

Kyle Larson finally gets a chance to run in traffic at Indy

BY JENNA FRYER
AP AUTO RACING WRITER

INDIANAPOLIS — Kyle Larson's parents took a swing by the Arrow McLaren merchandise truck at Indianapolis Motor Speedway and quickly alerted their superstar son to a potential problem.

"They were like, 'Man, if I was your teammates I'd be pretty pissed because it's basically all you,'" Larson said Wednesday as he waited out a second day of rain at the speedway.

Larson is the star of the upcoming Indianapolis 500 as he becomes the fifth driver in history to attempt both "The Greatest Spectacle in Racing" and NASCAR's crown jewel Coca-Cola 600 on the same day. John Andretti, Tony Stewart, Robby Gordon and Kurt Busch have attempted "The Double," with Stewart in 2001 the only one to complete 1,100 miles (1,770 kilometers).

"If Tony can do it, I can do it," Larson said, smiling when talking about the physical demands of the two grueling races. Stewart



Kyle Larson

did "The Double" twice but only completed all the laps in his second attempt; he was ninth, but four laps down, at Indy in 1999 but completed the entire Coke 600 and finished fourth.

He worked with a personal trainer to better prepare himself for his 2001 effort.

Larson has not talked to Stewart about his attempts, but he had one conversation with Busch, who was the last driver to attempt "The Double," in 2014. Busch finished sixth at Indy but his engine failed at Charlotte with roughly 200 miles to go.

Larson doesn't really want to pick the brains of those who have tried this stunt before him. NASCAR's 2021 season champion races so many different styles of cars so many nights of the week that he prefers to figure out what he's doing on his own.

"I really like to try and learn things, as



AP Photo/Michael Conroy

Kyle Larson climbs into his car before the start of practice for the Indianapolis 500 auto race at Indianapolis Motor Speedway in Indianapolis on Wednesday.

much as I can, on my own," Larson said. "I've never been that type of driver to get info from other drivers. I just try to figure it out, and then as I'm doing it, and I have questions, then I ask.

"But when I don't know what to expect, I

don't know what to ask. So I haven't talked to too many people."

The problem for Larson is the rain that soaked the speedway both Tuesday and Wednesday. He got in only two laps on opening day before all of Tuesday was washed

out. The Wednesday schedule was revised to add two hours of track time for a total of eight hours, but it was still raining long after lunch.

IndyCar said it hoped to have cars on the track from 3 p.m. until 7 p.m., but the session was consistently dis-

rupted by rain. Larson got in 47 laps and hit a top speed of 225.245 mph as he struggled with learning the nuances of running in traffic around Indy.

"I feel like I know what I need to feel in traffic, but then it's

SEE LARSON/PAGE B6

WATKINS

FROM PAGE B1

"It gives me the opportunity to sell my skills in front of bigger levels of coaches," Watkins said.

Former Christian County interim head coach Zach Self said that Watkins is truly an exceptional athlete and an even better person.

It's clear from Watkins that in searching out a future home where he can continue his academics and football career that he wants to be somewhere where he truly feels valued, and both he and the institution make an effort to build a relationship. He said he looks for hospitality.

In talking with his

current head coach at Christian County Ethan Atchley and the rest of the coaching staff, their message to him has been to not settle. He said they want to continue to push him and get him to higher levels to bring out more of what he can do.

Through it all so far, Watkins said that he's been able to learn more about himself and has been able to bond with his teammates, as well as work with what he's got right now. Over the past couple of seasons, he's been able to learn a lot from the older players as he noted that he was the only sophomore that started on defense.

"They were trying to get me comfortable and set me up for success," Watkins said.

It's clear that Atchley knows that Watkins can be a key piece of the team's offense and defense. He said that Watkins works really hard and that they're excited to put him in a leader like role.

"He, right now, is somebody coming back from some tendinitis for us," Atchley said. "With our new dash or timing system, he's at the top three or four that we've got that right now. [He] is running close to 20 miles an hour in terms of a fly dead conversion, and so speed is definitely a huge asset of his. In doing some spring stuff, while we didn't have helmets his ability to track the ball and cover as a safe. At the same time, trying to get our kids

to understand we got to work to get to one and a half way players. As much as you may have thought before he was a defensive only type kid. Finding roles for him on both sides with that kind of speed is something we're looking to take advantage of. We're going to do everything we can to put guys like him on the field."

He acknowledged how Watkins and many others have lofty expectations. He said that they're trying to teach him and the other players what it takes to be successful when the wins haven't come in bunches despite how talented of a group of players they have.

