



INSIDE:
The 'Bowden Bowl' is no longer fun for the first family of college football
Page C5



Top 5

1. Jimmie Johnson

2. Carl Edwards

3. Kyle Busch

4. Jeff Burton

5. Dale Earnhardt Jr.

Johnson secures top Chase spot

Will at least be tied for first when Chase starts

The Associated Press

FONTANA, Calif. — Jimmie Johnson grabbed a victory Sunday night at California Speedway, clinching a spot in NASCAR's Chase for the Nextel Cup championship and guaranteeing he will be no worse than a tie for the top seed in the 10-race playoff.

Johnson dominated the second half of the Sharp Aquos 500, a race that began in bright sunshine with temperatures over 100 degrees and finished under the lights. It was his fifth victory of the season, but

his first since May 6 at Richmond.

This one was just as important, though, with NASCAR awarding a 10-point bonus for each win this season in seeding the 12 drivers who will compete in the Chase.

There was some shuffling at the bottom of that group, with Martin Truex Jr. and Kurt Busch each moving up one spot to 10th and 11th, respectively, while Daytona 500 winner Kevin Harvick slipped from 10th to 12th.

Dale Earnhardt Jr., began and ended the race in 13th, despite a solid fifth-place

finish. But he did cut his margin from 158 behind Busch coming in to 128 behind Harvick heading into next Saturday night's race at Richmond, the final event before the start of the Chase.

Johnson, who took the lead for good after a series of green flag pit stops 32 laps from the end of the 250-lap event, easily held off runner-up Carl Edwards in the waning laps. Kyle Busch finished third, followed by Jeff Burton, Earnhardt, Matt Kenseth, Truex, Brian Vickers and Kurt Busch.

Harvick finished 13th.



AP photo

Jimmie Johnson dominated at the end to win in California on Sunday night.



Final Round
2 p.m., NBC



AP photo

Serena Williams won Sunday to advance in the Open.

Williams sisters on their way to Open matchup

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — When you hear about Serena and Venus Williams overpowering opponents, as happened Sunday at the U.S. Open to two recent Grand Slam finalists, it's easy to forget that the sisters are, indeed, individuals.

And as similar as their on-court styles might seem, all stinging serves and gargantuan groundstrokes, they are not quite carbon copies.

That point was driven home by their father and coach, Richard, who sat courtside for the final game of Serena's 6-3, 6-4 victory over Wimbledon runner-up Marion Bartoli, then watched Venus' 6-4, 6-2 win against French Open runner-up Ana Ivanovic.

"Serena reminds me of a pit bull dog and a young Mike Tyson, all in one," Dad said Sunday. "Venus reminds me of a gazelle that's able to move, prance and jump. Venus looks as if she is really enjoying herself out there more than Serena is right now. If they get by everyone and meet each other, it will be an interesting match."

Another all-Williams showdown is indeed nearing at Flushing Meadows, although unlike six previous meetings for major titles — Serena leads 5-1 in those finals, Venus leads 7-6 overall — this one would be a semifinal.

"That would be awesome because it would mean that there is a Williams in the final," Venus said. She also noted: "We have one more step."

For Serena, it's a familiar one. She will face No. 1 Justine Henin in the quarterfinals at a third consecutive major, having lost to her at the French Open and Wimbledon.

Please see **OPEN**, Page C4

Pair of Aces

Mickelson, Woods together in final round

The Associated Press

NORTON, Mass. — The first two days of Tiger Woods and Phil Mickelson were a showcase for the PGA Tour Playoffs.

This time figures to be far more meaningful.

Never mind that neither of them were in the lead Sunday at the Deutsche Bank Championship. That belonged to Brett Wetterich, who saved himself with an amazing par and emerged from the pack with an eagle on his way to a 5-under 66 for a one-

shot lead over Arron Oberholser (66) on a dynamic afternoon at TPC Boston.

The focus, not to mention the crowds, shifts to Woods and Mickelson in a Labor Day finish. The longtime rivals will be paired in the final round for the first time since the 2005 Ford Championship at Doral.

Neither of them knew it when they signed their cards — Mickelson after scrambling for a 68 that left him two shots behind, Woods after wasting a good round by three-putting the last two greens for a 67 to finish three shots behind Wetterich.

Please see **PGA**, Page C4

Leaderboard

1. Brett Wetterich (-13)
2. Arron Oberholser (-12)
3. Phil Mickelson (-11)
- T-4. Aaron Baddeley (-10)
- T-4. Tiger Woods (-10)
- T-6. Camilo Villegas (-9)
- T-6. Angel Cabrera (-9)

INGE'S DAY
SUNDAY VS. ATHLETICS
► 0-4, run scored, strikeout
IN 8-7 LOSS

NEXT GAME:
► TUESDAY vs
WHITE SOX

SEASON STATS
AVG. HR RBI
234 12 60

*Detroit Tigers third baseman
Brandon Inge is a
Brookville High School graduate.*

Major League Baseball

Tom Glavine helps the Mets beat his old team from Atlanta
Page C3

WHAT'S IN THIS SECTION

USA Basketball
LeBron James and the U.S. team win the FIBA championship
Page C2



Today's TOP TV games

MLB: Phillies @ Braves
4 p.m., TBS

College FB: FSU @ Clem.
8 p.m., ESPN