

# Press & Dakotan DAILY DOSE

**Daily opinions from the P&D Sports Staff on local and national high school, college and pro sports.**



**BY JAMES D. CIMBUREK**  
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In my 20-plus years of covering high school sports, I've learned a couple of things. One of these things is that a lot of local wrestlers will do at the South Dakota State Class B Wrestling Tournament.  
But Saturday night at the Barnett Center might have been as crazy a night as I've seen.  
— A local team champion, scoring one of the biggest point totals in state meet history. (Parkston finished six points behind the state record it set a year ago.)  
— Nine area wrestlers in championship matches. Two area

## A Crazy Night At State 'B' Wrestling

wrestlers faced off against each other.  
— EIGHT area champions from five of the nine area programs represented at state: Bon Homme-Scotland (3), Beresford (2), Parkston (1), Wagner (1) and Elk Point-Jefferson (1).  
— Two wrestlers who finished their seasons with unbeaten records: Beresford's Dakota Gall (106) and Bon Homme-Scotland's Dan Stibril (285).  
— A crazy championship match at 195 that saw EPJ's Lukas Forsling turn a match that was on the way to a lop-sided loss to the top-ranked wrestler into a victory by pin. (He also beat the second and fourth ranked wrestlers in the tournament, and was named the meet's Outstanding Wrestler.)  
Even the lower places were not immune from some exciting area news. Leo Hopkins, Andes Central's freshman 120-

pounder, had one stumble but put together a great tournament to finish third. I don't have records to verify when it last happened, but I know I don't remember the last wrestling medal for the Eagles — especially one that high. The Eagles had two other freshmen at state, as their program continues to build back up.  
Throw in a pair of champions for the Vermillion boys in 'A', and it was just a great weekend for area wrestlers, one of the better ones I've seen in a long time.  
Wrestling may not be everyone's cup of tea, but there are few things that beat the energy and intensity of the state wrestling tournament. And when there are local young men claiming titles in exciting fashion, it makes it even more fun.

## SCOREBOARD

### BASKETBALL

**SATURDAY'S S.D. BOYS**  
District 2AA First Round  
Sioux Falls Lincoln 77, Harrisburg 51  
**SATURDAY'S S.D. GIRLS**  
District 4AA First Round  
Rapid City Central 54, Douglas 26  
District 5B Championship  
DeSmet 59, Castlewood 31  
District 7B Championship  
Chester 58, Dell Rapids St. Mary 32  
District 8B Championship  
Hanson 63, Ethan 58, 2OT

### SATURDAY'S NEB. BOYS

District A-1 Semifinal  
North Platte 48, Lincoln High 38  
Omaha Benson 58, Bellevue East 38  
District A-2 Semifinal  
Omaha Central 52, Lincoln Southwest 37  
Omaha Northwest 68, Lincoln North Star 59  
District A-3 Semifinal  
Omaha Creighton Prep 49, Papillion-LaVista South 40  
Omaha South 72, Grand Island 35  
District A-4 Semifinal  
Omaha Westside 67, Millard North 50  
Papillion-LaVista 54, Millard South 46

### District A-5 Semifinal

Bellevue West 63, Omaha Bryan 36  
Fremont 56, Omaha North 35  
District A-6 Semifinal  
Lincoln Northeast 61, South Sioux City 57, OT  
Millard West 43, Omaha Burke 40  
District A-7 Semifinal  
Lincoln Southeast 68, Kearney 54  
Norfolk 57, Lincoln East 49  
District B-1 First Round  
Norris 65, Nebraska City 57  
Waverly 69, Plattview 51  
District B-2 First Round  
Gretna 59, Omaha Gross Catholic 42

### District B-3 First Round

Blair 34, Elkhorn 30  
District B-4 First Round  
Columbus 61, Schuyler 60, OT  
Seward 53, Crete 46  
District B-5 First Round  
Grand Island Northwest 39, Hastings 27  
District B-6 First Round  
McCook 63, Alliance 44

