



Press Release

(For immediate distribution)

Raphael Lessard Demonstrates His Maturity In The Nascar Gander Outdoors Series

JEGS 200 at Dover International Speedway - Friday, May 3rd, 2019

Dover, (Delaware, USA), **May 4th, 2019** - Raphael Lessard's performance in his #46 FRL Express Toyota Tundra | Spectra Premium truck right from the first practice and laps in the NASCAR Gander Outdoors Truck series race impressed everyone who works with him. **The young Canadian driver recorded the fastest lap in the first test session** (Thursday, May 2nd) **among the 32 drivers on track**, and set the sixth-quickest time in the second session. Raphael Lessard qualified in seventh position (0.316 sec. from pole) and started fifth after the driver in front of him on the grid had changed his engine and was relegated to the back of the grid by NASCAR officials. Moving up and down from sixth to fifteenth position during the race, Raphael fought tirelessly to a well deserved eleventh place finish.

This race was the first time Raphael Lessard drove on this unique and quickest of the intermediate tracks because of the high banking. The two Thursday sessions (a total of two hours on the track), showed that Raphael Lessard added to his level of professionalism during each outing, understanding more and more about race strategy and its effect on suspension setup, and on communicating more effectively with his team members. The crew made several changes to the truck during both sessions, starting by quickly repairing an oil leak in the first few minutes on the track, before focusing on correcting the excessive oversteer.

A methodical approach saw the team members from the Kyle Busch Motorsports (KBM) team repeat several iterations of changes and testing it on the track for a few laps. The team also mounted new tires and ran a mock qualifying run to prepare for the real one on Friday (May 3rd).

"I felt comfortable from the beginning. I learned more of the characteristics of the track and how to reduce my lap times at each outing. During my fastest lap at the end of the first session, with new tires, I was also careful to find their limit when cold," explains the driver who is fully committed to the project. The qualifying session confirmed the high level of competitiveness in this series (With 21 drivers in the same second behind the pole lap time).

Race

Starting from fifth place on the grid, Raphael Lessard remained in the top-10 until the 46th of the 200-lap race (stage 1). He restarted the race on lap 48 from thirteenth place, dropping to fifteenth (stage 2 – lap 100). He then fought with a few other drivers over positions 10 to 12, all the way to a lap 195 yellow flag, the one Raphael Lessard did not want, as he dropped to a hard-fought eleventh place off the restart when tenth place had been within reach.

After the race, Raphaël Lessard analyzed what happened lucidly: "I am still learning everything after only two races at the wheel of my Toyota Tundra #46 FRL Express | Spectra Premium race truck. The understeer was acute right from the start of the race, and I adapted my driving to compensate. I had never noticed the effects of the air on the truck on slower tracks I am used to, but I certainly did feel it

here because Dover is so fast. When I followed two or three trucks in a small pack, I no longer received any air on the front of the truck and it would lose downforce and increase the understeer, making passing even more difficult. In addition, the narrow track forced everyone to drive very close to each other at very high speeds, something that I got used to quickly. In fact, I have learned a lot in this race, and I am satisfied with the improvements," added the driver who shows his growing skills and maturity with every presence on the track.

Raphael Lessard 2019 Season

DATE	TRACK	SERIES	TEAM	GRID	RESULT	Notes
March 9, 2019	Five Flags Speedway, Pensacola, USA	ARCA	KBR Development	6th	8th	Led 83 of 250 laps
March 23, 2019	Martinsville Speedway, Virginia, USA	Gander Outdoors Truck	Kyle Busch Motorsports	7th	14th	---
April 6th, 2019	Bristol Motor Speedway, Tennessee, USA	K&N Pro East	Bill McAnally Racing	17th	9th	Mechanical problem and team penalty
May 3, 2019	Dover International Speedway, Delaware, USA	NASCAR Gander Outdoors Truck	Kyle Busch Motorsports	7th	11th	Quickest time in practice session
June 29, 2019	Autodrome Chaudière	NASCAR Pinty's	Dumoulin Compétition			
August 15, 2019	Bristol Motor Speedway, Tennessee, USA	Gander Outdoors Truck	Kyle Busch Motorsports			

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High Resolution Pictures: <http://bit.ly/2Glu66p>

ABOUT RAPHAEL LESSARD

Born on July 5, 2001, in Saint-Joseph-de-Beauce, Quebec, Canada, Raphael Lessard is one of the most promising prospects in North American oval racing. Raphael made his debut in stock-cars in 2013, on local tracks in the Quebec City area. His exceptional talent quickly allowed him to climb the ladder and attract the attention of David Gilliland, a former NASCAR Monster Energy Series driver and now a team owner, in 2015. An agreement then allowed Lessard to participate in the last four races of the season in the PASS North Tour Series; a Late Model series on paved ovals, at the wheel of a David Gilliland Racing team car.

