

RACING THIS WEEK

XFINITY RECAP

• **Saturday's** PACIFIC OFFICE AUTOMATION 147, Portland International



WINNER: CONNOR ZILISCH

A dramatic overtime pass for the win punctuated a nearly perfect afternoon for JR Motorsports driver Connor Zilisch at Portland (Ore.) International, where the 19-year old claimed his series-best eighth Xfinity Series win of the season – the best series victory total ever for a rookie driver.

Only weeks removed from breaking his collarbone celebrating another win at Watkins Glen, Zilisch claimed pole position, won both stages, set fastest lap and celebrated it all in Victory Circle of the famed 1.967-mile road course in the scenic Pacific Northwest.

Zilisch led 70 of the race's 78 laps, his No. 88 JRM Chevrolet crossing the finish line 1.572-seconds ahead of three fellow rookies, Joe Gibbs Racing driver William Sawalich, Big Machine Racing's Nick Sanchez and Kaulig Racing's Christian Eckes.

Veteran Austin Hill finished fifth, running on Zilisch's bumper throughout before taking the lead on a restart with seven laps remaining in regulation.

Rookie Carson Kvapil finished sixth. Jeb Burton was seventh – an important showing as he is just below the 12-driver Playoff cutoff line, 31 points behind his cousin Harrison Burton, who rallied to an impressive 12th place finish.

One more race remains to formalize the 12-driver field for the 2025 Playoffs. There have been eight race winners and four drivers are currently above the cutoff line on points.

TRUCKS RECAP

• **Saturday's** SOBER OR SLAMMER 200, Darlington Raceway



WINNER: COREY HEIM

Even though the Truck Series changed the clock from regular season to Playoffs, it was still "Heim Time" on Saturday at Darlington Raceway.

Pulling away after a restart on Lap 134 of 147, Heim won the Playoff-opening Sober or Slammer 200 at the 1.366-mile track. The win was Heim's eighth of the year, one short of Greg Biffle's record nine in 1999.

Heim crossed the finish line 0.766 seconds ahead of fellow Playoff driver Daniel Hemric to collect his first victory at the Lady in Black and the 19th of his career. With the win, Heim earned advancement to the Playoff Round of 8.

The break at the end of Stage 2 proved fortunate for the race winner. Heim felt a tire losing air shortly before the end of the stage, but he survived the stage in second place and brought the No. 11 TRICON Garage Tundra to pit road before the tire went flat.

Playoff drivers Grant Enfinger and Ty Majeski, the defending series champion, finished third and fourth, respectively.

Trevor Bayne, running his first NASCAR race since 2023, was fifth, followed by rookie Tanner Gray, Playoff driver Tyler Ankrum, Timmy Hill, Corey Day and Playoff driver Jake Garcia.

PLAYOFFS 1: COOK OUT SOUTHERN 500

Chase Briscoe crossed the finish line 0.408 seconds ahead of Tyler Reddick to secure his second victory of the season, his second stright at the "Lady in Black" and the fourth of his career.



Chase Briscoe, driver of the #19 Bass Pro Shops Toyota, takes the checkered flag to win the Cup Series Playoffs opener Cook Out Southern 500 at Darlington Raceway on Sunday. (Logan Riely/Getty Images)

Briscoe cooks up a savory Playoffs win

DARLINGTON, S.C. — Chase Briscoe was perfection in a world of mistakes, a no-funny-business driver in a comedy of errors.

And at the end of the final green-flag run on Sunday night at Darlington Raceway — after a 20-lap stint of unrelenting tension — Briscoe was a back-to-back winner of the Cook Out Southern 500 and a guaranteed participant in the Round of 12 in the Cup Series Playoffs.

Briscoe led 309 of 367 laps and swept the first two stages, but he had to hold off a determined charge by Tyler Reddick after the race restarted on Lap 319. Reddick got close in the final 10 laps, driving beneath Briscoe entering Turn 3 coming to the checkered flag, but didn't have the impetus necessary to complete a winning pass.

Briscoe crossed the start/finish line 0.408 seconds ahead of Reddick and 0.537 seconds ahead of non-playoff driver Erik Jones in third to secure his second victory of the season, his second at the "Lady in Black" and the fourth of his career.

"Yeah, I think this is definitely what we're capable of doing," said Briscoe, who led Toyota drivers to their third 1-2-3-4 finish in Cup Series history, the last coming at Bristol Motor Speedway in 2017. "We haven't been able to go out and dominate a race like that. The potential has been there from day one."