### NEB. STATE GIRLS TOURN.

March 6-8 at Lincoln, Neb.  
**CLASS A**  
At Pinnacle Bank Arena  
No. 3 Lincoln Northeast (21-4) vs. No. 6 South Sioux City (18-7), 2 p.m.  
No. 2 Omaha Benson vs. No. 7 Kearney, 3:45 p.m.  
No. 1 Bellevue West (24-2) vs. No. 8 Bellevue East (17-8), 7 p.m.  
No. 5 Millard West (23-3) vs. No. 4 Fremont (22-3), 8:45 p.m.

### CLASS B

At Pinnacle Bank Arena  
No. 1 Northwest (23-3) vs. No. 8 Sidney (17-7), 9 a.m.  
No. 4 Gretna (19-9) vs. No. 5 Norris (16-6), 10:45 a.m.  
At Devaney Sports Center  
No. 7 Duchesne (18-6) vs. No. 2 Plus X (19-2), 9 p.m.  
No. 3 Holdrege (20-4) vs. No. 6 York (18-6), 8:45 p.m.

### CLASS C1

At Devaney Sports Center  
No. 1 Minden (25-0) vs. No. 8 Lincoln Lutheran (18-7), 9 a.m.  
No. 5 Plattview (22-2) vs. No. 4 Fairbury (22-2), 10:45 a.m.  
No. 7 Pterco (20-4) vs. No. 2 Chadron (20-4), 2 p.m.

## AREA CALENDAR

**Monday, March 3**  
**BASKETBALL, BOYS'** Neb. District Finals — C2-5 at Battle Creek (Hartington Cedar Catholic vs. Ainsworth, 7 p.m.; KYVIT-EM; S.D. Districts — 9B at Freeman (Scotland vs. Freeman Academy, 6:30 p.m.; Menno vs. Marion, 8 p.m.); 10B at Alcester (Irene-Wakonda vs. Gayville-Volin, 6:30 p.m.); 11B at Kimball (Dakota Christian at Kimball-White Lake, 7 p.m.); 12B (Avon at Colome, 7 p.m.; Andes Central at Burke-South Central, 7 p.m.)  
**BASKETBALL, GIRLS'** S.D. Districts — 2AA (Brandon Valley at S.F. Washington, 7 p.m.; S.F. Lincoln at Harrisburg, 7 p.m.)

**Tuesday, March 4**  
**BASKETBALL, MEN'S** Great Plains Athletic Conf. Championship  
**BASKETBALL, WOMEN'S** Great Plains Athletic Conf. Championship  
**BASKETBALL, BOYS'** S.D. Districts — 2AA (YHS at Brandon Valley, 7 p.m.; KYVIT-EM; KYVIT-EM; S.F. Lincoln at S.F. Washington, 7 p.m.); 9B at Freeman (Parker vs.

