

RACING THIS WEEK

XFINITY RECAP

• **Saturday's** CHILANGO 150, Autodromo Hermanos Rodriguez, Mexico



WINNER: DANIEL SUÁREZ

In all his high hopes and hard work over the last year to promote NASCAR's return to his home country of Mexico, even Daniel Suárez could not have imagined the amazing story of his dramatic win in Saturday's The Chilango 150 — coming from last place on the grid in a backup car and charging to Victory Lane.

After victory spinouts, the 33-year-old native from Monterrey, Mexico, climbed out of his No. 9 JR Motorsports Chevrolet, stood on the car's roof, pounded his chest and pointed upward to the Autódromo Hermanos Rodríguez grandstands — shouting to the thrilled crowd in his native Spanish and thanking his loyal fans for their support.

"It's everything I was looking for, just a special day," said an emotional Suárez, the 2016 Xfinity Series champion, who led a race-best 19 of the race's 65 laps and beat Taylor Gray to the checkered flag by .598 seconds in a backup car the team rebuilt after he crashed in the morning qualifying session.

"It's a very special day, very, very special to be here in front of my people, all these people that have supported me for many, many years and known me since my NASCAR Mexico days, now I'm fighting with the big boys," said Suárez who was forced to use the "international provisional" starting position after his incident in qualifying.

And even after diligently working his way through the entire 39-car field, Suárez had to "earn" this win — by every definition. The Cup Series full-timer went door-to-door with Gray on a restart with four laps remaining, ultimately pulling away — only to have to fend off Gray again on the final stretch of the very last lap.

Suárez first took the lead in a similarly dramatic fashion on a three-wide restart with 19 laps remaining.

He emerged out front after going door-to-door with the race's early leaders, rookie Connor Zilisch and fellow Cup Series regular Ty Gibbs. The polesitter Zilisch, who led 17 laps, wheel-hopped taking the opening corner under those crowded circumstances on the restart, spun and then hit his JRM teammate Carson Kvapil as a pile-up behind began.

Gibbs, who led 18 laps, moved forward from the contact and then also made contact with Kvapil's Chevy on the next turn. The ensuing pile-up affected 13 cars in varying degrees.

Suárez drove through the melee, and you could hear the crowd's cheers over the sounds of the roaring cars — the Mexican fans stood on their feet, arms raised, Mexican flags in the air.

Richard Childress Racing's Austin Hill finished third, Kaulig Racing's Christian Eckes was fourth and Zilisch recovered to finish fifth in another of the day's more remarkable drives.

After that incident with 17 laps remaining, Zilisch fell back to 28th place, only to move through the field at an amazing pace, up 14 positions in the three laps after the restart. He was in 10th place with 10 laps to go and then earned that top-five finishing position.

William Sawalich, Austin Green, Jeb Burton, Harrison Burton and Sammy Smith rounded out the top 10.

VIVA MEXICO 250

Three-time Australian Supercars champion Shane van Gisbergen — in his first fulltime Cup season — won pole position and led 60 of the race's 100 laps, including the final 32 Sunday at Autodromo, to claim his first ever berth in the Cup Playoffs.



Shane van Gisbergen, driver of the #88 Safety Culture Chevrolet, heads toward the checkered flag in Sunday's Cup Series race at Autódromo Hermanos Rodríguez.

(James Gilbert/Getty Images)



Autodromo domination for Shane van Gisbergen

An overcast ski and early afternoon drizzle could not dampen the enthusiasm or energy of the huge crowd at Mexico City's Autodromo Hermanos Rodriguez Sunday for the first points-paying NASCAR Cup Series race outside the United States in half a century.

And they were not disappointed.

As he did at another "inaugural race" — on the streets of Chicago two years ago in his series debut — New Zealander Shane van Gisbergen, 36, prevailed again. This time, driving the No. 88 Chevrolet for Trackhouse Racing, he claimed a huge 16.567-second victory over Joe Gibbs Racing's Christopher Bell in the Viva Mexico 250 — the largest margin of victory of the season.

The three-time Australian Supercars champion van Gisbergen — in his first full season at the Cup Series level — won pole position and led 60 of the race's 100 laps, including the final 32, easily pulling away from the field to claim his first ever berth in the Cup Series Playoffs with the win. He extended his margin of victory by nearly a second in each of the final five laps.

"What a week, I've really enjoyed myself here, but felt like rubbish this morning," said van Gisbergen, who's victory was only his second top-10 finish of the season.

