead as long as he was there, and spoiler alert he was, finishing 20th. Leading winner Jeff Gordon won the race for his third of the season, topping Tony Stewart, Michael Waltrip, Jeremy Mayfield, and Jamie McMurray. Johnson's point lead is now 47.

1, 839, 48, Jimmie Johnson
2, 792, -47, 97, Kurt Busch
3, 788, -51, 24, Jeff Gordon
4, 786, -53, 38, Elliott Sadler
5, 779, -60, 16, Greg Biffle

Race 10 of 36 in 2005 was May 7 at Darlington. Kurt Busch was second in points but 37th place didn't help his cause. Greg Biffle won for the third time this year over Jeff Gordon, Kasey Kahne, Mark Martin, and Ryan Newman. Point leader Jimmie Johnson finished seventh and his commanding point lead changed from 47 to 46, with Gordon now second.

1, 932, 48, Jimmie Johnson
2, 886, -46, 24, Jeff Gordon
3, 879, -53, 16, Greg Biffle
4, 866, -66, 38, Elliott Sadler
5, 856, -76, 97, Kurt Busch