

Wallace calls it a somber week after Hamlin’s Kansas move

BY JENNA FRYER
AP AUTO RACING WRITER

CONCORD, N.C. — Bubba Wallace is paid to race in NASCAR for Denny Hamlin and Michael Jordan, so Hamlin raised eyebrows last weekend for pushing Wallace into the wall in a last-lap push for the victory at Kansas Speedway.

Hamlin drives for Joe Gibbs Racing and was seeking the 60th win of his Cup Series career and an automatic berth into the third round of the playoffs. A win for Wallace would have put him into the third round of the playoffs for the first time in his career and guarantee at least one 23XI Racing driver is still part of the championship hunt.

Although the two had a brief interaction on pit road following the race — Chase Elliott came back from 10th on a two-lap overtime shootout to nab the win after the Hamlin and Wallace incident — it wasn't until Saturday at Charlotte Motor Speedway that driver and team owner finally talked.

“I don’t fault Denny Hamlin for racing for win, racing for his team and his sponsors,” Wallace said. “I get the question a lot — what’s it like racing Denny on the race track? No offense to them, but I could give two (profanity) because he’s a competitor, and he has labeled it that way.

"So that was two competitors going for a win, and so as much as it didn't work out, I have to respect that.”

Even so, Wallace estimated that 95% of the drivers felt that was an “oof” move by Hamlin, who was struggling with power steering issues. It also put Wallace and



Connor Hamilton

Denny Hamlin, center, celebrates after winning a NASCAR Cup Series auto race at World Wide Technology Raceway, Sunday, Sept. 7 in Madison, Ill.

teammate Tyler Reddick in serious danger of elimination from the playoffs on Sunday when the field is trimmed from 12 drivers to eight on the hybrid road course/oval at Charlotte.

Wallace, Reddick, Austin Cindric and Ross Chastain are all below the cutline and likely need to win to stave off elimination. Only problem? Shane van Gisbergen is in the field and has won four road or street course races this season.

Reddick edged van Gisbergen in Saturday qualifying and will start at the Roval from the pole.

Wallace described the days since Kansas as “a somber week” and heard Hamlin say on his podcast that he would not apologize for trying to win a race.

“I hate it got to this point, the lingering effect, but Denny and I just talked 30 minutes ago, and it was a good heart-to-heart,” Wallace said. “The conversation came from a place of peace. It went better than I thought it would.”

SVG SEEKS ANOTHER WIN

Shane van Gisbergen has won four consecutive street or road course races this season to stamp himself as the betting favorite Sunday on the Roval.

But the New Zealander doesn't believe a win is automatic and considers both Kyle Larson and Christopher Bell formidable rivals, as well as all the drivers still mathematically eligible to advance. Bell finished in the top five in five of the last six road course races, including three runner-ups and a win at Circuit of the Americas this year.

“I think there’s always good people. There’s a lot of guys trying to get into the next round that will be stepping up, as well,” he said. “I think obviously we’re one of the favorites, but there’s going to be some quick cars, so I really don’t see it’s going to be an easy race. It’s going to be difficult and we’re prepared well, so hopefully we’re up there fighting for it.”

He can't help but feel a little



Connor Hamilton

Bubba Wallace drives during a NASCAR Cup Series auto race at World Wide Technology Raceway, Sunday, Sept. 7 in Madison, Ill.

disappointed at being eliminated from the playoffs after the first round because if van Gisbergen was still in contention, he'd have a legitimate shot to advance into the third round on Sunday. He scored the highest finish on an oval of his career last week with a 10th-place finish at Kansas Speedway and believes he's had a decent round in which he's finally showing some competitiveness away from road and street courses.

“I felt like we were really getting better and hitting our stride for the playoffs, and then we had three pretty subpar weekends, actually. I didn’t do the best I can, so I didn’t feel like it, but maybe the pressure did get to us,” he said, “and then as soon as we were out, we started going good again. It’s frustrating how it works, but it’s pretty awesome, the playoffs, and the pressure it puts on everyone. You’ll probably see some crazy stuff (Sunday) with people trying to get in, and I think it gives good storylines.”

TY GIBBS VS DENNY HAMLIN

Ty Gibbs declined to speak to media at Kansas last weekend to discuss an on-track incident with Joe Gibbs Racing teammate Hamlin at New Hampshire, where Hamlin grew frustrated at how hard he was being raced by a non-playoff driver.

Hamlin wrecked Gibbs, the grandson of the team owner, and asked on his team radio if everyone at JGR was too scared to have a mature discussion with the 23-year-old about racing etiquette.

