



PRESS RELEASE
(For Immediate Release)

Date: April 9, 2017

Event: O'Reilly Auto Parts 500 (Round 7 of 36)

Series: Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series

Location: Texas Motor Speedway (1.5-mile oval)

Format: 334 laps scheduled, broken into three stages (85 laps/85 laps/164 laps)

Start/Finish: 26th/31st (Running, completed 328 of 334 laps)

Point Standing: 32nd

Fort Worth (Texas, USA) April 9, 2017

Stage 1 Recap (Ended on lap 85):

Matt DiBenedetto started 26th and finished 31st after an uphill battle with the handling of the No. 32 Can-Am/Kappa Ford Fusion. The team was scored as high as 20th during the first stage and was solid inside the top-20 until DiBenedetto had to restart on the outside line in the second stage and started to describe the Can-Am car as very edgy and too loose in turn 1 and 2.

Stage 2 Recap (Ended on lap 170):

The Can-Am driver started 31st and finished 34th. With many adjustments to the car, the team made prior to stay out of trouble, DiBenedetto proclaimed vibration. The team pitted twice during the stage for tires, fuel and adjustments.

Final Stage Recap (Ended on lap 334):

Matt started 34th and finished 31st. Restarting on the outside once again negatively impacted the No. 32 driver's run and held him at the back accumulating laps down. The Can-Am Ford Fusion went 6 laps down to the leader during a long green-flag run. When the caution flag waved at lap 299, crew chief Gene Need called for DiBenedetto to wave around. In the closing laps, he was able to pick up several positions and took the checkered flag in 31st.

Quote:

“The Can-Am/Kappa Ford was pretty good at the start of the first stage, and we were able to pick up a few spots, but then it just started getting looser and looser. The team made good adjustments help tighten the car up, but then it would start getting loose again as we got into the run. Texas became a really unknown track and I am proud of my team's hard work at trying to figure out this slippery track throughout the weekend.”

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