

# Byron races to 2nd straight Daytona 500 victory

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla (AP) — William Byron raced to his second straight Daytona 500 win, dodging a string of late-race wrecks that knocked out a chunk of contenders and sent the Hendrick Motorsports driver into victory lane Sunday night at Daytona International Speedway.

Ninth in the No. 24 Chevrolet with one lap left, Byron was in the right place by racing near the outside wall in overtime to become the first back-to-back winner since Denny Hamlin in 2019-20.

Byron took advantage of another wreck on the final lap — NASCAR did not drop the caution and let the field race to the finish — and took another, familiar burnout in Daytona International Speedway.

“It’s obviously really special,” Byron said. “It’s an amazing race, and obviously a lot of crazy racing out there tonight and just a lot of pushing and shoving

The 27-year-old Byron held on to win after two weather delays totaling more than 3 1/2 hours, and with President Donald Trump set to watch the rest of the race in Florida, after he earlier led drivers on two laps around the track in his heavily armored presidential limousine known in Washington as “The Beast.”

Hendrick Motorsports won its 10th Daytona 500 to break a tie with Petty Enterprises for the record.

“Just obviously fortunate it worked out in our favor,” Byron said. “Crazy? Yeah. I can’t honestly believe that but we’re here.”

Austin Cindric held the lead headed to the white flag when he was wiped out in crash that took out a slew of drivers that included Chase Briscoe, Denny Hamlin and Alex Bowman. It was sixth time in the last eight Daytona 500s the race spilled



AP

William Byron leaps into his pit crew after winning the NASCAR Daytona 500 on Sunday.

into overtime, setting up Byron to become the fifth driver to win it in consecutive years.

Byron won for the 14th time in his Cup career, and already set his sights on the championship race in Phoenix after finishing third in the standings in each of the last two years.

“We plan on trying to win a lot of races this year, so we’re not going to stop here,” Byron said. “We’re going to continue to push forward and try to get to Phoenix.”

It wouldn’t be Daytona without the ferocious late wrecks down the stretch that inevitably send the race into overtime.

With four laps left, Ryan Preece turned upside-down and essentially did a wheelie in his No. 60 Ford. His

car flipped onto its roof and turned back onto its tires before hitting the outside wall. Preece dropped his safety net to signal to crews he was OK.

Bubba Wallace, Kyle Larson, Daniel Suarez and Brad Keselowski all had their shots at victory lane spoiled, and the race was red-flagged, just 11 laps after another big one shuffled the field and knocked four former Cup Series champions out of contention.

Reigning NASCAR champion Joey Logano and Ricky Stenhouse started the multi-car melee when Logano moved to the middle and Stenhouse moved to block him. It stacked up Logano, and the accordi- on effect sent several cars — includ-

ing ones belonging to former Cup champs Kyle Busch, Ryan Blaney and Chase Elliott — sliding in every direction.

Busch’s car ended up on a wrecker, extending his skid to 0 for 20 in “The Great American Race.”

Tyler Reddick was second and two-time Daytona 500 champion Jimmie Johnson was third. Chase Briscoe was fourth and John Hunter Nemechek fifth.

## Leave a legacy

Johnson and Nemechek gave Legacy Motor Club two top-five finishes. A Hall of Fame driver and seven-time NASCAR champion, Johnson is now the majority owner under an offseason restructuring.

It was his highest finish in the race since he won it in 2013.

“I have emotions that I didn’t expect to have. I’ve never been in this position as an owner, and it’s really opened up a different set of emotions,” Johnson said after his highest finish in the race since winning in 2013.

## Early exit

Four-time Indianapolis 500 winner Helio Castroneves and 2017 NASCAR champion Martin Truex Jr. were among the drivers whose race ended after they were collected in a wreck before the halfway point.

Castroneves made the Daytona 500 under a new rule that allows for a “world-class driver” to receive a provisional spot. He landed a NASCAR ride as part of Trackhouse’s “Project 91,” designed to give renowned racers from outside of the series a shot in a stock car.