8. (23) Carl Edwards, Ford, 312, 96.5, 37, \$117,330.  
9. (7) Kyle Busch, Toyota, 312, 101.5, 35, \$132,871.  
10. (3) Jamie McMurray, Chevrolet, 312, 93.5, 34, \$122,444.  
11. (11) Casey Mears, Chevrolet, 312, 78.4, 33, \$101,430.  
12. (19) Matt Kenseth, Toyota, 312, 90, 32, \$130,266.  
13. (14) Clint Bowyer, Toyota, 312, 83.2, 32, \$119,871.  
14. (18) Casey Mears, Chevrolet, 312, 71.2, 30, \$108,513.  
15. (9) Anri Almirola, Ford, 312, 88, 29, \$119,066.  
16. (20) Tony Stewart, Chevrolet, 312, 81.7, 28, \$114,963.  
17. (6) Greg Biffle, Ford, 312, 80.8, 27, \$120,480.  
18. (21) Ricky Stenhouse Jr., Ford, 312, 62.7, 26, \$115,805.  
19. (12) Denny Hamlin, Toyota, 312, 79.9, 25, \$87,480.  
20. (8) Kyle Larson, Chevrolet, 312, 74.7, 24, \$108,200.  
21. (26) Marcos Ambrose, Ford, 311, 62.6, 23, \$105,250.  
22. (27) Martin Truex Jr., Chevrolet, 311, 66.4, 22, \$106,538.  
23. (22) Paul Menard, Chevrolet, 311, 68.1, 21, \$105,594.  
24. (24) Austin Dillon, Chevrolet, 311, 55.1, 20, \$123,466.  
25. (16) Brian Vickers, Toyota, 311, 67.1, 19, \$110,680.  
26. (25) AJ Allmendinger, Chevrolet, 310, 64.4, 18, \$93,938.  
27. (1) Cole Whitt, Toyota, 310, 44.2, 17, \$74,355.  
28. (30) David Ragan, Ford, 310, 53.5, 16, \$95,589.  
29. (28) David Gilliland, Ford, 309, 52.4, 16, \$96,863.  
30. (43) Justin Allgaier, Chevrolet, 309, 46.3, 14, \$96,002.  
31. (39) Reed Sorenson, Chevrolet, 308, 38.5, 13, \$76,790.  
32. (32) Brian Scott, Chevrolet, 308, 42.9, 13, \$89,589.  
33. (26) Michael McDowell, Ford, 307, 42.5, 11, \$73,480.  
34. (41) Michael Annett, Chevrolet, 307, 43.2, 10, \$73,355.  
35. (34) Ryan Truex, Toyota, 307, 34.1, 9, \$73,230.  
36. (33) Danica Patrick, Chevrolet, 306, 51.7, 8, \$81,075.  
37. (37) Blake Koch, Ford, 306, 30, 0, \$72,946.  
38. (40) Travis Kvapil, Ford, 302, 30.2, 6, \$68,380.  
39. (10) Kurt Busch, Chevrolet, engine, 292, 73.6, 5, \$64,380.

### SUMMIT LEAGUE TOURN.

March 8-11 at Sioux Falls  
**MEN'S TOURN.**  
First Round  
Saturday, March 8  
No. 2 Fort Wayne (22-9) vs. No. 7 IUPUI (9-25), 6 p.m.  
Sunday, March 9  
No. 4 Denver (15-14) vs. No. 5 South Dakota (12-17), 6 p.m.  
No. 3 South Dakota State (18-11) vs. No. 6 Western Illinois (10-19), 8:30 p.m.  
**Semifinals, March 10**  
No. 1 North Dakota State (23-6) vs. DU-USD winner, 6 p.m.  
SDSU-WIU winner vs. FW-IUPUI winner, 8:30 p.m.  
**Championship, March 11**  
Semifinal winners, 8 p.m.  
**WOMEN'S TOURN.**  
First Round  
Saturday, March 8  
No. 2 IUPUI (21-8) vs. No. 7 North Dakota State (6-23), 2 p.m.  
Sunday, March 9  
No. 4 South Dakota (16-13) vs. No. 5 Western Illinois (14-15), noon  
No. 3 Fort Wayne (15-13) vs. No. 6 Denver (7-22), 2:30 p.m.  
**Semifinals, March 10**  
No. 1 South Dakota State (22-8) vs. USD-WIU winner, 6 p.m.  
IUPUI-NDSDU winner vs. FW-DU winner, 8:30 p.m.  
**Championship, March 11**  
Semifinal winners, 1 p.m.

### AUTO RACING

**NASCAR SPRINT CUP**  
THE PROFIT ON CNBC 500  
Sunday at Phoenix International Raceway, Avondale, Ariz.  
1. (13) Kevin Harvick, Chevrolet, 412, 9 laps, 149.9 rating, 48 points, \$260,048.  
2. (5) Dale Earnhardt Jr., Chevrolet, 312, 122.5, 42, \$172,240.  
3. (11) Brad Keselowski, Ford, 312, 115.8, 42, \$180,673.  
4. (2) Joey Logano, Ford, 312, 124.3, 41, \$159,641.  
5. (17) Jeff Gordon, Chevrolet, 312, 108.1, 40, \$159,326.  
6. (4) Jimmie Johnson, Chevrolet, 312, 111.8, 38, \$152,286.  
7. (15) Ryan Newman, Chevrolet, 312, 98.8, 38, \$104,380.

