

NASCAR HOT SHEET



A.J. Allmendinger Part of Rolex 24 Winning Team

By Jenna Fryer, AP-The little team with no pedigree knocked off the big boys with all those championships. Michael Shank Racing did it, hoping Sunday's victory in the Rolex 24 at Daytona is the kickoff to their career comebacks. NASCAR driver A.J. Allmendinger closed out the twice-around-the-clock win by piloting the No. 60 Ford Riley for the final stint, a nearly three-hour drive that included some door-to-door banging with Allan McNish for the lead. It was Allmendinger's first win in a major series in almost six years, and comes about a month after he landed the job of a lifetime with Roger Penske's NASCAR team. IndyCar Series driver Justin Wilson, meanwhile, turned in his own strong performance with a three-hour drive during the morning hours that proved he's healthy after a six-month layoff because of a broken bone in his back. Wilson announced recently he's reuniting with Dale Coyne Racing for the upcoming IndyCar season. The two paired with Grand-Am regulars Ozz Negri Jr. and John Pew to give Shank its first win in the Rolex 24 at Daytona.

Brian France Says Sport Is In A Very Good Place

NASCAR and its stakeholders intend to build on the success of 2011 as the new season begins with the Feb. 26 Daytona 500. In his State of NASCAR remarks delivered during the NASCAR Sprint Media Tour last week, NASCAR Chairman and CEO Brian France said, "The sport is in a very good place and we're going to work even harder to achieve the very best things for the sport of NASCAR well into the future." France pointed to initiatives begun a year ago – a simplified points structure in all three national series and a "Wild Card" twist in the Chase for the NASCAR Sprint Cup™ that placed a greater emphasis on race victories – which culminated in what France called "a championship battle that will be talked about for decades to come." While the 2012 season will be one of continuity rather than major change, NASCAR will introduce electronic fuel injection into the Sprint Cup Series.



2012 SCHEDULE- 1st 12 of 36 Races

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| 2/18 | Budweiser Shootout* |
| 2/26 | Daytona 500 |
| 3/4 | Phoenix |
| 3/11 | Las Vegas |
| 3/18 | Bristol |
| 3/25 | California |
| 4/1 | Martinsville |
| 4/14 | TEXAS Samsung Mobile 500 |
| 4/22 | Kansas |
| 4/28 | Richmond |
| 5/6 | Talladega |
| 5/12 | Darlington |
| 5/19 | <i>Sprint All-Star Race*</i> |
| 5/27 | Charlotte-Coca Cola 600 |

*Non Points Race



Night Racing in April at Texas Motor Speedway

The NASCAR **Sprint Cup** and **Nationwide Series** will race under the lights April 12 - 14. For a limited time, fans can get **two front-stretch tickets** to the Saturday night, April 14 Samsung Mobile 500 for **only \$99!** 2012 Season Tickets are also on sale now.

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