"So cool to win two Southern 500s in a row ... A great way to start our playoffs. That was a lot of fun."

Briscoe is the first driver to win consecutive Southern 500s since Greg Biffle accomplished the feat in 2005 and 2006.

John Hunter Nemechek was fourth in his No. 42 Legacy Camry. Chevrolet driver AJ Allmendinger ran fifth, followed by Toyota drivers Bubba Wallace and Denny Hamlin, as Toyota placed six drivers in the top seven positions in a Cup race for the first time.

Driving from the outset with a tire mark on the driver's side of his car — the result of a Lap 1 collision with Josh Berry — Reddick kept the pressure on Briscoe for the final 20 laps, but Briscoe didn't buckle.

With Briscoe qualified for the Round of 12 with the victory, Reddick improved his position to 35 points above the cutline.

If Briscoe had a night to remember, most of the other 15 playoff drivers spent the evening recovering from mistakes — or failing to do so.

Wallace had a solid day in finishing sixth in the playoff opener, ending the evening 25 points above the current cutline with two

races left in the Round of 16.

Hamlin, a four-time winner in the regular season, overcame a slow pit stop on Lap 154 and spent the rest of the race clawing his way back to seventh at the finish.

Playoff drivers Ross Chastain and Austin Cindric came home 11th and 12th, respectively. Chastain's No. 1 Trackhouse Racing Camaro was the highest-finishing playoff Chevy; all four Hendrick Motorsports drivers scored outside the top 15.

Chase Elliott, 2020 champion, was the best of the Hendrick lot in 17th and heads for Sunday's race at World Wide Technology Raceway nine points above the cutline.

Top-seeded Kyle Larson and William Byron ran 19th and 21st, respectively, to hold third and fifth in the playoff standings, but others weren't as fortunate.

After contact with Reddick's Toyota, Berry's Mustang slammed into the outside wall, severely damaging the left rear and the undercarriage. After completing two laps, Berry drove his car to the garage for extensive repairs.

Berry returned to the track 119 laps down but finished last (38th) and fell to 16th in the playoff standings, 19 points below the cutline.

Alex Bowman was the next of the playoff drivers to suffer brutal misfortune. Thanks to a malfunctioning air supply to the front tire changer's pit gun, Bowman spent 40 seconds on pit road during his second green flag stop and was down a lap when pit stops cycled out.

On Lap 93 of the first stage, Briscoe passed Bowman to put the No. 48 Chevrolet two laps in arrears. After three wave-arounds, Bowman finally returned to the lead lap as the beneficiary under caution at the end of Stage 2 (Lap 230).

The No. 48 Chevrolet pilot couldn't hold his position in the final stage and finished the race two laps down in 31st, tied with Berry in the standings.

Christopher Bell's Toyota collided on pit road with the Chevrolet of non-playoff driver Carson Hocevar on Lap 154. With the handling of his car destroyed, Bell finished 29th, two laps down, and fell to 10th in the Playoff standings, 11 points above the cut.

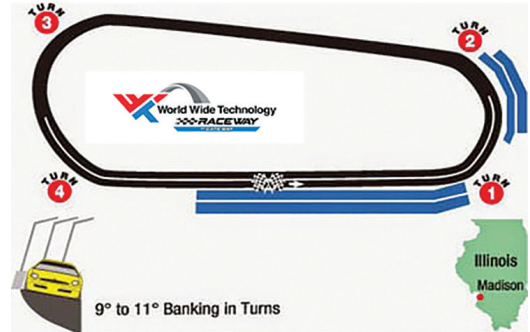
Shane van Gisbergen finished 32nd, spending most of the 22 playoff points he earned with four wins. He is 12th in the standings, three points ahead of 20th-place finisher Joey Logano, the first driver below the cut. Austin Dillon was 23rd and is 14th on the Playoff grid, eight points behind SvG.

XFINITY BURNOUT

ALERT! Connor Zilisch celebrates after winning Saturday's Pacific Office Automation 147 at Portland International. **D. Jensen/Getty**



PLAYOFFS 2: ENJOY ILLINOIS 300



World Wide Technology Raceway at Gateway (Madison, IL)
3 p.m. ET Sunday, USA

World Wide Technology Raceway (formerly Gateway International Raceway and Gateway Motorsports Park) is a motorsport racing facility in Madison, Illinois, just east of St. Louis, Missouri, close to the Gateway Arch. It features a 1.25 mile (2.01 km) oval.



