



RACING

THIS WEEK



XFINITY SEASON RECAP

2025 Xfinity Series Champion:
Jesse Love

2025 Regular Season Champion:
Connor Zilisch

9 Full-time winners:

- Connor Zilisch, 10
- Austin Hill, 4
- Justin Allgaier, 3
- Jesse Love, 2
- Brandon Jones, 2
- Taylor Gray, 1
- Sammy Smith, 1
- Sam Mayer, 1
- Nick Sanchez, 1

Wins by team:

- JR Motorsports, 17
- Joe Gibbs Racing, 6
- Richard Childress Racing, 6
- Hendrick Motorsports, 2
- Haas Factory Team, 1
- Big Machine Racing, 1

How 2025 ended:
Entering Phoenix Raceway, all signs seemingly pointed to JR Motorsports capturing its second driver championship in as many seasons. After all, three JR Motorsports wheelmen — Connor Zilisch, Justin Allgaier and Carson Kvapil — made up the 2025 Championship 4. The fourth title contender — Richard Childress Racing’s Jesse Love — had something to say about that. Though the Zilisch-Allgaier duo led a combined 111 laps and seemingly had the inside track to the title triumph in the 2025 finale, it was an inside maneuver by Love on Lap 176 that proved to be the difference maker, with Richard Childress Racing prevailing to capture its first driver title since 2019. For JR Motorsports, it was an emotional gut punch. For Love, it marked his first championship crown and completed a storybook year that saw the California native start the season with a victory (Daytona) and end with one, too.

Best race: Collaboration comes in many shapes, and the summer race at Daytona International Speedway is one memorable example. Zilisch, who broke his collarbone two weeks prior at Watkins Glen International and was looking to ease back into action, began the race and, while under caution, switched out with part-timer Parker Kligerman on Lap 13. Being credited with the points would have been a victory in itself, but instead, Kligerman wheeled the No. 88 Chevy to Victory Lane, officially netting Zilisch the race win on top of it all.

Other season highlights: A return to Mexico City for the first time since 2008 — and hometown hero Daniel Suárez winning after starting last — was plenty memorable. A bout at Pocono Raceway resulted in Zilisch — with team co-owner Dale Jr. filling in as crew chief — besting his good friend Love. How about Nick Sanchez triumphing in a thriller at EchoPark Speedway (formerly Atlanta Motor Speedway) for his first career Xfinity win? Zilisch vs. Shane van Gisbergen at Sonoma Raceway, anyone?

Stat to know: Connor Zilisch tallied 10 wins, the most by a driver in the series since Kyle Busch in 2016. Zilisch really took off come the dog days of summer, winning seven of eight races — including four straight — spanning July to September.

Looking ahead: With the O’Reilly Auto Parts Series officially entering the fold, 2026 is expected to bring plenty of vibrancy.

NASCAR SNOW PATROL

Winter season is here, and that means some of NASCAR’s venues are bound to have snowy weather. Here’s a look at some cold courses.



Watkins Glen (NY) International



New Hampshire Motor Speedway



ChicagoLand Speedway



Michigan International Speedway

O'REILLY NOTE: Viking Motorsports announced that it has expanded to two cars for the 2026 season. **Anthony Alfredo** will drive the No. 96 Chevrolet with Josh Graham as crew chief. Alfredo will join Parker Retzlaff, who will drive the No. 99 Chevrolet in 2026.



Anderson Racing signs Caruth to 10-race deal for O’Reilly Auto Parts Series

Jordan Anderson Racing Bommarito Autosport announced that **Rajah Caruth** will return to the organization for a 10-race schedule during the 2026 NASCAR O’Reilly Auto Parts Series season, driving the No. 32 Chevrolet. Caruth reunites with Jordan Anderson Racing Bommarito Autosport after making two starts with the team in 2025, continuing his steady climb through NASCAR’s national ranks. Since his O’Reilly Auto Parts Series debut in 2022, Caruth has made 22 starts across three organizations while also establishing himself as a respected front-runner in the Craftsman Truck Series. His time with Spire Motorsports included two victories, consistent speed and a strong postseason run that elevated his profile as one of the sport’s rising competitors. The team will continue to operate the No. 32 entry as a multi-driver program in 2026. Caruth’s 10-race slate with Jordan Anderson Racing Bommarito Autosport will combine with his part-time races in the No. 88 for JR Motorsports to complete a full-season schedule, giving him the opportunity to compete for the 2026 NASCAR O’Reilly Auto Parts Series championship. The collaboration between the two Chevrolet-backed organizations provides Caruth a rare and meaningful chance to run the entire year while contributing to both programs. “We’ve enjoyed getting to know Rajah and watching him continue to grow each year as a driver,” said team owner Jordan Anderson. “He brings great energy to our group and works well with everyone here. We’re excited to have him back in our Chevrolets and to play a key role in helping him run the full season and chase a championship.”