## Yankton Girls Finish Sixth At State JV Hockey

SIoux FALLS — Mitchell blanked Yankton 4-0 in the fifth place game of the South Dakota Amateur Hockey Association's JV Girls' Tournament, which concluded on Sunday at the Sioux Falls Expo Building.  
Ashley Zimmer had two goals and an assist for Mitchell.

Katelyn Uithoven stopped 21 shots in goal for Mitchell. Renee Cross made 16 saves for Yankton.  
After losing its first 13 matches of the season, Yankton went 4-2-1 in its final seven matches, including the state tournament.

**YANKTON 2, SIOUX CENTER 1:** Erica Westerman had a goal and an assist as Yankton beat Sioux Center 2-1 in the consolation semifinals on Saturday.  
Westerman scored the tying goal on a power play at 10:10 into the third period. She assisted on Abby Weber's game-winning 76 seconds later.  
Samantha Straatmeyer assisted on the Westerman goal.  
Renee Cross made 19 saves for Yankton.  
**BROOKINGS 10, YANK-**

### TON 0:

Top-seeded Brookings blanked Yankton 10-0 in opening-round action Friday night. Bethany Rennich had three goals and two assists, and Jadyn Peterson had three goals and an assist for Brookings.  
Montana Meyer stopped nine shots in the win. Renee Cross made 22 saves for Yankton.  
**YANKTON 3, OAKEHURST 0:** Renee Cross stopped all 13 shots she faced as Yankton blanked Oahe 3-0 in the play-in game on Friday morning. Erica Westerman had a goal and an assist, and Hannah Johnson and Samantha Straatmeyer scored goals for Yankton. Abby Weber and Elizabeth Rueppel had assists in the victory.  
Abbie Keith made 20 saves for Oahe.

### Bantam 'A'

FORT PIERRE — Mitchell downed Yankton 8-1 in the seventh place game of the S.D. Bantam 'A' state hockey tournament, which concluded Sunday in Fort Pierre. Oakley Palmer scored Yankton's goal. Sean Garcia made 26 saves for the Miracle.  
**BROOKINGS 13, YANKTON 0:** Top-seeded Brookings opened the tournament with a 13-0 victory over Yankton on Friday.  
Sean Garcia made 47 saves for Yankton.

## Iowa Men Hold Off Purdue, Snap Skid

IOWA CITY, Iowa (AP) — Roy Devyn Marble scored 21 points and No. 20 Iowa snapped a three-game losing streak by beating Purdue 83-76 on Sunday.  
Aaron White and Mike Gesell added 15 points each for the Hawkeyes (20-9, 9-7 Big Ten), who have recorded consecutive 20-win seasons for the first time in eight years.  
Iowa blew a 13-point halftime lead, but an 8-0 run put the Hawkeyes back ahead 68-64 with 5:56 left. Gesell then hit five free throws in the final 41 seconds to help the Hawkeyes narrowly avoid losing their fourth home game in five tries.  
Raphael Davis scored a career-high 18 points and A.J. Hammons had 16 points with 14 rebounds for Purdue (15-14, 5-1), which is on its second four-game losing streak in conference play.