Distance: 300 miles (480 km)

Stage 1 Laps: 45

Stage 2 Laps: 95

Final Stage Laps: 100

Total Laps: 240

Surface: Asphalt

Length: 1.25 mi (2.01 km) oval

Turns: 4

Country star Jon Pardi and rising country star Ella Langley will headline the fourth annual **Confluence Music Festival** when it returns to the St. Louis region Saturday and Sunday as part of NASCAR Weekend at World Wide Technology Raceway. Pardi and Langley join Bill Murray & His Blood Brothers for the Enjoy Illinois 300 NASCAR Cup Series Playoff race on Sunday. They will be joined on multiple stages by more than 30 national and local acts including Saturday headliners Adam Wainwright and Tim Dugger, who will perform after the Xfinity Series 200-mile event.



Austin Cindric took the win in the regular season last year at WWT Raceway. **GETTY**

2025 CUP SERIES STANDINGS

Playoff 16 + 14 as of August 31

Rank/Driver	Points	Rank/Driver	Points
1 Chase Briscoe #19	2070	16 Alex Bowman #48	2008
2 Denny Hamlin #11	2067	17 Chris Buescher #17	682
3 Kyle Larson #5	2062	18 Ryan Preece #60	643
4 Tyler Reddick #45	2059	19 Kyle Busch #8	570
5 William Byron #24	2049	20 Ty Gibbs #54	558
6 Bubba Wallace #23	2049	21 AJ Allmendinger #16	554
7 Ryan Blaney #12	2046	22 Erik Jones #43	546
8 Ross Chastain #1	2045	23 Brad Keselowski #6	537
9 Austin Cindric #2	2036	24 J. H. Nemechek #42	524
10 Christopher Bell #20	2035	25 Carson Hocevar #77	519
11 Chase Elliott #9	2033	26 Michael McDowell #71	514
12 S. v. Gisbergen #88	2027	27 Daniel Suárez #99	480
13 Joey Logano #22	2024	28 Zane Smith #38	471
14 Austin Dillon #3	2019	29 Ricky Stenhouse #47	443
15 Josh Berry #21	2008	30 Justin Haley #7	439

2025 XFINITY SERIES STANDINGS

Top 20 as of August 30

Rank/Driver	Points	Rank/Driver	Points
1 Connor Zilisch #88	924	11 Harrison Burton #25	628
2 Justin Allgaier #7	904	12 Nicholas Sanchez #48	603
3 Sam Mayer #41	874	13 Jeb Burton #27	597
4 Jesse Love #2	804	14 Ryan Sieg #39	560
5 Austin Hill #21	766	15 Christian Eckes #16	558
6 Carson Kvapil #1	728	16 Dean Thompson #26	536
7 Brandon Jones #20	709	17 Daniel Dye #10	493
8 Sammy Smith #8	664	18 Brennan Poole #44	491
9 Sheldon Creed #00	662	19 William Sawalich #18	471
10 Taylor Gray #54	657	20 Jeremy Clements #51	427

NEXT RACE: NU WAY 200, World Wide Technology Raceway at Gateway, 7:30 p.m. ET Saturday, CW

2025 TRUCK SERIES STANDINGS

Playoff 10 + 10 as of August 29

Rank/Driver	Points	Rank/Driver	Points
1 Corey Heim #11	2124	11 Ben Rhodes #99	517
2 Layne Riggs #34	2065	12 Gio Ruggiero #17	506
3 Daniel Hemric #19	2060	13 Tanner Gray #15	461
4 Grant Enfinger #9	2057	14 Connor Mosack #81	409
5 Tyler Ankrum #18	2049	15 Stewart Friesen #52	397
6 Ty Majeski #98	2043	16 Matt Crafton #88	380
7 Rajah Caruth #71	2031	17 A. Perez De Lara #44	366
8 Jake Garcia #13	2029	18 Matt Mills #42	345
9 Chandler Smith #38	2027	19 Jack Wood #91	331
10 K. Honeycutt #52	2022	20 Dawson Sutton #26	321

NEXT RACE: UNOH 200 PRES. BY OHIO LOGISTICS, Bristol, 8 p.m. ET Thurs., Sept.11, FS1

SOUTHERN WINNER QUOTE

"Yeah, I think this is definitely what we're capable of doing. We haven't been able to go out and dominate a race like that. The potential has been there from day one. So cool to win two Southern 500s in a row ... A great way to start our Playoffs. That was a lot of fun."

— Chase Briscoe, who held off Tyler Reddick to win at Darlington Sunday



Chase Briscoe celebrates with his son Brooks after winning the Cook Out Southern 500 at Darlington Sunday.

LOGAN RIELY/GETTY IMAGES