

KENTUCKY SPEEDWAY TIMELINE



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Coming July 9!

July 10, 1998

Investor group comprised of Jerry Carroll (Carroll Properties), Dick Duchossois (Chamberlain Industries), Richard Farmer (Cintas Corp.), John Lindahl (State Industries) and Outback Steakhouse, Inc., represented by Chris Sullivan breaks ground on the 66,089-capacity Kentucky Speedway. The speedway was the largest excavation project in Kentucky history displacing 7.2 million cubic yards of earth. The facility was constructed with 48,000 cubic yards of concrete, the equivalent of a 50-story building.

June 16-17, 2000

Kentucky Speedway stages its first event weekend with NASCAR All-Pro and Camping World Truck series events. Roush Fenway Racing driver Greg Biffle takes the NCWTS event title and Billy Bigley, Jr., emerges from the All-Pro tilt as the first race winner in track history.

July 2, 2000

Kentucky Speedway plays host to its first ARCA event won by Tim Steele.

July 8, 2000

Kentucky Speedway attracts 52,147 to a Metallica's Summer Sanitorium Tour stop.

August 26-27, 2000

Kentucky Speedway combines ARCA and IndyCar racing for the first time in a dual-event weekend. Penske Racing driver Ryan Newman claims the ARCA victory and Buddy Lazier nails down the first major open-wheel victory in speedway history.

May 11-12, 2001

Kentucky Speedway opens its first four-weekend season with a 150-mile ARCA race. Franklin, Ind., driver Frank Kimmel earns the first of his four all-time series victories at the track.

June 16, 2001

Kentucky Speedway plays host to its first NASCAR Nationwide Series 300-mile event. Richard Childress Racing driver Kevin Harvick earns his first Kentucky Speedway win in front of a capacity crowd.

August 12, 2001

Buddy Lazier becomes the first back-to-back single-series event winner at Kentucky Speedway with a 300-mile IndyCar Series race victory.

June 16, 2002

Todd Bodine nips Greg Biffle by .036 of a second in the closest NASCAR Nationwide Series finish in track history.

August 10, 2002

IndyCar Series driver Sarah Fisher becomes the first woman to earn the pole award for a major North American open-wheel event and sets the standing series track qualifying record with a 221.390-mph lap.

August 11, 2002

Brazilian Felipe Giaffone becomes the first internationally-born driver to claim a Kentucky Speedway victory in a 300-mile IndyCar Series event.

Kentucky Speedway Timeline / 2

June 6-8, 2003

Kentucky Speedway stages its first three-day "Country Stampede" music festival featuring artists such as Rodney Atkins, Gary Allan, Lonestar, Brad Paisley and Phil Vassar. Announced attendance was 90,000.

July 12, 2003

Roush Fenway racer Carl Edwards earns his first NASCAR-sanctioned victory in a Camping World Truck Series 225-mile event.

May 7-8, 2004

Kentucky Speedway opens its first five-weekend season with a 150-mile ARCA race and an American Speed Association 125-mile event. Other series included on the season schedule were the NASCAR Nationwide Series, NASCAR Camping World Truck Series and IndyCar Series. The first Triple Header Fall Classic showcased the NASCAR Elite Division, Dash Series and American Speed Association. Scott Lagasse, Jr. earns the current closest victory in track history by crossing the finish line .014 of a second in front of Wade Day in the ASA event.

June 3-6, 2004

Kentucky Speedway stages the four-day "Country Stampede" music festival for 121,000 fans. Reba McEntire and Martina McBride were among the headlining artists.

June 19, 2004

Then Hendrick Motorsports driver Kyle Busch becomes the first competitor to earn back-to-back Kentucky Speedway wins in different series with a 300-mile NASCAR Nationwide Series victory. Busch claimed his first Kentucky Speedway win in a 205-mile ARCA event on May 10, 2003.

June 18, 2005

Roush Fenway racer Carl Edwards earns his first NASCAR Nationwide Series Kentucky Speedway victory in a 300-mile event. He becomes the first multiple NASCAR-sanctioned event winner in Kentucky Speedway history.

July 30, 2005

Kentucky Speedway presents a stand-alone country music concert featuring artists Tim McGraw, Trick Pony and Billy Dean for 16,120 fans.

