

Team

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who publicly paraded Hyder and Kennedy through the garage as they were escorted out. Waltrip's Toyota Camry was also on display as inspectors ripped pieces out from under the hood.

His team worked furiously to prepare a backup car, but it had yet to clear inspection and Waltrip got no practice time Wednesday. He will be allowed to race the backup today if it passes inspection.

Waltrip's penalties came one day after the crew chiefs for 2003 champion Matt Kenseth, Kasey Kahne, Scott Riggs and Elliott

Sadler all were suspended. All five drivers also were docked points in an unprecedented move by NASCAR, which never before had taken points before the season.

NASCAR officials would not reveal what they found in Waltrip's intake manifold, but a person with knowledge of the investigation said it was a property contained in jet fuel. The person requested anonymity because he was not authorized to discuss the details.

Pemberton said only that the substance was not jet fuel itself.

"We're not going to go into any great detail, but it was a foreign substance that we feel should not have been inside the engine, and we'll leave it at that," Pemberton said. "I don't think this is anything that we've seen in the recent past."

The substance was found during the inspection of Waltrip's Camry before Sunday's qualifying session. NASCAR seized the part and shipped it back to North Carolina for analysis.

Adding the substance, described by NASCAR as an oxygenate, would boost the octane in the fuel, thus making the engine run better at higher horsepower. It was believed by NASCAR that the substance worked its way through the fuel system.

Pemberton said the substance was discovered when a NASCAR official reached his hand into the manifold to feel for loose parts.

"When he brought his hand out, there was a substance on there that was unlike anything he had ever seen in the inspection line before," Pemberton said.

Some rival team members said they thought NASCAR should have taken away more points from Waltrip's team, because in a sport where cheating is common, tampering with the fuel is a rarity.

"Throughout the garage area I think everybody knows you don't mess around with tires, you don't mess around with the engine, the restrictor plates," Pemberton said. "Those things are very taboo."

The most recent penalty NASCAR issued for a fuel-tampering violation was harsher than Waltrip's. In May 2000, driver Jeremy Mayfield and team owner Michael Kranefuss each was penalized 151 points for a fuel-related violation found at Talladega Superspeedway.



AP PHOTO
Driver Michael Waltrip watches as his crew works on his Toyota during practice Wednesday for Sunday's Daytona 500 at the Daytona International Speedway in Daytona Beach, Fla. Waltrip was docked 100 points after NASCAR officials said they found an illegal substance in Waltrip's engine.

Coach

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demands are higher this year. More time in the weight room is stressed, and

instead of practicing early in the morning twice a week, they are now up bright and early four times a week.

"Everyone has embraced it really well," junior Brian Yount said. "We knew coming in this is how it was going to be. It was a little tough to get used to at first, but everyone has had a very positive attitude."

For Findley, the more demanding schedule is all about changing the culture at Franklin.

Despite the success the Grizzly Cubs achieved under Hass, Findley believes his techniques can take Franklin to the next level.

"I knew there was going to be a struggle changing some of the mind-sets because coach Hass had been the coach for a while, and changing what they were accustomed to was going to take time," Findley said. "But I think it's paid off in the end."

Franklin's boys team has never won a swimming sectional.

Findley is out to change that. His goal is to have the Grizzly Cubs competing with the likes of Center Grove, which has won 21 consecutive sectional crowns.

"We've always kind of been right there on the hinge of great success, but it's a matter of getting the kids to understand 'talk the talk and walk the walk,'" Findley said. "It's just going to take time to change the mind-set. The expectation is not to finish second but to win those championships. While we haven't gotten it done yet, we're getting closer."

Findley isn't far removed from the challenges of high school life.

He remembers what a bad day in high school felt like, and he believes being so young helps him interact with the team.

Junior Ben Cottongim agrees.

"Because he's only seven years older than me, he's kind of just like one of the guys most of the time, but he's also our coach," Cottongim said. "There is definitely a different connection to the swimmers because he's so young."

Franklin swimmers say Findley is much more energetic during practices and keeps practice constantly at an intense level, which means a dose of yelling.

"He's not afraid to yell, where coach Hass might not have yelled a lot," Cottongim said. "He tends to focus on looking at how to fix things and make them better, where Coach Hass was always pretty focused on the positives."

Heading into his first sectional as a head coach, Findley has high expectations and believes Franklin can compete with the two perceived favorites, Center Grove and Perry Meridian.

But he's not adopting a boom-or-bust mentality. He's looking to narrow the margin between the area's elite programs and his own and build for the future.

"I'm not sure if we're going to win sectionals this year," he said. "But this group of guys has a good chance of closing the gap."

"It's just going to take time to change the mind-set. The expectation is not to finish second but to win those championships. While we haven't gotten it done yet, we're getting closer."

Brett Findley
First-year Franklin boys swimming coach on the team's new attitude about postseason success

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