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“HANK PARKER, JR. TAKES 5TH AT GATEWAY“

MOORESVILLE, NC (July 20, 2004) Hank Parker, Jr. went to Gateway looking for a top-5 finish. On lap 172, the final lap of a fourth attempt at a green-white-checkered finish, Hank passed fellow Toyota driver Travis Kvapil to finish fifth, and earn the honor of being the highest finishing Toyota.

After qualifying 12th, Parker, Jr. moved into the 10th position by the first caution flag on Lap 26. By not pitting, Hank would restart fifth. He would maintain that spot until the second caution on lap 40 when he pitted for tires, fuel, and a track bar adjustment. Restarting 23rd, Hank would work his way up to 11th before his second and final pit stop under caution at lap 107. Planning their pit strategy, Hank radioed that the Tundra was tight in and tight off the turns.

Wesley Sherrill, Hank's crew chief, made a call for more changes and the crew went to work. Restarting 16th on lap 113, Hank worked his way up to 13th position before the next caution flag dropped at lap 126. Under caution, Hank radioed, "That was a good change guys. The truck felt real good under that green flag run."

Hank would keep the nose of his Toyota Tundra clean until the fourth and final green-white-checker attempt. Restarting in sixth position, Hank found room on the bottom of the track to pass his way to a fifth place finish on the last lap of the race.

"This truck was just awesome tonight." Parker, Jr. said. "I am really proud of my team. Wesley (Crew Chief Wesley Sherrill) did a great job of calling for all the right adjustments tonight and the crew was awesome in getting them done." He continued, "After struggling last week at Kentucky, it feels good to come back with a top 5 finish."

Hank and the No. 21 Toyota Tundra return to the track on July 31, 2004, at Michigan International Speedway. Live television coverage will be on Speed Channel, with radio coverage on the MRN Affiliates and XM Satellite Radio.

