



Cole Custer: Driver, No. 00 Haas Automation Ford Mustang

NASCAR XFINITY Series Overview

Event: Virginia529 College Savings 250 (Round 25 of 33)
Date: Sep. 8, 2017
Location: Richmond (Va.) Raceway
Layout: .75-mile oval

Cole Custer Notes of Interest

- Cole Custer will compete for his fourth consecutive top-10 finish this weekend in the Virginia529 College Savings 250 at Richmond (Va.) Raceway.
- This will mark Custer's fifth start at Richmond and his third NASCAR XFINITY Series start at the .75-mile oval. In his first XFINITY Series start at Richmond in April 2016, Custer claimed his first XFINITY Series top-10.
- Custer is no stranger to victory lane at Richmond. In 2014, he took the checkered flag after leading 52 laps in the K&N Pro Series East race. In Custer's four combined starts in the NASCAR K&N Pro Series East (two races) and NASCAR XFINITY Series (two races) at Richmond, Custer has a win, two top-five finishes, three top-10s and 76 laps led.
- In 24 XFINITY Series starts, 42 Camping World Truck Series starts and 29 K&N Pro Series starts since 2015, Custer has five wins, six poles, 14 top-five finishes, 24 top-10s and 919 laps led at tracks currently on the NASCAR circuit that are approximately a mile in length or shorter.
- Custer's best finish in the 24 XFINITY Series races run this season is fourth, earned June 3 at Dover (Del.) International Speedway. It was his 14th top-10 and fifth top-five and it equaled his career-best finish.
- Custer's best qualifying effort in the 24 XFINITY Series races run this season is third, earned twice – April 22 at Bristol (Tenn.) Motor Speedway and June 10 at Pocono (Pa.) Raceway. Custer has 16 top-10 starts and six top-five starts this season.
- Custer is third in the XFINITY Series Rookie of the Year standings, 61 points behind leader William Byron and two points behind second-place Daniel Hemric.
- Custer has earned six Rookie of the Race awards this season. Rookie of the Race awards are given to the highest-finishing XFINITY Series rookie at each race.
- Custer has earned four top-five finishes, 12 top-10s and has led 29 laps so far in the 2017 XFINITY Series season.
- Custer is sixth in the XFINITY Series championship standings, 268 points behind series leader Elliot Sadler.

Cole Custer, Driver Q&A

You have a win, two top-five finishes and three top-10s at Richmond. What will it take to get your second win at Richmond?

"Richmond is a tough place because you're just slipping and sliding the whole time, so I think you'll definitely need a car that can be good on a long run to win there. It's a really smooth track, but you just slide around like you're on ice. It makes it really fun and challenging."

What have you learned from your previous XFINITY Series run this year that you will take back to Richmond?

"Earlier in the year, we had a fast car in practice and missed it a little in the race, but we've learned a ton more about our short-track cars since then and feel like we can make it a lot better. I'm looking forward to this weekend because I think we will have a really strong run."

With only two races left until the XFINITY Series playoffs, are you comfortable where you are in the standings to compete for a championship?

"After Darlington, we locked ourselves into the playoffs. Now, we just want to get as many playoff points as we can going in and I think this weekend is a great chance to do that."

Jeff Meendering, Crew Chief Q&A

What are your thoughts on heading back to Richmond?

"I'm excited to go to Richmond. Cole had a good run there last year in the XFINITY race and I've been on several different teams that have had good runs at that track. Richmond takes a similar setup to Phoenix, where we were in line to have a good finish until we were involved in an accident toward the end of the race. We didn't have the speed we needed to compete for a win earlier this year, so we're going to experiment with a different setup which will hopefully carry over to Phoenix later in the playoffs."

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Cole Custer Richmond Performance Profile

Year	Event/Series	Start	Finish	Status/Laps	Laps Led
2017	NXS/Richmond 250	16	13	Running, 254/254	0
2016	NXS/Richmond 250	17	6	Running, 149/149	0
2014	K&N East/Blue Ox 100	2	1	Running, 100/100	52
2013	K&N East/Blue Ox 100	3	3	Running, 100/100	24

No. 00 Haas Automation Team Roster**Primary Team Members**

Driver: Cole Custer
Hometown: Ladera Ranch, California

Crew Chief: Jeff Meendering
Hometown: Concord, North Carolina

Car Chief: Eddie D'Hondt Jr.
Hometown: East Islip, New York

Lead Race Engineer: Bruce Schlickler
Hometown: Clarksburg, West Virginia

Engine Specialist: Craig Herrmann
Hometown: Albany, New York

Spotter: Eddie D'Hondt Sr.
Hometown: East Islip, New York

Over-The-Wall Crew

Front Tire Changer: Ryan Mulder
Hometown: Sioux Center, Iowa

Front Tire Carrier: Tyler Bullard
Hometown: King, North Carolina

Gas Man: Andrew Migliozi
Hometown: Westborough, Massachusetts

Rear Tire Changer: Chris Jackson
Hometown: Fort Mill, South Carolina

Rear Tire Carrier: Jeremy Howard
Hometown: Dalhant, Texas

Jackman: Sean Cotton
Hometown: Mooresville, North Carolina

Road Crew Members

Shock Specialist: Dave Hansen
Hometown: York, Maine

Truck Driver: Jason Gray
Hometown: Concord, North Carolina

Mechanic: Daren VanderLey
Hometown: Mobile, Alabama

Mechanic: Michael Brill
Hometown: Woodsville, New Hampshire

Tire Specialist: Bryan Honeycutt
Hometown: Asheboro, North Carolina

Pit Support: Chris Justice
Hometown: Greensboro, South Carolina

Haas Automation Notes of Interest

The No. 00 Haas Automation Ford Mustang will carry decals on the bottom-rear quarter panel for:

- **Haas Factory Outlet (HFO) - Phillips, a division of Phillips Corp., an exclusive dealer for Haas Automation CNC machine tools.** With its main office at 8500 Triad Drive in Colfax, North Carolina, HFO Greensboro has Haas Factory Outlets in North Carolina, Georgia, Arkansas, Tennessee, South Carolina, and Alabama – including locations at the Spartanburg (S.C.) Community College Haas Technical Education Center and the Barber Motorsports Museum near Birmingham, Alabama. Each location offers Haas sales, service, training, applications support and spare parts.
- **Nash Community College** – Located at 522 North Old Carriage Road in Rocky Mount, North Carolina, Nash Community College was founded in 1967 and is a public, two-year, post-secondary educational institute with an open-door admissions policy. As a comprehensive community college, 86 academic programs are offered, many of which lead to a degree, diploma or certificate. Included are two-year technical and college transfer programs which give students the knowledge and expertise required for challenging careers or a successful transfer to four-year colleges or universities. Vocational, occupational, business, and industry-related programs are offered, which prepare students for jobs and provide a skilled workforce for the area.

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