Hamlin acknowledged at Kansas that he got “too hot under the collar” when he wrecked Gibbs but insisted the teammates were in a good place following internal meetings. Gibbs, because of his ranking in the Cup Series standings, had no media obligations and so he refused to address the issue.

But he was required to make himself available to reporters Saturday at Charlotte, where he entered the theater-style room and went to a back row to sit on

an arm rest in a thwarted attempt to not draw attention to his presence. A gaggle of reporters circled him and while Gibbs was polite, he wouldn't really discuss the situation with Hamlin.

“All the other guys answered it, so I'll just leave it at that,” Gibbs said as he danced around the questions. When told that Roger Penske makes it clear to the Team Penske drivers they cannot wreck each other, Gibbs said, “I don't think any team's got it 100% down.

“It's just racing. We're all out here racing for wins and the in-house organization, as well,” Gibbs said. “I grew up around all these guys and I appreciated them a lot and I want the best for my team, as well. So I think we'll figure a lot of things out.”

ODDS AND ENDS

The Roval is the sixth and final road course race of the season and the only road course in the playoffs. ... Four of the five previous Roval winners are current playoff drivers — Ryan Blaney (2018), Chase Elliott (2019 & 2020), Kyle Larson (2021 & 2024) and Christopher Bell (2022).

... The winner of the Roval went on to win the championship twice when Elliott did it in 2020 and Larson in 2021.

... Ford has not won at the Roval since Blaney's 2018 victory in the inaugural race.

... Hendrick Motorsports has yet to win a road course race this season after winning at least once on road courses every year between 2018 and 2024.

McKinstry lifts Tigers over Mariners in ALDS opener

BY ANDREW DESTIN
ASSOCIATED PRESS

SEATTLE — Zach McKinstry was banking on Carlos Vargas throwing him a sinker, and that's precisely what the All-Star third baseman got.

McKinstry singled home the tiebreaking run with two outs in the 11th inning and the Detroit Tigers outlasted the Seattle Mariners for a 3-2 victory in Game 1 of their AL Division Series on Saturday.

Kerry Carpenter hit a two-run homer in the fifth for the resurgent Tigers, who squandered a huge lead in the AL Central and nearly collapsed entirely down the stretch before squeezing into the playoffs.

After winning their Wild Card Series at Cleveland, they can take a commanding 2-0 lead in this best-of-five matchup against AL West champion Seattle with dominant ace Tarik Skubal on the mound Sunday.

“All year long, I feel like we were either down or we were up,” McKinstry said. “We’re up right now, and we’re getting a lot of wins. Things are going our way.”

In the first extra-inning game of this postseason, McKinstry pounced on the first pitch he saw from Vargas, a 99.6 mph sinker, and grounded it up the middle to score Spencer Torkelson from second base.



Lindsey Wasson

Detroit Tigers' Zach McKinstry hits a single to score Spencer Torkelson for the go-ahead run during the 11th inning in Game 1 of baseball's American League Division Series against the Seattle Mariners, Saturday, Oct. 4 in Seattle.

“I was kind of leaning on the, you know, he was going to throw 80% two-seams. And just kind of leaning on that and knowing what he was going to throw there,” McKinstry said. “Just trying to attack early.”

Torkelson, who walked leading off the 11th, advanced to second on a wild pitch by Vargas earlier in the inning.

Unlike during the regular season, there is no automatic runner placed at second base to begin extra innings in the postseason.

It was the Mariners’ second consecutive postseason loss at home that went extra innings. They were beaten 1-0 by Houston in 18 innings on Oct. 15, 2022.

Will Vest worked two

perfect innings for the win, and Keider Montero got three outs for his first major league save. Montero extended the scoreless start to his post-season career and put the finishing touches on seven innings of one-run ball by Detroit’s bullpen.

The Mariners struck first, thanks to a solo homer by Julio Rodriguez in the fourth inning. Rodriguez, fresh off his second season with at least 30 home runs and 30 stolen bases, launched an elevated four-seam fastball from rookie Troy Melton, who was making just his fifth career start.

Seattle’s lead didn’t last long, though. Carpenter capitalized on an elevated fastball from right-hander George Kirby in a two-strike count,

depositing it into the right-field seats to give the Tigers a 2-1 advantage.

Left-handed reliever Gabe Speier was warming up in the Seattle bullpen, but manager Dan Wilson elected to have Kirby face the left-handed-hitting Carpenter.