### Saturday

**NORTH DAKOTA STATE 78, DENVER 68:** FARGO, N.D. (AP) — Taylor Braun's 16 points led six players in double figures as North Dakota State topped Denver 78-68 on Saturday.  
Jordan Aaberg had 13 while Kory Brown, Lawrence Alexander and Marshall Bjorklund scored 12 points each and TrayVonn Wright added 11. The Bison shot 63 percent and made 22 of 27 from the line.  
**WESTERN ILLINOIS 75, IUPUI 70:** MA-COMB, Ill. (AP) — Michael Ochereobia reached career highs with 23 points and 10 rebounds to lead Western Illinois over IUPUI 75-70 Saturday night in a Summit League regular-season finale.  
The outcome didn't affect either team for the conference tournament. Western Illinois (10-19, 4-10) is the sixth seed and IUPUI (6-25, 1-13) the seventh.  
Ochereobia made 10 of 11 shots. Garret Covington added 18 points for Western Illinois and Jabari Sandifer 15. Sandifer made 9 of 10 free throws and the Leathernecks were 21 of 26 from the line. IUPUI made 11 of 15 free throws.  
Ian Chiles scored 27 points for the Jaguars. Khufu Najee and Elijah Ray added 14 each.  
The game was tied with 13:07 left when Western Illinois went on a 10-0 run to take the lead for good. Down three, IUPUI missed two free throws with 7.7 seconds left. Sandifer followed with two free throws for the final margin.  
**KANSAS ST. 80, NO. 15 IOWA ST. 73:** MANHATTAN, Kan. (AP) — Shane Southwell had 13 points and Kansas State overcame a huge game by Iowa State star Melvin Ejim to beat the 15th-ranked Cyclones 80-73 on Saturday night.  
Thomas Gipson and D.J. Johnson added 11 points apiece for the Wildcats (19-9, 10-6 Big 12), who can still earn the No. 2 seed in the conference tournament. They play at Oklahoma State on Monday and then host Baylor on Saturday to end the regular season.  
Kansas State has won 15 straight at Bramlage Coliseum, its longest home winning streak since the 1981-82 season.

## State-U

From Page 7

The Jackrabbits have also proven they're capable of running away from USD early, in Frost Arena.  
Once again in Brookings, SDSU jumped on the Coyotes early, this time to the tune of a 16-5 start. The margin was 37-24 at halftime and as much as a 26-point lead in the second half.  
Experience plays a big role in that. USD head coach Joey James said. The Coyotes were coming off a 28-point loss at North Dakota State two days earlier.  
"Right now we're just not a mature basketball team, a mature enough team to go on the road and handle some of the runs people give us," James said.  
"I've done about every psychology maneuver I could possibly do, but a lot of times the guys have to go out there and perform."  
Though it wasn't mentioned later, the Coyotes have now lost seven straight times at Frost Arena — a span that includes seven games.  
"It's not just here," junior Brandon Bos said. "We haven't been playing well on the road all year. It's nothing really different."  
Bos scored a game-high 21 points off the bench, and 12

## RUSHMORE 9, YANKTON 2:

Rushmore jumped out to a 5-0 lead on the way to a 9-2 victory over Yankton in the consolation semifinals on Saturday.  
Oakley Palmer and Nathan Eichacker scored goals for Yankton. Trey Bakke had an assist. Sean Garcia made 48 saves for the Miracle.  
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### Bantam 'B'

HURON — Watertown bounced Yankton 4-1 in Saturday's consolation semifinals of the S.D. Bantam 'B' state tournament, which concluded on Sunday in Huron.  
Nathan Nelson scored Yankton's goal, converting a pass from Oliver Kotalik. Caleb List stopped 27 shots for the Miracle.  
**OAKEHURST 10, YANKTON 0:** Second-seeded Oahe blanked Yankton 9-0 in the opening round on Friday.  
Caleb List stopped 29 shots for Yankton.

