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Bringing Home the Big Finish - MAKE Motorsports Texas Truck Recap

Shelby, NC (November 6, 2010) - NASCAR Camping World Truck Series driver T.J. Bell came to Texas with positive thoughts - hoping to come home with a season's best finish in the No. 50 Liberty Tire Recycling Chevrolet Silverado for MAKE Motorsports; as well as tackling some "Texas demons" from his previous 7 starts at the track. Three of the previous seven were ended early due to accidents or engine failures, dashing the hopes of the talented driver. Bell fought the loose handling of the No. 50 Liberty Tire Recycling Chevrolet for a majority of the WinStar World Casino 350K under the lights Friday night, but he rallied back to finish 19th at Texas Motor Speedway, earning the No. 50 team its first top-20 finish of the season.

Starting in 27th position in the No. 50 truck for the first team appearance at the 1.5-mile treacherous oval, Bell took the green flag for the WinStar World Casino 350K from the middle of the 37-truck pack. The first of four caution flags of the night waved before the completion of the second lap for a two-truck incident in turn four, with Bell running in the 23rd position and gaining ground. While under yellow, crew chief Scott Weaver asked Bell about the handling of his truck, and he replied that the truck was three words: loose, loose, loose.

Restarting on lap six, Bell restarted in 23rd position as the drivers began a long green-flag run. On lap 22, Bell relayed to Weaver that the truck was turning way loose into the turns and needed less grip, as well as tight off the turns. Weaver started a game plan, promising to improve the truck when the team made their first pit stop of the evening, but it wasn't until lap 42 that the field would see the yellow flag again.

Bell entered the pits for his first scheduled pit stop of the evening in the 22nd position, and the team gave him four tires, fuel, an air-pressure adjustment and track bar adjustment. Gaining a position in the pits thanks to a speedy pit crew, Bell restarted in 21st on lap 49, but he immediately slipped back into 23rd position. Before Bell could completely assess his truck, the yellow flag waved once again on lap 53 for a multi-truck wreck involving Series favorite & champion Ron Hornaday, the damage from which ended the night for the No. 33 truck. Restarting on lap 60, Bell gained position to 20th thanks to another fast pit job by the team. No adjustments were made at the second stop of the night, just fuel cap off. By lap 87, Bell continued to run 20th, but was running lap times .3 seconds off leader pace.

Still tight off the corners by lap 91 and falling a lap down in the No. 50 truck, Bell followed as the leaders began making green-flag pit stops on lap 94. Bell brought the No. 50 Liberty Tire Recycling Chevrolet down pit road on lap 96 while running 23rd, and the team gave him four tires and fuel, opting out of any adjustments based on pit strategy and upcoming track conditions. Returning to the track in the 22nd position as pit stops continued to cycle through the field, Bell immediately stated that the truck was loose off in the center of the turns. Maintaining position for several laps with impressive wheel handling,

Bell waited for a caution - and got it- as the yellow flag waved for the final time on lap 122. Weaver decided to keep Bell in the field to gain the lap back as other crews came down pit road.

Bell restarted in 19th on lap 127 as the field took the green for the final 20 laps. Even though he was closing the gap between himself and the trucks in front of him, Bell and his competitors were too spread out for him to improve his position any more before the checkered flag waved.

"I'm really happy with the finish tonight," said Bell. "We had so many great people from Liberty Tire Recycling here to celebrate Pinnacle Rubber Mulch, and it felt good to bring home the first top 20 for my MAKE Motorsports owners. I know this track well, and like a lot of drivers, I've had my test of bad luck and 'that's racing' moments. It's awesome to end up on a high, especially after battling from loose to tight and back. I'm proud of our team and we're looking forward to seeing what's next for the No. 50 truck."

Kyle Busch took the checkered flag, followed by Johnny Sauter, Matt Crafton, and Todd Bodine. The No. 2 remains fifth in the Owner's Point Standings.

The Truck Series hits the track again on Friday, November 12th for the Lucas Oil 150 at Phoenix International Raceway. The race can be seen live on SPEED at 7:30 p.m. ET.

MEDIA CONTACT:

Demi Knight Clark, Girl Friday PR & Marketing
MAKE Motorsports & the #50 NCWTS Series Chevy Silverado
demi@girlfridaypr.com
803.389.7153