

AAA 400 Drive for Autism

Subjects: Others

Contributor: HandWiki Xu

The AAA 400 Drive for Autism is a 400-mile (640 km) Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series stock car race held annually at Dover International Speedway in Dover, Delaware, the other one being the Dover 400, the fall race at Dover, for the NASCAR Chase for the Championship, it is the first of two Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series races at Dover. The 2007 Autism Speaks 400 presented by Visa marked the first time that a NASCAR Cup race entitlement was dedicated to a non-profit organization, by the race's title sponsor, Visa Inc. Starting in 2007 through 2017, Dover International Speedway announced that the 2007 race would be named the "Autism Speaks 400 presented by Visa" , dedicating to increasing understanding and knowledge of autism spectrum disorders; to funding dedicated to eugenics; and to advocating for the needs of affected families. Between 2001 and 2006, the race was broadcast in the United States on FX. Television coverage of the race moved to the Fox network beginning in 2007, but after eight years, the race returned to cable television with Fox Sports 1.

Keywords: autism ; autism spectrum ; visa

1. Past Winners

Year	Date	No. (Car number)	Driver	Team	Manufacturer	Race Distance		Race Time	Average Speed (mph)	Report
						Laps	Miles (km)			
1969	July 6	43	Richard Petty	Petty Enterprises	Ford	300	300 (482.803)	2:35:28	115.772	Report
1970	Sept 20	43	Richard Petty	Petty Enterprises	Plymouth	300	300 (482.803)	2:40:34	112.103	Report
1971	June 6	12	Bobby Allison	Holman-Moody	Mercury	500	500 (804.672)	4:30:40	123.119	Report
1972	June 4	12	Bobby Allison	Richard Howard	Chevrolet	500	500 (804.672)	4:12:49	118.019	Report
1973	June 3	21	David Pearson	Wood Brothers Racing	Mercury	500	500 (804.672)	4:10:32	119.745	Report
1974	May 19	11	Cale Yarborough	Richard Howard	Chevrolet	450*	450 (724.204)	3:54:40	115.057	Report
1975	May 18	21	David Pearson	Wood Brothers Racing	Mercury	500	500 (804.672)	4:57:32	100.82	Report
1976	May 16	72	Benny Parsons	L.G. DeWitt	Chevrolet	500	500 (804.672)	4:19:53	115.436	Report
1977	May 15	11	Cale Yarborough	Junior Johnson & Associates	Chevrolet	500	500 (804.672)	4:03:26	123.327	Report
1978	May 21	21	David Pearson	Wood Brothers Racing	Mercury	500	500 (804.672)	4:21:38	114.664	Report
1979	May 20	21	Neil Bonnett	Wood Brothers Racing	Mercury	500	500 (804.672)	4:29:37	111.269	Report
1980	May 18	15	Bobby Allison	Bud Moore Engineering	Ford	500	500 (804.672)	4:23:28	113.866	Report

