



STEWART-HAAS RACING

Sylvania 300 Qualifying

Date: Sept. 20, 2013
Event: Sylvania 300 Qualifying (Round 28 of 36)
Series: NASCAR Sprint Cup Series
Location: New Hampshire Motor Speedway in Loudon (1.058-mile oval)
Pole Winner: **Ryan Newman of Stewart-Haas Racing (27.904 seconds at 136.497 mph – new track record)**
SHR Lineup: **Ryan Newman (1st, 27.904 seconds at 136.497 mph)**
Mark Martin (18th, 28.335 seconds at 134.420 mph)
Danica Patrick (21st, 28.383 seconds at 134.193 mph)

Ryan Newman, driver of the No. 39 Quicken Loans Chevrolet SS, led the three-car Stewart-Haas Racing (SHR) contingent in time trials Friday at New Hampshire Motor Speedway in Loudon by qualifying on the pole for the Sylvania 300 NASCAR Sprint Cup Series race Sunday. Newman turned a lap of 27.904 seconds at 136.497 mph on the 1.058-mile oval, breaking the previous track qualifying record of 28.022 seconds at 135.922 mph set by Brad Keselowski on July 12, 2013.

It was Newman's 51st career Sprint Cup pole, his series-best seventh at New Hampshire and his second of 2013. Newman is ninth on the Sprint Cup Series' all-time pole list.

"This track is the birthplace of track position and qualifying great with our Quicken Loans Chevrolet is extremely important," said Newman, who won from the pole at New Hampshire in July 2011, one of three victories he has at the track. "Last time we were on the pole here, we led a lot of laps and we won. I'm hoping we can duplicate that again and 'Bring it Home' for Quicken Loans."

Ten lucky fans who have registered for Quicken Loans' season-long "Bring It Home" promotion will cash in if Newman finishes in the top-10 in the Sylvania 300, as Quicken Loans will pay 10 people's mortgages for a month. Fans simply need to visit www.qlracing.com to register.

Newman's quick time secured the 13th Sprint Cup pole for SHR since the team's inception in 2009. The last SHR driver to claim the top spot was Newman, who won the pole for the 20th annual Brickyard 400 July 27 at Indianapolis Motor Speedway. Newman went on to win that race for the 17th victory of his Sprint Cup career.

SHR driver/owner Tony Stewart, commented on the importance of Mobil 1 to Newman's pole-winning performance. "Mobil 1 is more than just a sponsor. They're a technical partner, and to make a fast lap around New Hampshire, you need to do whatever you can to reduce friction, heat and rolling resistance. This is our second pole here at New Hampshire, and Mobil 1 played a big part in it, again."

Mark Martin, interim driver of SHR's No. 14 Mobil 1/Bass Pro Shops Chevrolet SS as he subs for the injured Stewart, qualified 18th with a time of 28.335 seconds at 134.420 mph.

"The guys did a good job of improving the Mobil 1/Bass Pro Shops Chevrolet from practice to qualifying," said Martin, who earned his most recent Sprint Cup win at New Hampshire on Sept. 20, 2009. "I wish I would've gotten just a little bit better lap on that second lap. It was good, but I could've gotten off of (turn) four a little bit better. I was in a pretty big hurry and I hurried the car to the throttle, so it got a little tight off (the corner), but definitely a good pick-up from practice."

Danica Patrick, driver of the No. 10 GoDaddy Chevrolet SS for SHR, qualified 21st after clocking in at 28.383 seconds at 134.193 mph.

"The times are always so close, especially at a small track like this," said Patrick, who will make her 38th career Sprint Cup start Sunday and her second at New Hampshire. "The GoDaddy Chevy rotated really nice on throttle – too well on the first lap, which is why it was slower. Regardless, it was a nice pick-up for us (from practice) and it will us give a decent place to work from on Sunday."

Kasey Kahne will start on the outside of row one after clocking in at 27.989 seconds at 136.082 mph. Jeff Gordon was third (27.995 seconds at 136.053 mph), while Kurt Busch (28.033 seconds at 135.868 mph) and Martin Truex Jr. (28.081 seconds at 135.636 mph) rounded out the top-five.

Forty-three drivers attempted to qualify for the Sylvania 300. All made the race since there are 43 starting positions in a Sprint Cup field.

Chevrolet took the top-four spots among manufacturers, led by Newman's pole run. Toyota was next-best at the hands of Truex. Ford was the third-fastest make thanks to sixth-quick Joey Logano (28.104 seconds at 135.525 mph).

The Sylvania 300 gets underway at 2 p.m. EDT Sunday with live coverage provided by ESPN beginning with a pre-race show at 1 p.m.