“Disappointed, of course, because I was learning so much,” Castroneves said. “It’s incredible when you have more laps into it, you understand the airflow, the guys, saving fuel.”

Truex, who retired from full-time racing at the end of last season, failed to win the Daytona 500 in 21 tries.

“It’s always disappointing when you don’t finish no matter the situation,” Truex said. “It’s probably our only shot this year. It was fun while it lasted, but it was unfortunately wrong place, wrong time there.”

Truex finished 38th and Castroneves 39th.

## Up next

The series shifts to Atlanta Motor Speedway, where Daniel Suarez is the defending race winner.

## THE DAILY SCOREBOARD

### NHL STANDINGS

NHL Conference Glance EASTERN CONFERENCE									
GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA			
m-Washington	55	36	11	8	80	196	140		
a-Florida	57	34	20	3	71	192	165		
m-Carolina	56	33	19	4	70	184	154		
a-Toronto	55	33	20	2	68	169	156		
m-New Jersey	57	31	20	6	68	175	142		
a-Tampa Bay	55	31	20	4	66	197	153		
Ottawa	56	29	23	5	62	158	156		
Detroit	55	28	22	5	61	160	171		
Columbus	56	26	22	8	60	184	186		
Boston	57	27	24	6	60	157	182		
N.Y. Rangers	55	27	24	4	58	165	168		
N.Y. Islanders	55	25	23	7	57	152	162		
Montreal	56	25	26	5	55	163	194		
Pittsburgh	57	23	25	9	55	164	201		
Philadelphia	57	24	26	7	55	162	192		
Buffalo	54	22	27	5	49	171	185		

WESTERN CONFERENCE									
GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA			
c-Winnipeg	56	39	14	3	81	202	134		
c-Dallas	55	35	18	2	72	182	139		
p-Edmonton	55	34	17	4	72	182	152		
p-Vegas	56	33	17	6	72	185	155		
c-Minnesota	56	33	19	4	70	163	159		
Colorado	57	32	12	2	68	186	174		
p-Los Angeles	53	29	17	7	65	151	136		
Vancouver	55	26	18	11	63	155	166		
Calgary	55	26	21	8	60	148	165		
Utah	56	24	23	9	57	158	170		
St. Louis	56	25	26	5	55	154	171		
Anaheim	54	24	24	6	54	137	165		
Seattle	57	24	29	4	52	169	183		
Nashville	54	19	28	7	45	144	179		
Chicago	55	17	31	7	41	149	191		
San Jose	57	15	35	7	37	148	216		

NOTE: Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss. Top three teams in each division and two wild cards per conference advance to playoffs.									
(a, c, m, p)-top three in their division									
<b>Saturday's Games</b>									
Finland 4, Sweden 3, OT									
USA 3, Canada 1									
<b>Sunday's Games</b>									
No games scheduled									
<b>Monday's Games</b>									
Canada vs. Finland at TD Garden, 1 p.m.									
Sweden vs. USA at TD Garden, 8 p.m.									
<b>Tuesday's Games</b>									
No games scheduled									
<b>Wednesday's Games</b>									
No games scheduled									