### FORBES

Ejim had 30 points and 16 rebounds, and DeAndre Kain added 24 points and eight rebounds to build a 27-22 halftime advantage.  
A 3-point play by Wright, on a dunk and foul by Marcus Byrd, stretched the Bison lead to 10 with 10:41 left. Brett Johnson's 3-pointer for Denver cut it six with 7:02 left, but NDSU responded with a jumper by Braun and a pair of free throws by Brown, and was able to keep Denver at arm's length down the stretch.  
Olson led Denver (15-14, 8-6) with 20 points, while Nate Engesser added 19.  
**WESTERN ILLINOIS 75, IUPUI 70:** MA-COMB, Ill. (AP) — Michael Ochereobia reached career highs with 23 points and 10 rebounds to lead Western Illinois over IUPUI 75-70 Saturday night in a Summit League regular-season finale.  
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### FORBES

Luiz Jacobo scored 20 points and Pierre Bland and Joe Edwards added 18 apiece for IPFW. Bland also had 10 assists.  
Marcus Iyus scored 21 points and CJ Carter 20 to lead five Omaha (16-14, 5-9) players in double figures.  
IPFW finished with its best Summit League record.  
**NO. 16 MICHIGAN 66, MINNESOTA 65:** ANN ARBOR, Mich. (AP) — Nik Slauskas scored 21 points and Glenn Robinson III provided an emotional lift with his dunks as No. 16 Michigan clinched at least a share of the Big Ten title with a 66-56 victory over Minnesota on Saturday night.  
The Wolverines (21-7, 13-3) didn't arrive at the Crisler Center expecting to have a chance to earn their third banner in three years, but Illinois changed that by upsetting Michigan State in East Lansing.  
Michigan can clinch its third outright conference title since 1986 with a win Tuesday at Illinois or next Saturday at home against Indiana.  
Cris LeVert added 13 points for Michigan, and Jordan Morgan had 10 rebounds. The Crisler Center crowd wasn't told about Michigan State's loss until after the game ended.

### FORBES

of those came at the free throw line. Both teams were 25-of-29 at the foul line and each made six three-pointers.  
The story, though, was the quick start by the Jacks, and conversely, a slow start for the Coyotes.  
USD will try to right the ship at the Summit League Tournament, where the fifth-seeded Coyotes will play No. 4 seed Denver next Sunday at 6 p.m.  
"Records are out the window now, the season's over. It's a new season," sophomore guard Trey Norris said. "Now it's win or go home."  
"That's all we're looking forward to right now."  
*You can follow Jeremy Hoeck on Twitter at twitter.com/jhoeck. Discuss this story at www.yankton.net.*

### SOUTH DAKOTA (12-17)

Flack 6-12 12 16, Gruis 0-2 0-0 0, Norris 1-4 0-0 3, Rowson 0-2 3-4 3, Larson 0-2 0-0 0, Bos 4-9 12 13 21, Thosby 1-7 5-7 7, Kasperbauer 1-5 2-4 4, Pomle 1-7 2-5 5, Robertson 1-2 0-2 0. Totals 15-52 25-29 61.  
**SOUTH DAKOTA ST. (18-11)**  
Dykstra 5-9 8-9 19, Larson 5-8 2-4 12, Bitte 4-10-4 4 13, Carlson 3-11 7-8 15, C. White 4-7 0-0 0, Broman 0-0 0-0 0, Jacobsen 0-1 0-0 0, Horstman 0-2 0-0 0, Devine 0-0 0-0 0, Heemstra 1-1-4-6. Totals 22-49 25-29 75.  
Halftime — SDSU 37-24, 3-Point Goals — USD 6-19 (Flack 3-5, Bos 1-1, Norris 1-2, Pomle 1-5, Rowson 0-1, Larson 0-1, Kasperbauer 0-1, Robertson 0-1, Thosby 0-2), SDSU 6-18 (C. White 2-4, Carlson 2-6, Bitte 1-3, Dykstra 1-3, Horstman 0-1, Jacobsen 0-1). Fouled Out — Flack. Rebounds — USD 29 (Pomle 6), SDSU 40 (Dykstra 10). Assists — USD 8 (Bos, Flack, Kasperbauer, Larson, Norris, Pomle), Rowson Thosby 1), SDSU 14 (C. White 5). Total Fouls — USD 20, SDSU 22. Attendance — 5,509.