2025 CUP SERIES FINALS STANDINGS			
Champion 1 + 29 as of November 2			
Rank/Driver	Points	Rank/Driver	Points
1 Kyle Larson #5	5034	16 Josh Berry #21	2150
2 Denny Hamlin #11	5031	17 Chris Buescher #17	889
3 Chase Briscoe #19	5019	18 Ryan Preece #60	861
4 William Byron #24	5004	19 Ty Gibbs #54	783
5 Christopher Bell #20	2403	20 Brad Keselowski #6	762
6 Ryan Blaney #12	2373	21 Kyle Busch #8	737
7 Joey Logano #22	2330	22 Michael McDowell #71	734
8 Chase Elliott #9	2310	23 Carson Hocevar #77	702
9 Tyler Reddick #45	2309	24 Erik Jones #43	665
10 Ross Chastain #1	2272	25 J. H. Nemechek #42	664
11 Bubba Wallace #23	2256	26 AJ Allmendinger #16	649
12 S. v. Gisbergen #88	2192	27 Todd Gilliland #34	616
13 Alex Bowman #48	2192	28 Zane Smith #38	615
14 Austin Cindric #2	2156	29 Daniel Suárez #99	611
15 Austin Dillon #3	2152	30 Ricky Stenhouse #47	562

2025 XFINITY FINAL STANDINGS			
Champion 1 + 19 as of November 1			
Rank/Driver	Points	Rank/Driver	Points
1 Jesse Love #2	4040	11 Nicholas Sanchez #48	2198
2 Connor Zilisch #88	4034	12 Harrison Burton #25	2163
3 Justin Allgaier #7	4032	13 Christian Eckes #16	784
4 Carson Kvapil #1	4024	14 Jeb Burton #27	719
5 Brandon Jones #20	2240	15 Ryan Sieg #41	691
6 Austin Hill #21	2230	16 Dean Thompson #26	690
7 Taylor Gray #54	2228	17 Aric Almirola #19	652
8 Sammy Smith #8	2222	18 William Sawalich #18	636
9 Sheldon Creed #00	2218	19 Brennan Poole #44	608
10 Sam Mayer #41	2204	20 Daniel Dye #10	604

NEXT RACE: UNITED RENTALS 300, Daytona International, Saturday, Feb. 14, 2026, CW


2025 TRUCKS FINAL STANDINGS			
Champion 1 + 19 as of October 1			
Rank/Driver	Points	Rank/Driver	Points
1 Corey Heim #11	4040	11 Gio Ruggiero #17	703
2 Ty Majeski #98	4035	12 Ben Rhodes #99	632
3 Kaden Honeycutt #52	4034	13 Tanner Gray #15	599
4 Tyler Ankrum #18	4023	14 Connor Mosack #81	515
5 Layne Riggs #34	2297	15 Matt Crafton #88	494
6 Rajah Caruth #71	2237	16 A. Perez De Lara #44	472
7 Grant Enfinger #9	2198	17 Matt Mills #42	456
8 Chandler Smith #38	2179	18 Dawson Sutton #26	447
9 Daniel Hemric #19	2177	19 Jack Wood #91	443
10 Jake Garcia #13	2148	20 Stewart Friesen #52	397

NEXT RACE: SEASON OPENER, Daytona International Speedway, Friday, Feb. 13, 2026, FS1

XFINITY RECAP QUOTABLE

“I’m the champion now, right? I’m gonna try my best to do it like Justin has. Justin Allgaier is such a phenomenal person, and he can compartmentalize it really well, where he can go be the hardest competitor on the race track and still get out of the car and be a phenomenal human being first. I say I’m gonna try and be like Justin next year and represent the series like how he has. I’ve learned a lot from him, and he’s an amazing person. I actually lean on him a lot more than people probably realize, too, even in how to navigate the championship this year. He’s just a great person.”

— **Jesse Love, on wanting to be a model champion like Justin Allgaier**



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