1981	May 17	90	Jody Ridley	Junie Donlavey	Ford	500	500 (804.672)	4:17:18	116.595	Report
1982	May 16	88	Bobby Allison	DiGard Motorsports	Chevrolet	500	500 (804.672)	4:09:43	120.136	Report
1983	May 15	22	Bobby Allison	DiGard Motorsports	Buick	500	500 (804.672)	4:21:13	114.847	Report
1984	May 20	43	Richard Petty	Curb Racing	Pontiac	500	500 (804.672)	4:12:42	118.717	Report
1985	May 19	9	Bill Elliott	Melling Racing	Ford	500	500 (804.672)	4:03:43	123.094	Report
1986	May 18	5	Geoffrey Bodine	Hendrick Motorsports	Chevrolet	500	500 (804.672)	4:20:51	115.009	Report
1987	May 31	28	Davey Allison	Ranier-Lundy	Ford	500	500 (804.672)	4:25:35	112.958	Report
1988	June 5	9	Bill Elliott	Melling Racing	Ford	500	500 (804.672)	4:12:41	118.726	Report
1989	June 4	3	Dale Earnhardt	Richard Childress Racing	Chevrolet	500	500 (804.672)	4:06:34	121.67	Report
1990	June 3	10	Derrike Cope	Whitcomb Racing	Chevrolet	500	500 (804.672)	4:02:01	123.96	Report
1991	June 2	25	Ken Schrader	Hendrick Motorsports	Chevrolet	500	500 (804.672)	4:09:41	120.152	Report
1992	May 31	33	Harry Gant	Leo Jackson Racing	Oldsmobile	500	500 (804.672)	4:34:05	109.456	Report
1993	June 6	3	Dale Earnhardt	Richard Childress Racing	Chevrolet	500	500 (804.672)	4:44:06	105.6	Report
1994	June 5	2	Rusty Wallace	Penske Racing	Ford	500	500 (804.672)	4:52:36	102.529	Report
1995	June 4	42	Kyle Petty	SABCO Racing	Pontiac	500	500 (804.672)	4:10:15	119.88	Report
1996	June 2	24	Jeff Gordon	Hendrick Motorsports	Chevrolet	500	500 (804.672)	4:04:25	122.741	Report
1997	June 1	10	Ricky Rudd	Rudd Performance Motorsports	Ford	500	500 (804.672)	4:21:42	114.635	Report
1998	May 31	88	Dale Jarrett	Robert Yates Racing	Ford	400	400 (643.737)	3:20:46	119.522	Report
1999	June 6	18	Bobby Labonte	Joe Gibbs Racing	Pontiac	400	400 (643.737)	3:19:00	120.603	Report
2000	June 4	20	Tony Stewart	Joe Gibbs Racing	Pontiac	400	400 (643.737)	3:39:09	109.514	Report
2001	June 3	24	Jeff Gordon	Hendrick Motorsports	Chevrolet	400	400 (643.737)	3:19:24	120.361	Report
2002	June 2	48	Jimmie Johnson	Hendrick Motorsports	Chevrolet	400	400 (643.737)	3:24:10	117.551	Report
2003	June 1	12	Ryan Newman	Penske Racing	Dodge	400	400 (643.737)	3:44:31	106.896	Report
2004	June 6	6	Mark Martin	Roush Racing	Ford	400	400 (643.737)	4:07:19	97.042	Report
2005	June 5	16	Greg Biffle	Roush Racing	Ford	400	400 (643.737)	3:15:43	122.626	Report
2006	June 4	17	Matt Kenseth	Roush Racing	Ford	400	400 (643.737)	3:38:27	109.865	Report

2007	June 4*	1	Martin Truex Jr.	Dale Earnhardt, Inc.	Chevrolet	400	400 (643.737)	3:21:45	118.95	Report
2008	June 1	18	Kyle Busch	Joe Gibbs Racing	Toyota	400	400 (643.737)	3:18:04	121.171	Report
2009	May 31	48	Jimmie Johnson	Hendrick Motorsports	Chevrolet	400	400 (643.737)	3:28:16	115.237	Report
2010	May 16	18	Kyle Busch	Joe Gibbs Racing	Toyota	400	400 (643.737)	3:06:21	128.79	Report
2011*	May 15	17	Matt Kenseth	Roush Fenway Racing	Ford	400	400 (643.737)	3:11:07	125.578	Report
2012	June 3	48	Jimmie Johnson	Hendrick Motorsports	Chevrolet	400	400 (643.737)	3:15:23	122.835	Report
2013	June 2	14	Tony Stewart	Stewart-Haas Racing	Chevrolet	400	400 (643.737)	3:14:51	123.172	Report
2014	June 1	48	Jimmie Johnson	Hendrick Motorsports	Chevrolet	400	400 (643.737)	3:23:52	117.724	Report
2015	May 31	48	Jimmie Johnson	Hendrick Motorsports	Chevrolet	405*	405 (651.784)	3:23:16	119.547	Report
2016	May 15	20	Matt Kenseth	Joe Gibbs Racing	Toyota	400	400 (643.737)	3:39:29	109.348	Report
2017	June 4	48	Jimmie Johnson	Hendrick Motorsports	Chevrolet	406*	406 (653.394)	3:52:06	104.955	Report
2018	May 6	4	Kevin Harvick	Stewart-Haas Racing	Ford	400	400 (643.737)	3:28:37	115.044	Report

1.1. Notes

- **1974:** Race shortened due to energy crisis.
- **1984:** Richard Petty's 200th Cup class win (see 1971 Myers Brothers 250 for description of issue).
- **2007:** Race postponed from Sunday to Monday due to rain.
- **2011:** First time the starting lineup was set by the practice times of the drivers (fastest gets pole) because of the new NASCAR qualifying rule for 2011.
- **2015 and 2017:** Race extended due to a NASCAR Overtime finish.

