

NASCAR	DAYTONA 500 RACE: LAP 208 OF 200	T. BAYNE #21 LEADER	#1	C. EDWARDS #99 0.118	#2	D. GILL 0.172	NASCAR RACETRAX	RADIO	EDIT	FOX Sports
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Daytona boosts careers of two women



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BIO | EMAIL

Rea White has been covering NASCAR full time since 1998. She has won awards from press agencies in Alabama and North Carolina and the National Motorsports Press Association.

Updated Feb 22, 2011 10:39 AM ET

DAYTONA BEACH, FLA.

Two female NASCAR drivers, Danica Patrick and Jennifer Jo Cobb, had reason to celebrate at Daytona International Speedway this past weekend, with both posting career-best finishes.

In the Nationwide Series, Patrick made her presence felt.

She raced to the front of the field, working with Clint Bowyer in the two-car tandems needed for a driver to move toward the leaders, as horsepower is mechanically harnessed in the Nationwide Series. Suddenly, she moved to the front of the field and led a lap of competition.

It was a career weekend. Patrick started fourth, led the lap and finished 14th. Her starting position and finish were her best such efforts in a NASCAR race. Patrick, 28, was making her 14th start in the JR Motorsports Chevrolet, an effort she is fielding part time as she continues her full schedule in the IZOD IndyCar Series. (She has won on the IndyCar circuit.)

Patrick said it was “fun,” but she said that trying to figure out the Daytona drafting process was frustrating at times.

Still, she accepts it will take her a while to reach a point where other drivers are working with her on a consistent basis and pushing her toward the front.

“That takes a while to earn the trust and respect from all the other drivers,” she said. “I’m not mad at that. That’s just going to take time, and it’ll only get better from here on out, hopefully, with that stuff.”

She thinks, though, that running well and clean at Daytona will help her down the road.

First, she clearly had a fast car, something that bodes well for her upcoming races. Although those races are at tracks vastly different from Daytona, she believes running closer to the front and among a wider group of drivers will help her earn that respect.



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And that could be her largest gain of the weekend.

“All you can do at a race like this going into . . . (and) anywhere else after this, is make some friends and try to get people to believe in you and trust in you and see that you’re a fast car because people want to follow fast cars,” she said.

Cobb didn’t make the field for that Nationwide race, but otherwise it was a banner performance for the owner/driver as she put her Camping World Truck Series entry into the show, avoided the crashes that marred the race and emerged with a sixth-place finish.

That’s a new NASCAR record for Cobb as the best for a woman driver in the Truck series. She fell one position shy of tying the all-time top finish by a female driver, set by Sara Christian in 1949.

“I’m so excited with what we accomplished tonight,” Cobb said after the race. “This finish is a testament to my team’s hard work and dedication. We don’t have near the budget that some of the other teams operate with, but we never give up. It’s kind of like Walt Disney said, ‘It’s kind of fun to do the impossible.’”

Cobb, 37, was quick to recognize the other women drivers who have competed before she entered NASCAR, and she seemed thrilled to be putting her name alongside theirs.

“When you think about drivers like Janet Guthrie and Erin Crocker who have accomplished so much in their careers, to think that I was able to achieve something that they didn’t at Daytona is really special,” she said.

Cobb’s Truck is sponsored by Lilly’s Cosmetics, a product she endorses by wearing at appearances and at the track.

In 30 career starts in the truck series, Cobb’s best previous result was 14th, which she snared at both Texas Motor Speedway and Darlington Raceway in 2010.



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drivem

2/22/2011 9:56:20 PM

biffstahchickstah
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* 2/22/2011 9:19:56 AM

you go girl, jennifer jo cobb that is!!
exactly!

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LATITUDE32

2/22/2011 3:18:45 PM

she needs a boob job

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move over boys???? w.t.f.

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raddave39

2/22/2011 1:39:15 PM

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nthwk
2/22/2011 1:15:14 PM Give me a break, the only way she got to the front was as a result of being pushed by another car. Then she went backwards as usual. It's not a secret she can qualify reasonably well as she's done in indy cars, but as soon as the race starts, to the rear she goes. But then it's all about the publicity and the money isn't it.

Uhuh, that's how anyone who led a lap at Daytona made it to the front.

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93Ranger

2/22/2011 1:38:08 PM

Used to be that drivers earned there way to the top divisions by starting out on the smaller circuits and working there way up if they did well. Those days are gone, it's all about marketing and \$\$ now.

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nytro2288

2/22/2011 12:38:41 PM

It's so nice to see that all di wants to read about is Jr. No wonder he's the most poular driver again with loyal, loving fans like her devoting so much of their time to him. How sweet.

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LSU4ALL

2/22/2011 11:39:51 AM

What a joke!!!! Did anyone listen to the race. See if this sounds famillar. Please tell me what to do, just tell me what to doooooo. Danica is such a joke!!!

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LATITUDE32

2/22/2011 10:00:27 AM

I CONCUR

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6t390.Interceptor

2/22/2011 9:52:36 AM

The Miley Cyrus of NASCAR strikes again. You go NASCAR, just keep trying to manufacture a star.....

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biffstahchickstah

2/22/2011 9:19:56 AM

you go girl, jennifer jo cobb that is!!!

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