"Our car was amazing," he added. "The 54 [Ty Gibbs] was close but that last stint, what a pleasure, just ripping lap after lap and watching them get smaller in the mirror."

As thrilled as the crowd may have been to watch van Gisbergen's masterwork, there was no doubt they were there to cheer on his Trackhouse teammate, Mexico-native Daniel Suárez, who was celebrated as a hero after his win in Saturday's Xfinity race.

The grandstands chanted "Dan-iel Daniel" and held up signs of support. And Suárez was emotional standing by his car on the starting grid as a local children's choir sang the Mexican National Anthem before the race. He ended up 19th — leading briefly early and finishing with a pass on the final lap.

On the race's cool-down lap, Suárez pulled his car alongside van Gisbergen's to offer congratulations on the big win.

"I feel like today, I gave my best, but it just wasn't good enough," Suárez said.

As for the event in Mexico City — something Suárez has worked to promote, he was ecstatic calling the whole experience.

"It couldn't have been any better," a proud Suárez said. "I've been here since Tuesday just working, doing promotion for sponsors, for the race itself, for fans. Every single thing

that we did exceeded my expectations. The fans were amazing. It is an experience I for sure won't forget for a very very long time."

In the end, it was the New Zealand national anthem played on the stadium speaker as NASCAR did a unique post-race celebration having the top-three finishing drivers — van Gisbergen, Bell and Hendrick Motorsports' Chase Elliott — stand on podiums and hoist trophies.

The victory was particularly rewarding for van Gisbergen, considering the amount of adversity he faced this week in Mexico. He was sick to his stomach Sunday morning and his crew showed up a day later than the other teams after some travel challenges.

In the end, however, van Gisbergen had to tell his crew chief to stop telling him to "slow down" in those closing laps. "I was just trying to stay in a rhythm," he said.

van Gisbergen said he texted with his friend and fellow Red Bull-sponsored racer, reigning Formula One champion Max Verstappen, a five-time Mexico City F1 race winner, who gave him a few tips on the braking zones and racing lines.

And the Kiwi did all that, capping off the day with his unique victory celebration — punting a rugby ball into the cheering grandstand crowd.

Bell's work was impressive, considering he finished runner-up after starting 31st. Elliott rolled into the top-five with about 25 laps remaining and steadily moved forward. Hendrick Motorsports' Alex Bowman finished fourth and Spire Motorsports' Michael McDowell was fifth.

John Hunter Nemechek, Chase Briscoe, Cole Custer, championship points leader William Byron and Chris Buescher rounded out the top-five.

There was a brief post-race confrontation on pit road stemming from an incident two weeks ago at Nashville between Ricky Stenhouse Jr. and Carson Hocevar.

Stenhouse leaned into Hocevar's car and had words with the 22-year old, ultimately telling reporters that he promised to settle the score in the near future. It was unclear what happened Sunday to precipitate the confrontation. Stenhouse finished 27th and Hocevar was 34th.

Championship front-runner Kyle Larson was collected in an eight-car accident only seven laps into the race and finished 36th — 38 laps down. That cost him in the regular season standings and now he trails Hendrick Motorsports teammate William Byron by 67 points with 10 races remaining.

XFINITY BURNOUT ALERT! Daniel Suárez celebrates after winning Saturday's The Chilango 150 at Autodromo Hermanos Rodriguez in Mexico City. J. Gilbert/Getty



GREAT AMERICAN GETAWAY 400



Pocono Raceway
2 p.m. ET Sunday, Prime

TRACK DETAILS

Surface: Asphalt

Length: 2.5 mi (4.023 km)

Turns: 3

Banking, etc: The first turn has a radius of 675 feet and 14° of banking. The back straightaway is 3,055 feet in length. The second turn has a radius of 750 feet and 8° of banking. The short straightaway has a length of 1,780 feet.

Race lap record: 223.871 mph (Juan Pablo Montoya, Team Penske, 2014, IndyCar Series)

Nickname: The Tricky Triangle

History story: "The Tricky Triangle" celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2021. Here's a story from fan Kelly Zimmerman, who started attending that first year, 1971: "My love of racing started with my first NASCAR race when I was seven years old in 1971. My dad took me to Pocono Raceway. I loved it — the smells of fuel and oil, the very fast cars and always very friendly people. One time (in 1974), my father walked right up to a driver and said great race (I don't remember which driver). Anyway, my dad had an autobody shop in Saylorsburg, PA, and had many old fast cars. Throughout the years my husband and I have attended at least 15 races at Pocono and it's always a thrill, especially the time Mark Martin gave my husband some lugnuts from his racecar and we got autographs from Kyle Petty, Chad Little and Ernie Irvan! In 2012, when a family friend died very young of cancer, we had a fundraiser for him and I called and asked if Pocono Raceway could donate tickets to be raffled off; we raised thousands of dollars for his family because of their generosity. God bless Pocono Raceway and everyone throughout the years that has made it so memorable!"