1.2. Multiple Winners (Drivers)

# Wins	Driver	Years Won
6	Jimmie Johnson	2002, 2009, 2012, 2014, 2015, 2017
5	Bobby Allison	1971, 1972, 1980, 1982, 1983
	David Pearson	1973, 1975, 1978
3	Richard Petty	1969, 1970, 1984
	Matt Kenseth	2006, 2011, 2016
	Cale Yarborough	1974, 1977
	Bill Elliott	1985, 1988
2	Dale Earnhardt	1989, 1993
	Jeff Gordon	1996, 2001
	Kyle Busch	2008, 2010
	Tony Stewart	2000, 2013

1.3. Multiple Winners (Teams)

# Wins	Team	Years Won
10	Hendrick Motorsports	1986, 1991, 1996, 2001, 2002, 2009, 2012, 2014, 2015, 2017
5	Joe Gibbs Racing	1999, 2000, 2008, 2010, 2016
4	Wood Brothers Racing	1973, 1975, 1978, 1979
	Roush Fenway Racing	2004, 2005, 2006, 2011
	Petty Enterprises	1969, 1970
	Richard Howard	1972, 1974
2	DiGard Motorsports	1982, 1983
	Melling Racing	1985, 1988
	Richard Childress Racing	1989, 1993
	Penske Racing	1994, 2003
	Stewart-Haas Racing	2013, 2018

1.4. Manufacturer Wins

# Wins	Manufacturer	Years Won
20	Chevrolet	1972, 1974, 1976, 1977, 1982, 1986, 1989, 1990, 1991, 1993, 1996, 2001, 2002, 2007, 2009, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2017
14	Ford	1969, 1980, 1981, 1985, 1987, 1988, 1994, 1997, 1998, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2011, 2018
5	Mercury	1971, 1973, 1975, 1978, 1979
4	Pontiac	1984, 1995, 1999, 2000
3	Toyota	2008, 2010, 2016
1	Plymouth	1970
	Buick	1983
	Oldsmobile	1992
	Dodge	2003

2. Notable Moments



Eventual race winner Matt Kenseth leads in the closing laps of the 2016 AAA 400 Drive for Autism

- **2014:** Coming off turn two, A. J. Allmendinger came across Ricky Stenhouse, Jr. and got loose. He collected Greg Biffle and both got loose. Biffle went into the wall tail-first, hit Stenhouse, and sent him into the outside wall and head first into the inside one on the backstretch. Landon Cassill and Ryan Truex also spun out in Turn 1. This brought out the third caution of the race. The race was then red-flagged, while Justin Allgaier also took damage when he was clipped in the side by Biffle. Kevin Harvick took the lead from Johnson on lap 142 while on lap 157, Jamie McMurray hit a piece on concrete in Turn 2, hit the wall in Turn 3 and brought out the fourth caution. This happened in a similar fashion to Jeff

Gordon at Martinsville Speedway in 2004. NASCAR was forced to red flag the race for a second time to fix a hole in the track, while the concrete also damaged the glass covering the crossover bridge that crosses over the top of Turn 2. The race was suspended for 22 minutes, with Harvick holding the lead at the restart. However, just after the restart, Harvick had a tire go down and Matt Kenseth took the lead, Johnson retook the lead on lap 179, and upon completing lap 215, he became the all-time leader in laps led at Dover. Bowman hit the wall for a third time in turn 1 and brought out the fifth caution on lap 218. J. J. Yeley brought out the sixth caution on lap 240 after blowing his engine, while debris brought out the seventh caution with forty laps to go. Casey Mears' right-rear tire came apart and the inner-liner rubber that came off the tire brought out the eighth caution with eight laps to go. Johnson held off a four lap charge by Brad Keselowski to take his second win of the season – successively, for the 13th time in his career – and 68th of his career. "It is incredible," Johnson said. "This race car was awesome. I just have so much to be thankful for. Chad (crew chief Knaus) told me I'd love the car, and sure enough, from the time we unloaded the car, he was right." Keselowski described his day as "up and down" and that his car did not progress as much as he had liked until the halfway mark of the race.^[1]

