

Mooresville, N.C. (02-19-2011) – Friday night, under the lights at Daytona International Speedway, Todd Bodine fired up the No. 30 Tire Kingdom Tundra for its maiden voyage. The sponsor is new to Germain Racing and the team was geared up to give Tire Kingdom a great night in the season opener for the 2011 NASCAR Camping World Truck Series. Unfortunately, the luck that had been so keenly on the side of Bodine and the No. 30 team at Daytona seemed to have run out. The No. 30 Tire Kingdom Tundra had a starring roll in two big crashes in the 100-lap event that resulted in a 23rd-place finish, four laps shy of the scheduled race distance.

“It’s not how we wanted to start this relationship with Tire Kingdom and Service Center or how we wanted to start the season with Valvoline. They’ve been a great sponsor for our team,” said Bodine who hadn’t finished worse than fifth in Trucks at Daytona prior to Friday night. “We’ll come back again, we’ll get them at Phoenix. It’s a new points system, so we’ll see how it shakes out.”

After the first crash, the Tire Kingdom pit crew did a repair job that should make the Service Center crowd cheer. The No. 30 Tire Kingdom Tundra suffered several hits to the nose and rear of the truck, but was able to go back on track and even work back toward the front of the field.

“Never give up is not just a saying for our pit crew, it’s truly how we feel. If the Tundra is still running, and has all four wheels on the ground, we’ll do whatever it takes to get the truck back out on the race track,” said crew chief Mike Hillman Jr.

Just before the SPEED broadcast booth announcers were marveling that there were only five race trucks left late in the race that had not yet been crashed, they were commenting on how aggravating it had to be to watch the beat up Tire Kingdom Tundra passing your truck, if you were one of the undamaged vehicles left in the fray.

“Our driver doesn’t quit until we tell him there’s no way the truck is safe to race. We put the Tire Kingdom Tundra back on track, and Todd did the best he could with it,” said Hillman Jr.

“It took two crashes today to finish us off. Travis had a tire go down and we had no where to go. At the end, there, it was just a big mess. It was good tight racing tonight, but the finish certainly isn’t what we’d like to have seen for our Tire Kingdom Toyota Tundra,” said Bodine.

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