

Auto Racing

Stewart, Edwards leave Richmond dejected

RICHMOND, Va. (AP) — Not even a meeting with NASCAR officials helped Carl Edwards understand why he was given a penalty at Richmond International Raceway.

"We had to just agree to disagree and that's the way it is," Edwards said.

In contrast, Tony Stewart knew exactly why he lost Saturday night's race.

"We did everything we could to throw it away, it got taken away," the defending Sprint Cup champion said. "I'm pretty ticked off about it."

Both drivers were less than pleased when they left Richmond, where late drama spiced up what had been yet another bland NASCAR race. There were just three cautions one was a NASCAR-planned competition through the first 310

laps and none had much impact on the race.

That changed when Jeff Burton smacked the wall, leaving behind debris that brought out the yellow with 89 laps remaining. It was Stewart and Edwards on the front row for the restart, and both believed they were the leader.

Edwards sailed away at the green flag, and was immediately penalized for jumping the restart and passing the leader before it was permitted.

What followed was a heated confrontation between crew chief Bob Osborne and the NASCAR official assigned to his pit stall, and a lengthy discussion on the team radio between Edwards and Osborne as they tried to figure out exactly what happened.



AP PHOTO
Kyle Busch (18) and Tony Stewart (14) battle side-by-side in Turn 4 during the NASCAR Sprint Cup Series auto race at Richmond International Raceway Saturday in Richmond, Va. Busch won the race.

Edwards had been told by his spotter he was the leader, and the spotter said that information came from NASCAR. And the leaderboard backed it up, as Edwards was shown in first

place. So when he was lined up on the outside of the track, Edwards said he figured NASCAR had made a mistake, and he made a split-second decision to try to get the best restart he

could.

That part is not in dispute: replays clearly showed Edwards rocketed past Stewart and had cleared him before reaching the official restart zone.

And that's against the rules, no matter who was leading the race.

"At the end of the day, it comes down to jumping the restart and that's pretty straightforward," Osborne said. "Our issue was the confusion about who was the leader and who wasn't the leader."

But why was Edwards being shown as the leader? NASCAR vice president of competition said Edwards had tripped the timing and scoring when he crossed the line ahead of Stewart under caution while cleaning his tires.

"What you've got to

understand is the electronics," Pemberton said. "When the transponder crosses the start/finish line when Carl was scrubbing his tires, he beat (Stewart) to the line so that instantaneously puts him up top."

"It happens all the time, but these circumstances don't stack on top of it. That put him up on top of the board just because he was coming to the line with one to go."

The penalty dropped Edwards to 15th, he briefly fell a lap down, and wound up finishing 10th. It was a disappointment considering Edwards led a race-high 206 laps and is still seeking his first win of the season. And it didn't seem to matter what NASCAR's explanation was, Edwards believed he had a win taken away from him.

National Hockey League

Flyers top Devils in overtime, 4-3

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Danny Briere had two chances to celebrate his overtime winner.

The first time, his goal didn't count.

The second time, Briere left no doubt and put away Game 1, once and for all.

Briere continued to stamp his name alongside Philadelphia's postseason greats, scoring the winning goal 4:36 into overtime, leading the Flyers to a 4-3 win over the New Jersey Devils on Sunday to open this Eastern Conference semifinal series.

"He has his ups and

downs, but he just picks it up in the playoffs. And that's what matters," Flyers coach Peter Laviolette said. "He's a guy who consistently gets it done."

Coyotes 5, Predators 3

GLENDALE, Ariz. — Shane Doan, Radim Urbata and Antoine Vermette each had a goal and an assist, and the Phoenix Coyotes avoided their usual overtime theatrics, beating the Nashville Predators 5-3 on Sunday night to take a 2-0 lead in the Western Conference semifinal series.

Major League Baseball

Reds

■ CONTINUED FROM 14
"I'm going to enjoy this one and the way we won it," Baker said. "We can enjoy the off day tomorrow, too."

Houston starter Jordan Lyles was recalled from Triple-A Oklahoma City before the game. He lasted six innings, allowing four hits and three runs with three walks and four strikeouts. He was optioned back to Triple-A after the game to make room on the roster for infielder Marwin Gonzalez, who was reinstated from paternity leave, but manager Brad Mills hoped he left with a good feeling.

"He threw the ball well," Mills said. "He threw the ball so well that we wanted to get him out of there with a lead."

The 10 hits allowed by Reds starter Mat Latos matched the career high he set last June 21 at Boston while with San Diego. Latos allowed no walks and struck out four while giving up five runs in 6 1/3 innings.

"I picked me up when I was feeling a little under the weather," Latos said. "I just tried to grind through it."

Houston's Jordan Schafer singled in the second to extend to his streak of consecutive games reaching base at least once to open the season to 22, the longest by an Astro since Ricky Gutierrez put together a 23-game streak in 1998. The club record is Denis Menke's 25 in 1969.

Houston jumped out to a 1-0 lead on Jose Altuve's double and Jed Lowrie's single with one out in the first inning. The Astros made it 2-0 in the second on Chris Johnson's one-out double, Jason Castro's single and Lyles's suicide-squeeze sacrifice bunt.

Lyles didn't allow a hit in his first run through the Reds lineup, but Zack Cozart reached him for a double to left with one out in the fourth and Joey Votto slammed the next pitch 438 feet over the center field fence for his second home run of the season and first since April 7 during an 8-3 loss to Miami.

The Astros regained their two-run lead in the fifth on Altuve's two-out single and Lowrie's 378-foot home run into the right field seats, his second of the season and the road trip.

Baseball

Trojans



Troy's Jordan Price slides into home to score the Trojans first run.