A big pit move helped Ryan Blaney grab the win last summer at Pocono. (Getty)

2025 CUP SERIES STANDINGS

Top 30 as of June 15

Rank/Driver	Points	Rank/Driver	Points
1 William Byron #24	604	16 Michael McDowell #71	330
2 Kyle Larson #5	537	17 AJ Allmendinger #16	328
3 Christopher Bell #20	524	18 Kyle Busch #8	323
4 Chase Elliott #9	500	19 Josh Berry #21	320
5 Denny Hamlin #11	494	20 Carson Hocevar #77	313
6 Tyler Reddick #45	477	21 Ricky Stenhouse #47	312
7 Ryan Blaney #12	466	22 Erik Jones #43	311
8 Ross Chastain #1	443	23 J. H. Nemechek #42	301
9 Joey Logano #22	411	24 Ty Gibbs #54	296
10 Bubba Wallace #23	411	25 Zane Smith #38	287
11 Chase Briscoe #19	393	26 Todd Gilliland #34	286
12 Alex Bowman #48	376	27 Austin Dillon #3	284
13 Chris Buescher #17	373	28 Daniel Suárez #99	274
14 Ryan Preece #60	354	29 Justin Haley #7	247
15 Austin Cindric #2	337	30 S. v. Gisbergen #88	242

2025 XFINITY SERIES STANDINGS

Top 20 as of June 14

Rank/Driver	Points	Rank/Driver	Points
1 Justin Allgaier #7	587	11 Harrison Burton #25	377
2 Austin Hill #21	533	12 Taylor Gray #54	374
3 Sam Mayer #41	488	13 Ryan Sieg #39	374
4 Jesse Love #2	460	14 Nicholas Sanchez #48	359
5 Connor Zilisch #88	430	15 Daniel Dye #10	330
6 Sheldon Creed #00	416	16 Dean Thompson #26	315
7 Carson Kvapil #1	409	17 Christian Eckes #16	310
8 Brandon Jones #20	404	18 Josh Williams #11	276
9 Jeb Burton #27	397	19 Brennan Poole #44	275
10 Sammy Smith #8	378	20 Jeremy Clements #51	266

NEXT RACE: EXPLORE THE POCONOS 250, Pocono Raceway, 3:30 p.m. ET Saturday, CW

2025 TRUCK SERIES STANDINGS

Top 20 as of June 7

Rank/Driver	Points	Rank/Driver	Points
1 Corey Heim #11	605	11 Ben Rhodes #99	338
2 Chandler Smith #38	472	12 Gio Ruggiero #17	337
3 Daniel Hemric #19	454	13 Rajah Caruth #71	336
4 Grant Enfinger #9	441	14 Tanner Gray #15	297
5 Tyler Ankrum #18	424	15 Matt Crafton #88	281
6 Layne Riggs #34	424	16 Jack Wood #91	249
7 Kaden Honeycutt #45	408	17 A. Perez De Lara #77	247
8 Ty Majeski #98	393	18 Connor Mosack #81	247
9 Jake Garcia #13	389	19 Matt Mills #42	245
10 Stewart Friesen #52	347	20 Dawson Sutton #26	241

NEXT RACE: MILLERTECH BATTERY 200, Pocono Raceway, 5 p.m. ET Friday, FS1

MEXICO CITY WINNER QUOTE

"What a week, I've really enjoyed myself here, but felt like rubbish this morning. Our car was amazing. The 54 (Ty Gibbs) was close but that last stint, what a pleasure, just ripping lap after lap and watching them get smaller in the mirror."

— Shane van Gisbergen, who grabbed his first Cup win of the year Sunday at Autodromo Hermanos Rodriguez



Shane van Gisbergen in Victory Lane Sunday at Mexico City.

CHRIS GRAYTHEN/GETTY IMAGES

ALL AMERICAN

SUB + MELT

Declare your freedom from hunger with ham, Smith's bologna, hard salami and cheese on a toasty pretzel bun or piled high on a Barnbuster sub.

Country of Origin
Fair FRESH & LOCAL