## Harvick Wins Second Straight At Phoenix

AVONDALE, Ariz. (AP) — Kevin Harvick had a nice send-off with Richard Childress Racing, winning his penultimate race with the team at Phoenix International Raceway.  
Back at Phoenix four months later, he stamped his arrival at Stewart-Haas Racing by winning the second race with his new team — doing it on the same weekend he celebrated his 13th wedding anniversary, no less.  
Yeah, Harvick kind of likes it here in the desert.  
Disappointed at the Daytona 500 after a last-lap crash, Harvick bounced back quickly by charging to the front and dominating the rest of the way Sunday to win consecutive races at PIR with different teams.  
"Man, this is awesome," Harvick said.  
Harvick won the fall race after Carl Edwards ran out of fuel at the white flag.  
He needed no help Sunday. Harvick had the fastest car in practice and kept it rolling in the race, charging to the front after starting 13th and pretty much staying there. He led 224 of 312 laps on the odd-shaped mile oval and pulled away on several late restarts for his fifth NASCAR Sprint Cup victory at PIR, passing Jimmie Johnson for the most at the track.  
Not bad for someone who's still trying to feel his way around with a new team and new crew chief Rodney Childers.  
"It took long enough," SHR co-owner Gene Haas joked. "This phenomenal. I think there was a lot of skepticism last year about what myself and Tony (Stewart) what we were up to, was there a lot of madness to this. Quite frankly, it's a great team, there's a lot of synergy at

the shop, people working together. I don't know what we did, but I think we put together a great organization."  
Daytona 500 winner Dale Earnhardt Jr. finished second, pole sitter Brad Keselowski was third and Penske Racing teammate Joey Logano fourth.  
Jeff Gordon rounded out the top five on a warm and partly cloudy day after downpours wiped out the final 32 laps of Saturday's Nationwide race, won by Kyle Busch

Harvick won at Phoenix during the Chase for the Sprint Cup championship in the fall, giving him an outside shot at catching Johnson for the series title in his final season with Richard Childress Racing. He came up short, but the victory and a third-place finish in the standings gave him a bit of momentum heading into for his first season with Stewart-Haas.  
Harvick had a solid finish in his sights at Daytona last week before a last-lap crash dropped him to 13th.  
At Phoenix, Harvick just missed the final stage of knock-out qualifying, nipped by 0.001 seconds, but had the fastest car in Saturday morning's final practice session.  
He had no trouble making his way through the field after the green flag dropped in the race, passing Keselowski on the apron, then Logano for the lead on lap 74. Harvick maintained the lead coming out of green-flag pit stops with just under 200 laps left and again with about 70 laps left.  
A series of cautions came out late in the race and Harvick easily pulled away each time to earn a quick win with SHR a nice caper to his anniversary week-

end with wife DeLana.  
"I'm just the lucky guy who gets to drive around the race track when they have dialed in like they did today," Harvick said. "We were able to put it altogether."  
Earnhardt had a whirlwind week after winning his second Daytona 500, needing his girlfriend to get him extra clothes while he went on a media tour. He had a solid follow-up, putting the distractions aside to qualify fifth.  
Earnhardt worked his way up in the opening third of the race, passing Logano and Keselowski to pull up behind Harvick. He dropped back a couple times and fought back to get Harvick within his sights again, but didn't have enough to track him down.  
"I've got to congratulate Kevin. Those guys were two-tenths faster than everyone all weekend in practice. They were just phenomenal," Earnhardt said. "To be able to run with them all day was a big confidence builder for us."  
NASCAR's new knockout qualifying system made its Sprint Cup debut at Phoenix and Keselowski came out on top, edging Logano for his fourth career pole.  
Not long after that, Keselowski found out he would be without his crew chief for the race; Paul Wolfe left the desert back to North Carolina for the birth of his first child.  
With team engineer Brian Wilson and its Nationwide Series competition director Greg Erwin at the helm, Keselowski ran near the front all day, but, like everyone else, didn't have the speed to keep up with Harvick.

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