■ CONTINUED FROM 14

Troy (15-8) outplayed the Fairfield Indians for six innings and held a one-run lead heading into the final inning Sunday night under the lights at the Dayton Dragons' Fifth Third Field. But a letdown in the top of the seventh inning led to four Fairfield runs as the Indians stole a 6-3 win.

"We played the last inning trying not to lose," Welker said. "We didn't play the first six innings that way. We need to be playing to win."

Cody Fuller pitched well enough to win, giving up six hits and two runs over six innings of work, striking out two, walking two and leaving with a 3-2 lead.

And he got some help throughout the game, as well. After giving up a lead-off single in the second, shortstop Dylan Cascaden made a play on a grounder deep in the hole, turning and firing to second to get the lead runner. Fuller got a pair of flyouts to end the inning — including an outstanding grab by left fielder Devon Alexander in front of the warning track.

And after giving up back-to-back doubles in the sixth that made it a 3-2 game, center fielder Devin Blakely ranged far to his right and made a diving grab in the gap to keep the tying run stranded on second.

"We made some amazing plays on defense," Welker said. "Cascaden's play was Jeter-esque, and Devin and Devon made a couple of great catches."

"Fuller threw a heck of a game. This was his best start of the year by far."



PHOTOS COURTESY OF LEE WOOLERY/SPEEDSHOT PHOTO
Cody Fuller pitched six strong innings in Troy's loss to Fairfield on Sunday.

And he got some support from the offense early on.

Jordan Price reached on a strikeout to start the second and was bunted to second. And with two outs, Blakely hit a high chopper over the Fairfield third baseman for an RBI single — and Cascaden followed that by ripping a double down the third-base line that brought in the speedy Blakely from first to give Troy a 2-0 lead.

Troy had another two-out rally in the fourth spearheaded by Blakely and Cascaden. Blakely bunted for a single and stole second, then Cascaden poked an RBI single through to make

it 3-1 at the time.

Troy only managed three baserunners from that point on — all on walks.

"Offensively, we didn't have our best game," Welker said. "Devin and Dylan were both aggressive and clutch, but we need that throughout the lineup. We kind of went through the motions (after getting the lead)."

And in the seventh, the Indians made Troy pay.

The leadoff hitter reached on an error and was bunted to second, but Nick Antonides struck out the next hitter to put Fairfield down to its last out. He couldn't get the call on a close 2-2 pitch on the next

batter and ended up issuing a walk, though, and Curtis Olvy tied the game with a single. After another walk loaded the bases, Braden Berdeen then ripped a two-run double, putting the Indians up 6-3 — and Troy couldn't rally in the bottom of the inning.

Troy travels to Piqua today, needing to sweep the Indians over the next two days to claim the GWOC North title, while Piqua needs only a series split.

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Fuller, Antonides (7) and Nadolny. WP - Spauldus. LP - Antonides. 2B - T Berdeen (F), Olvy (F), B Berdeen (F), Cascaden (T). **Records:** Troy 15-8.

Major League Baseball

Indians

■ CONTINUED FROM 14
"I lost that game. I feel bad," said Hunter who has the fewest errors of any outfielder in history with more than 4,500 chances. The error was only his 36th in 4,525 opportunities.

"I can't explain it," Hunter said. "I've been playing this game for a long time. It seems like the sun wins."

Lowe (4-1) kept his fielders from battling the bright sky by retiring 12 Angels on ground balls, including Albert Pujols three times. Pujols also struck out against reliever Chris Perez, extending his career-long homerless streak to 117 at-bats.

"Lowe was outstanding," Acta said. "He had com-

mand of that sinker and also a good slider. Any time you can take two of three from that pitching staff is great. Our pitchers matched up great against them."

Lowe, 38 and in his 16th season, said his 9-17 record and career-worst 5.05 ERA a year ago with Atlanta is not weighing on his mind. He's more excited to be part of Cleveland's strong staff.

"I've never let one season flow over into the next," Lowe said. "I know the only way to be successful and win over six months is to have strong starting pitching. It's a fun gang to be part of."

Ervin Santana (0-5), in his first start against Cleveland since throwing a



AP PHOTO
Cleveland Indians second baseman Jason Santana cannot reach the throw by Indians catcher Carlos Santana as Los Angeles Angels' Maicer Izturis (13) safely steals second in the third inning Sunday in Cleveland.

no-hitter at Progressive Field last July 27, gave up seven hits and those two unearned runs over seven innings.

"I feel bad for Ervin," Lowe said. "He pitched pretty good and got some bad luck."

Pujols is homerless in 22

games since signing his \$240 million contract with the Angels. In 2006, he set an April record with 14 homers for St. Louis. The three-time NL MVP hit five homers during the 2011 postseason for the Cardinals, but has not connected in the regular season since Sept. 22.

Lowe allowed only a pair of singles by Kendrys Morales over the first 7 2/3 innings before running into trouble.

He left after walking Maicer Izturis, who went to third on a long single to right-center by Chris Iannetta.

Vinnie Pestano came on and walked rookie Mike Trout to load the bases before striking out Howie

Kendrick

The Indians went ahead in the fifth, putting two runners on in an inning for the third time against Santana. With one out, Aaron Cunningham reached on an infield hit and Michael Brantley walked.

Santana struck out Jason Kipnis and appeared about to get out of another jam when Asdrubal Cabrera flied to right. Hunter drifted under the ball, shaded his eyes and ducked as it fell next to him.

"I was very surprised," Brantley said. "I was running and saw Smitty's (third-base coach Steve Smith) eyes light up and figured something had happened."