In 2016, his first full-time season with Gilliland Racing, Lessard won the CARS Super Late Model Tour title with four wins, 8 top five and 9 top ten in his No. 99 Toyota Camry, and thus becoming the youngest Canadian driver to win a major stock car series title in the United States. Since 2016, Lessard has been

part of the Toyota Racing Development (TRD) prestigious driver development program. To date, he is the only Canadian to have been recruited into this program.

2018 - 16 races - Super Late Model with Kyle Busch Motorsports

- Two wins, seven top-5s and 13 top-10s
- Wins the U.S. Short Track Nationals race at Bristol Motor Speedway
- Wins the Red Bull 400 at Anderson Speedway
- Leads 60 laps at the famous Snowball Derby in December, before a mechanical problem puts him out of the race with only six (6) laps to go.

2017 - Competed in 20 Super Late Model races and two ARCA series races

- Two wins and eight top-5 finishes in the Super Late Model category
- A top-10 from two races in the ARCA series
- Voted the most popular driver in North America by Speed51.com
- Voted as one of the top 10 drivers to watch in 2017 by Speed51.com
- Named by Speed51.com Short Track Power Ranking as 7th best driver in the United States

2016 - Participated in 10 races

- CARS Super Late Model Series Champion
- Youngest Canadian driver to win a prestigious stock-car series in the United States
- Four wins, eight top-5s and nine top-10s in 10 races

ABOUT KYLE BUSCH MOTORSPORTS

Since debuting in 2010, Kyle Busch Motorsports (KBM) has quickly established itself as one of the most successful teams in all of NASCAR. Owned by 2015 Cup Series champion Kyle Busch and fueled by his passion for winning, his organization holds the Gander Outdoors Truck Series records for most team wins (72) and most team wins in a single season (14 in 2014). In addition to collecting a series record six Owner's Championships, the organization has produced two championship-winning drivers; Erik Jones (2015) and Christopher Bell (2017).

KBM prepares a fleet of race-winning Tundras out of a state-of-the-art 77,000-square-foot facility in Mooresville (N.C.) Fans can keep up-to-date with all the latest KBM news online at KyleBuschMotorsports.com, by liking the team on Facebook ([KBMteam](https://www.facebook.com/KBMteam)) and by following the team on Instagram ([KBMteam](https://www.instagram.com/KBMteam)) and Twitter ([@KBMteam](https://twitter.com/KBMteam)).

ABOUT TOYOTA

Toyota (NYSE:TM), creator of the Prius hybrid and the Mirai fuel cell vehicle, is committed to building vehicles for the way people live through our Toyota and Lexus brands. Over the past 60 years, we've built more than 30 million cars and trucks in North America, where we operate 14 manufacturing plants (10 in the U.S.) and directly employ more than 44,000 people (more than 34,000 in the U.S.). Our 1,800 North American dealerships (nearly 1,500 in the U.S.) sold nearly 2.6 million cars and trucks (2.45 million in the U.S.) in 2016 - and about 85 percent of all Toyota vehicles sold over the past 15 years are still on the road today.

ABOUT FRL EXPRESS Inc.

F.R.L. Express Inc. is a general transportation company founded in 2004 by François Lessard. Its main field of activity over the last 15 years is general transport in closed trailers over short and long distances in Canada and the United States. FRL currently have about 50 employees in addition to about ten tow carriers. FRL owners are proud of the progress made in recent years thanks to the FRL team members and wishes to continue on this positive note. "Our employees, customer service and satisfaction are our priorities. We are all proud to be partners in the success and achievements of our son Raphael Lessard," state the proud parents.

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