“We thought George continued to throw the ball pretty well there and still had pretty good stuff and a lot left in the tank,” Wilson said, “and he had been in a couple of tough spots earlier, but really pitched out of it well. And, like I said, (Carpenter) was able to get to the one up in the zone.”

It was the fifth career homer for Carpenter off Kirby, making him the fourth player in major league history with five or more hits off a particular pitcher — and all of them home runs. It also was the second career postseason homer for Carpenter, who set a career high with 26 during the regular season.

“I tend to see him well,” Carpenter said. “He’s so good, though. He has great stuff, and in the first inning he was really good. So yeah, I’m pretty confident against anybody I go against. I was seeing him well tonight, especially after that first at-bat.”

Kirby was otherwise sharp in his second postseason start, striking out five across five innings.

Rodriguez ensured the Mariners did not go down

easily, poking an RBI single to right in the sixth that tied it at 2.

Seattle closer Andrés Muñoz worked two scoreless innings, the first time he had done so since he was a rookie in 2019 with San Diego.

The Mariners didn’t get hits from any players besides Rodriguez and AL MVP contender Cal Raleigh, who chipped in three singles for his third career three-hit game in the postseason.

EMPLOYMENT

WELDERS / FABRICATORS:
Immediate openings for full time qualified steel fabricators.
Need to be experienced in MIG welding procedure.
Understanding shop fabrication drawings helpful. Tools, uniforms and other benefits. Pay rate based on experience.
Overtime available.
Apply in person:
Derby Welding & Machine Co., Inc.
4624 Pinewood Road,
502-966-0232

POSTED NO TRESPASSING

Persons are notified that the land and property belonging to the below listed persons are posted against hunting, fishing, trapping, 4-wheeling or dirt bike riding, walking, horseback riding, woodcutting, dumping or any other kind of trespassing. Owners are not responsible for any accidents. Violators will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.

POSTED-NO TRESPASSING

Lot 24, Meadow Brook Heights
Victor P. Narmi property
305 Glenwood Avenue, Vine Grove, KY 40175

POSTED!

Call 270-765-3862 to place your posted ad.
\$52/Year. Publishes every Tuesday.

YOUR CUSTOMER
JUST READ THIS AD.
ADVERTISE WITH US.

SERVICES

J&M Construction
Remodeling, roofing, siding and much more!
Amish Crew.
(270)750-4377



Per Kentucky Self Storage Law, contents of the following leased storage units will be sold to satisfy the owners lien at Turbo Storage, located on-line or at 1625 N. Logsdon Parkway, Radcliff, KY 40160. The sale shall occur online via storagetreasures.com starting October 4, 2025 at 9am EST. The sale may be withdrawn at anytime without notice. Certain terms and conditions apply. See manager for details (270-506-5602).

78 - Jake Leonard
81 - Katherine Palmer -
73 - Teresa Jenkins
40 - Elsie Valdez

Vessels Roofing

"The oldest roofing company in Hardin County!"

- Flashing Chimneys
- Skylites
- Dormers
- Gutters & Guards
- Vinyl Siding
- Soffit Work
- And More

Specializing In Residential Roofing Projects

270-737-7464

www.vesselsroofing.com

BBB A+ RATING

THE NEWS-ENTERPRISE
2025
Readers' Choice
Winner

Bailey's Masonry, Inc.

Since 1980

BRICK • BLOCK • CHIMNEY CLEANING/INSPECTIONS

1331 Battle Training Road, Elizabethtown

270-765-0969

Fully Licensed & Insured - Bonded
Billy J. Bailey, Owner - info@baileymasonry.com

Commercial - Industrial - Residential

TUCK POINTING • FOUNDATION REPAIRS • REPAIRING OF FIREPLACES AND CHIMNEYS

NAHB
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION
OF HOME BUILDERS

BBB A+ RATING

ITBBA
INTERNATIONAL
TUBES & BRICKS ASSOCIATION

FREE ESTIMATES

G. RIGGS

Construction & Home Improvement

Shingles- Metal Roofing and Siding!
Remodeling - Home Improvements
Windows & Doors - Metal Roofs - Drywall
Guttering - Painting - Decks - All Types of Carpentry
Insurance Claims

270-360-0493 • 270-401-9899

Building/Metal Distributor Fully Insured

LIL MAN'S SERVICES

William or Bill Peak
270-735-6219

Specializing in:

- Fire, Water & Smoke Damage • Odor Control
- Janitorial • Carpet Cleaning: Exotic Rugs & Fabrics
- Remodeling • Handyman Services

Carpet Cleaning - 3 Areas \$99

Servicing Our Community for over 50 Years