August 13, 2005

Rahal Letterman Racing driver Danica Patrick earns her first Kentucky Speedway pole award and becomes the second female competitor in track history to earn an IndyCar Series pole award. Patrick was awarded the top spot on the starting grid on the basis of combined practice times after traditional qualifying was rained out. She clicked off her best practice lap at 217.516 mph.

September 10, 2005

Blue Ash, Ohio native Jeff Fultz becomes the first five-time single-series event winner in track history with a 150-mile NASCAR Elite Division win.

June 18, 2006

NASCAR Nationwide Series driver David Gilliland earns an upset win in an unsponsored car. The 43-car field featured NASCAR Sprint Cup Series regulars Kyle Busch, Clint Bowyer, Carl Edwards, Denny Hamlin and Kevin Harvick. Several national writers term the feat the biggest upset in NASCAR history.

June 15, 2007

Stephen Leicht becomes second straight NASCAR Nationwide Series driver to earn his first career series victory in a Kentucky Speedway 300-mile event.

July 13, 2007

Evernham Motorsports driver Erin Crocker becomes the first three-time Kentucky Speedway female pole award winner by earning her fifth career ARCA pole award with a 178.731-mph qualifying effort.

Kentucky Speedway Timeline / 3

May 22, 2008

Speedway Motorsports, Inc., announces its intent to purchase Kentucky Speedway at a news conference at Charlotte Motor Speedway in Concord, N.C.

June 14, 2008

Joe Gibbs Racing phenom Joey Logano earns his first NASCAR Nationwide Series and Kentucky Speedway victories in a 300-mile event. He becomes the youngest victor in NASCAR Nationwide Series history at age 18 years and 21 days.

Dec. 31, 2008

Kentucky Speedway officially becomes the eighth member of the Speedway Motorsports, Inc., family and joins premier facilities such as Atlanta Motor Speedway, Bristol Motor Speedway, Infineon Raceway, Las Vegas Motor Speedway, Lowe's Motor Speedway, New Hampshire Motor Speedway and Texas Motor Speedway.

February 16, 2009

Speedway Motorsports, Inc., invests \$13.5 million in a facility enhancement project which expands general parking areas, establishes more than 200 infield campsites, augments track access roads and enhances the overall guest experience with new entrance areas and a restroom/bathhouse facility.

May 9 - August 1, 2009

Kentucky Speedway opens its 10th season and first as a member of the Speedway Motorsports, Inc., organization with a 150-mile ARCA race won by James Buescher. Joey Logano becomes the first repeat NASCAR Nationwide Series pole award and race winner in track history June 13. Ron Hornaday, Jr., earns his second career Kentucky Speedway NASCAR Camping World Series victory July 18, just before Parker Kligerman visits Victory Lane following a 150-mile ARCA battle. Ryan Briscoe beats Ed Carpenter to the Kentucky Speedway finish line by .0162 of a second on Aug. 1 to claim the second-closest race victory in track history, the closest IndyCar Series victory in track history and the 11th-closest victory in IndyCar Series history. The race also was the then second fastest in series history with an average speed of 200.853 mph. The track has produced two of the three fastest all-time IndyCar Series races. Wade Cunningham earns an Indy Lights victory earlier that day. Overall, five of the six events on the 2009 Kentucky Speedway schedule were decided by a margin of victory of less than one second.

July 9, 2009

Kentucky Gov. Steve Beshear visits the track to ceremoniously sign House Bill 3 which provides economic incentives which can benefit the speedway if it attracts a NASCAR Sprint Cup Series event.

June 11-12, 2010

Kentucky Speedway opens its 11th season by playing host to NASCAR Nationwide Series practice day and the 10th 300-mile series race in track history. Joe Gibbs Racing driver Joey Logano maintains his perfect Kentucky Speedway career record by taking his third consecutive pole award and third consecutive series victory at the track on June 12. Logano leads 106 of 200 race laps and edges Carl Edwards by 0.662 of a second at the finish line.

August 10, 2010

Speedway Motorsports, Inc., Chairman and CEO Bruton Smith announces Kentucky Speedway's inaugural NASCAR Sprint Cup Series 400-mile event is scheduled for Saturday, July 9, 2011.