### NHL LEADERS

#### NHL Leaders Through games of Sunday, Feb. 16, 2025

Goal Scoring					Assists				
Name	Team	GP	G		Name	Team	GP	A	
Leon Draisaitl	Edmonton	55	40		Nathan MacKinnon	Colorado	57	66	
William Nylander	Toronto	55	33		Nikita Kucherov	Tampa Bay	52	57	
Brayden Point	Tampa Bay	50	31		Mitch Marner	Toronto	54	55	
Sam Reinhart	Florida	57	31		Jack Eichel	Vegas	55	50	
Mark Scheifele	Winnipeg	56	31		Connor McDavid	Edmonton	49	49	
Kyle Connor	Winnipeg	56	30		Jesper Bratt	New Jersey	57	47	
David Pastrnak	Boston	57	28		Quinn Hughes	Vancouver	47	45	
Jake Guentzel	Tampa Bay	54	27		Martin Necas	Colorado	57	44	
Cole Caufield	Montreal	56	26		Leon Draisaitl	Edmonton	55	43	
Brandon Hagel	Tampa Bay	55	26		Zach Werenski	Columbus	55	42	
Alex Ovechkin	Washington	39	26		Sidney Crosby	Pittsburgh	55	41	
Mikko Rantanen	Colorado	55	26		Jack Hughes	New Jersey	57	41	
Tage Thompson	Buffalo	48	26		Cale Makar	Colorado	57	41	
Adrian Kempe	Los Angeles	53	25		Shea Theodore	Vegas	55	41	
Nikita Kucherov	Tampa Bay	52	25		Adam Fox	N.Y. Rangers	55	40	
Rickard Rakell	Pittsburgh	56	25		Clayton Kellner	Utah	55	40	
Nico Hischier	New Jersey	51	24		David Pastrnak	Boston	57	40	
Jack Hughes	New Jersey	57	24		Mikko Rantanen	Colorado	55	40	
Gabriel Vilardi	Winnipeg	56	24		Kyle Connor	Winnipeg	56	39	
Tom Wilson	Washington	55	24		Josh Morrissey	Winnipeg	56	39	

Power Play Goals					Short Handed Goals				
Name	Team	GP	PP		Name	Team	GP	SH	
Jake Guentzel	Tampa Bay	54	13		Sam Reinhart	Florida	57	5	
Brayden Point	Tampa Bay	50	13		Anthony Cirelli	Tampa Bay	53	4	
Dylan Larkin	Detroit	55	12		Joel Armia	Montreal	56	3	
Leon Draisaitl	Edmonton	55	11		Jake Evans	Montreal	56	3	
Matthew Tkachuk	Florida	52	11		Seth Jarvis	Carolina	49	3	
Brady Tkachuk	Ottawa	56	11		Chris Kreider	N.Y. Rangers	47	3	
Gabriel Vilardi	Winnipeg	56	11		Josh Norris	Ottawa	50	3	
Pavel Dorofeyev	Vegas	56	10		Alex Tuch	Buffalo	54	3	
Tomas Hertl	Vegas	56	10		Sebastian Aho	Carolina	55	2	
Patrick Laine	Montreal	28	10		Morgan Barron	Winnipeg	52	2	
Tom Wilson	Washington	55	10		Kyle Connor	Winnipeg	56	2	
Michael Bunting	Pittsburgh	55	9		Jonathan Huberdeau	Calgary	55	2	
Kyle Connor	Pittsburgh	56	9		Wyatt Johnston	Dallas	55	2	
Nico Hischier	New Jersey	51	9		Anton Lundell	Florida	56	2	
Cale Makar	Colorado	57	9		Cale Makar	Colorado	57	2	
Stefan Noesen	New Jersey	55	9		Brock Nelson	N.Y. Islanders	55	2	
Sam Reinhart	Florida	57	9		Reilly Smith	N.Y. Rangers	54	2	
Mark Scheifele	Winnipeg	56	9		Jordan Staal	Carolina	56	2	
Steven Stamkos	Nashville	54	9		Yakov Trenin	Minnesota	50	2	
Andrei Svechnikov	Carolina	55	9		Pavel Zacha	Boston	57	2	

Power Play Assists					Short Handed Points				
Name	Team	GP	PPA		Name	Team	GP	SH	
Nikita Kucherov	Tampa Bay	52	32		Anthony Cirelli	Tampa Bay	53	6	
Jack Hughes	New Jersey	57	26		Jake Evans	Montreal	56	6	
Nathan MacKinnon	Colorado	57	26		Brandon Hagel	Tampa Bay	55	6	
Cale Makar	Colorado	57	26		Sam Reinhart	Florida	49	6	
Lucas Raymond	Detroit	55	26		Seth Jarvis	Carolina	49	5	
Jesper Bratt	New Jersey	57	24		Sebastian Aho	Carolina	55	4	

