

THE SPORTIER

NASCAR and Car Crashes

Car crashes, even in everyday life, are scary, potentially life-threatening occurrences. Unfortunately, around 1.25 million people die from crashes worldwide every year, with approximately 3,287 every day. Though it is such a risky task, there is a whole sport based off of driving. Through the 10 years of 2001-2009, NASCAR saw an average of 220 per year. The last fatality coming from NASCAR came in 2001 when beloved driver Dale Earnhardt Sr. crashed into the side of a wall in the final lap of a race and died instantly from a head injury. There have been no fatalities since the incident, as immediately after the crash, drivers were required to wear neck stabilization devices, and walls around the track were made softer. These features gave added protection for drivers, but this past Monday held another horrific crash. In the last lap of a race, driver Ryan Newman and his car went careening into a wall, then was sent airborne and flipped on its head. Sparks flying, his car lit on fire as the safety teams attended to him quickly. As he was rushed to the hospital, everybody was thankful to hear that, through the horrible incident, Ryan Newman had faced non-life threatening injuries. Ryan Newman may have been saved by the wall absorbing contact from the initial crash and the neck stabilization system that could have kept him in place, both implemented after Dale Earnhardt Sr.'s fatal crash. Though we may not think of it, NASCAR may be one of the most dangerous sports, and further safety precautions must be implemented to protect the drivers.



DWade Up in the Rafters

This past weekend, in a 3-day long ceremony beginning Friday, Miami Heat star Dwyane Wade was immortalized in Miami forever, as his jersey was retired. Dwyane Wade was drafted by the Heat with the 5th pick in the 2003 draft, a class that also saw other future Hall of Famers such as LeBron James, Carmelo Anthony, and Chris Bosh. Over his career, Wade was featured in 13 All-Star Games, winning the All-Star Game MVP in 2010. He was additionally selected to 8 All-NBA teams and 3 All-Defensive teams. Nicknamed the Flash for his electrifying play on both sides of the ball, Wade was a 3-time Champion as well. In 2006, a young Dwyane Wade propelled the Heat back from a 2-0 deficit to the Dallas Mavericks to win his first championship. He also earned the Finals MVP award during that series. Along with the Warriors as one of the most famous super-teams of the past decade, Chris Bosh and LeBron James, former 2003 draft picks along with Wade, famously teamed up in South Beach. While the three were teamed up, they were able to achieve back-to-back NBA Finals titles. After stints in Chicago and Cleveland, Wade returned to Miami for the 2018 season, and he rode into the sunset after his 2019 season farewell tour. A Heat legend forever, Number 3 will not be worn in Miami ever again.



Sources:

[Association for Safe International Road Travel](#)

[Reinsurance Group of America](#)

[ESPN](#)

[Bleacher Report](#)

[Basketball Reference](#)