It's evident that they want to get all the play-

ers on the same page, and hopefully get back to the winning tradition that Christian County once had. But he made it clear that if you're not communicating, you're not going to end up on the same page.

He said that a lot of programs would give anything to have the talent that they do. Despite the lingering tendinitis Watkins is dealing with,

Atchley said that he's doing everything that doctors and their trainer are telling him to do. He also said that while he's taking limited reps, he's finding ways to help out his teammates.

UHA

FROM PAGE B1

Everybody's at a different level. Just because you might not be an expert, that doesn't

mean you're not valued. Those are things that we try to teach and not only in basketball, but in all sports," Hayes said.

The cost of the camp will be \$60 per child. Parents can sign their

kids up on the day of the camp or earlier.

Reach out to Hayes for the camp form at thayes@uha-ky.org. Make checks

payable to Terry Hayes and sent to Terry Hayes Basketball Camp, care of University Heights Academy, 1300 Academy Drive Hopkinsville, KY 42240.

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ATHLETE OF THE WEEK
Hopkinsville High School's **Dylan Mitchell**

Hopkinsville High School's Dylan Mitchell signs to bowl for Thomas More University's "Saints" on Monday. The Saints compete in the Great Midwest Athletic Conference, G-MAC. Dylan will start bowling next Fall.

The Saints earned the Elite 26 award in the 2023-24 season which is an academic award given to the student-athlete with the highest GPA in the conference. Our congratulations to Dylan.

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LEGAL
2012 Dodge Charger VIN# 2C3CDXCT6CH104254 Owner Marcellous Bush, State Auto Ins, Westlake Financial

These vehicles are set to be sold 10am May 31, 2024, at 6020 Greenville Road Hopkinsville, KY 42240. They are being sold for repair and storage fees. The selling company is Tatum's Auto Repair & Towing Service 1605 E 7th Street Hopkinsville, KY 42240 (270)885-2329. Operation hours are Monday through Friday 9am to 5pm.

LEGAL
INVITATION TO BID
Bids will be received by the Christian County Fiscal Court for the construction of a new Concession Stand for the HC-CYL at Ruff Park in Hopkinsville, Kentucky . Sealed bids will be addressed to County Judge Executive Jerry Gilliam, 216 West 7th Street, Hopkinsville, KY 42240, and clearly marked "CONCESSION STAND". Bids shall be deposited with County Judge Executive Gilliam no later than 2:00 p.m. prevailing time, Tuesday, May 28, 2024. General instructions and Specifications may be obtained at the County Judge Executive Jerry Gilliam, 216 West 7th Street, Hopkinsville, KY 42240, during regular business hours, Monday through Friday. Christian Fiscal Court

LEGAL
Trigg County Schools Board of Education will accept sealed bids for used cafeteria tables and chairs. To see complete bid instructions, see district website, <https://www.trigg.kyschools.us> . If you have any questions please call Lisa Marsh at 270-522-2228, or email at lisa.marsh@trigg.kyschools.us

LEGAL
SPECIAL CALLED MEETING NOTICE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
In accordance with KRS.424, notice is hereby given that the Historic Preservation Commission will hold a special called meeting on May 22, 2024, at 4:00 P.M., in the Council Chambers of the Hopkinsville Municipal Center, 715 South Virginia Street, Hopkinsville, KY. The agenda for the special called meeting is as follows:
I. Pledge of Allegiance
II. Call to Order
III. Roll Call
IV. Determination of Quorum and Voting Status
V. New Business
A. COA24-4-1
REQUEST: The applicants, Ray & Deborah Anderton (Owners), are requesting a Certificate of Appropriateness (COA) to allow for renovation and alterations of a structure on the property located at 1737 South Main Street, Hopkinsville, KY. The proposed renovation and alteration is to convert the rear "cook's house" into a screened in porch. The property is located in the Mount Pleasant Historic District, which has adopted Historic Preservation Guidelines. The guidelines require a Certificate of Appropriateness (COA) prior to the alteration of site and setting and the alteration of any exterior part of a structure.
VI. Other Business
VII. Adjournment

COMMUNITY AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES
710 SOUTH MAIN STREET
HOPKINSVILLE, KY 42240

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CLASSIFIED DEADLINES

PUBLICATION DATE	DEADLINE
TUESDAY	THURSDAY 3 PM
THURSDAY	MONDAY 3 PM
SATURDAY	WEDNESDAY 3 PM

Contact Customer Service at (270) 886-4444, Option 1 or classifieds@kentuckynewera.com
Monday-Friday 7AM-3PM
Holidays advance deadlines by 24 hours.