### PRO GOLF

The Genesis Invitational Par Scores				
Sunday				
At Torrey Pines — South				
La Jolla, Calif.				
Purse: \$20 million				
Yardage: 7,765; Par: 72				
Final Round				
Ludvig Aberg (700)	74-66-70-66	—	276	-12
Maverick McNealy (400)	75-70-68-64	—	277	-11
Patrick Rodgers (338)	69-71-68-71	—	279	-9
Scottie Scheffler (338)	70-67-76-66	—	279	-9
Patrick Cantlay (250)	74-70-68-68	—	280	-8
Tony Finau (250)	76-69-67-68	—	280	-8
Tommy Fleetwood (250)	75-68-69-68	—	280	-8
Denny McCarthy (250)	68-70-71-71	—	280	-8
Akshay Bhatia (152)	75-67-73-67	—	282	-6
Nick Taylor (152)	74-71-69-68	—	282	-6
Justin Thomas (152)	73-71-69-69	—	282	-6
Daniel Berger (120)	75-71-70-67	—	283	-5
Michael Kim (95)	71-72-71-70	—	284	-4
Hideki Matsuyama (95)	74-72-68-70	—	284	-4
Andrew Novak (95)	71-71-74-68	—	284	-4
Davis Thompson (95)	70-66-76-72	—	284	-4
Nick Dunlap (56)	71-70-74-70	—	285	-3
Brian Harman (56)	76-71-70-68	—	285	-3
Jake Knapp (56)	71-71-74-69	—	285	-3
Rory McIlroy (56)	72-67-74-72	—	285	-3
Collin Morikawa (56)	73-72-73-67	—	285	-3
Sahiti Theegala (56)	72-76-69-68	—	285	-3
Kevin Yu (56)	74-70-73-68	—	285	-3
Sam Burns (38)	71-74-72-69	—	286	-2
Cory Corcoran (38)	72-70-73-74	—	286	-2
Harris English (38)	75-71-69-71	—	286	-2
Max Greyserman (38)	74-78-73-68	—	286	-2
Si Woo Kim (38)	70-70-72-70	—	286	-2
Seamus Power (38)	69-73-74-70	—	286	-2
Will Zalatoris (38)	74-73-71-68	—	286	-2
Wyndham Clark (30)	70-72-74-71	—	287	-1
Luca Glover (30)	74-74-72-67	—	287	-1
Sam Stevens (30)	72-71-72-72	—	287	-1
Keegan Bradley (25)	74-72-72-70	—	288	E
Nicolae Echevarria (25)	71-74-68-75	—	288	E
E. Spaniol (23)	72-70-73-74	—	289	E
Aaron Kai (23)	72-70-75-72	—	289	+1
Adam Scott (23)	74-70-75-70	—	289	+1
Chris Bezuidenhout (20)	76-71-69-74	—	290	+2
Rickie Fowler (20)	77-69-70-74	—	290	+2
Russell Henley (20)	72-71-75-72	—	290	+2
Shane Lowry (20)	73-73-74-70	—	290	+2
J.T. Poston (20)	75-71-72-72	—	290	+2
Ben Griffin (16)	74-73-74-70	—	291	+3
Stephan Jaeger (16)	75-70-74-72	—	291	+3
Tom Kim (16)	73-72-73-73	—	291	+3
Timothy Paxon (16)	74-73-73-73	—	291	+3
Min Woo Lee (14)	71-77-74-70	—	292	+4
Matt Fitzpatrick (14)	74-70-74-75	—	293	+5
Jason Day (13)	76-72-74-72	—	294	+6
Taylor Pendrith (13)	74-74-75-71	—	294	+6
Mackenzie Hughes (12)	74-73-74-75	—	296	+8
Thomas Detry (11)	76-71-75-75	—	297	+9
Tom Hoge (11)	77-71-73-79	—	300	+12