- 2015:** For the first few laps, Truex, Jr. kept Hamlin from getting a big lead, but as the field caught the tail end of the field, Hamlin jumped to a bigger lead. Eventually, Truex, Jr. took back the lead on lap 145. The second round of pit stops began on lap 150 when Clint Bowyer hit pit road. Truex, Jr. surrendered the lead to pit on lap 158 and gave it to Hamlin. He pitted on lap 160 and handed the lead to teammate Carl Edwards. He pitted on lap 162 and handed the lead to Dale Earnhardt Jr. The second caution flew on lap 163 when Ricky Stenhouse Jr. had a tire blow out and slammed the wall in turn 2. David Gilliland was tagged for speeding on pit road during the green flag stops and was forced to serve a drive-through penalty. Edwards was tagged for taking equipment out of the pit box after the wrench used to adjust the track bar got stuck in the hole and restarted the race from the tail end of the field.^[2] The race restarted on lap 169 with Truex, Jr. in the lead. The third caution of the race flew on lap 176 for a 3-car wreck on the front stretch.^[3] This began when Trevor Bayne, while exiting turn 4, was moving up the track and got turned by Michael Annett. He overcorrected, turned down, and hit the inside wall. Annett continued to ride the wall before getting rear-ended by Allgaier. Annett continued on, but Allgaier did not. While Truex opted not to pit, most of the cars on the lead lap behind him did.^[4] The race restarted with two laps to go at a scheduled green-white-checker finish, Johnson shot ahead of teammate Kasey Kahne and held off Harvick to score his tenth career win at Dover.^[5] He became the fifth driver to have 10 or more wins at a single track.^[6]
- 2016:** The race at Dover moved up two weeks before the All-Star Race at Charlotte, A major multi-car wreck occurred after their restart just past the start/finish line brought out the 11th caution of the race.^[7] Johnson's car stalled out, fell backwards and caused an 18-car wreck.^[8] Johnson, Truex, Harvick, McMurray, Newman, A. J. Allmendinger, Ricky Stenhouse Jr., Kyle Busch, Joey Logano, Aric Almirola, Hamlin, Biffle, Casey Mears, Dale Earnhardt Jr., Clint Bowyer, Trevor Bayne, Paul Menard and Michael McDowell were all collected in the wreck.^[9] Johnson said afterwards that as soon as he "went from second and tried to go into third, I kind of got up into the neutral gate of the transmission and it didn't even want to go to third," Johnson said. "It stopped before it ever went to third. And then I tried fourth and third and eventually I got hit from behind...I thought maybe I missed a shift, but it wouldn't go into gear. Martin was good and patient with me. He gave me a couple of opportunities to try to find a gear but it just locked out and wouldn't go into gear for some reason."^[10] The subsequent cleanup forced the red flag to fly. The red flag was lifted after 11 minutes and 22 seconds, The race restarted with 35 laps to go. Despite a hard fought battle towards the finish with Larson and Chase Elliott, Kenseth – who assumed the lead after the multi-car wreck with 46 laps to go – drove on to score the victory.^[11]

3. Television Broadcasters

Year	Network	Lap-by-lap	Color commentator(s)
1974	ABC	Bill Flemming	Chris Economaki
1981	ESPN	Bob Jenkins	Dick Berggren
1983		Ken Squier	
1984		Mike Joy	Phil Parsons
1985	Mizlou		
1986			

1987		Larry Nuber	Jerry Punch
1988	ESPN		Ned Jarrett Gary Nelson
1989		Bob Jenkins	Benny Parsons
1990			Ned Jarrett
1991			Buddy Baker Phil Parsons
1992			Buddy Baker Neil Bonnett
1993		Mike Joy	
1994			Buddy Baker
1995	TNN		
1996			
1997			Buddy Baker Dick Berggren
1998		Eli Gold	
1999			
2000			
2001			
2002			
2003	FX		
2004			
2005			
2006			
2007			
2008			Darrell Waltrip Larry McReynolds
2009		Mike Joy	
2010	Fox		
2011			
2012			
2013			
2014			
2015			
2016	FS1		
2017			Darrell Waltrip Jeff Gordon
2018			

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