

# The Derrick. WHEELS

Thursday, June 18, 2026

## O'REILLY RECAP

• **Saturday's** MILLERTECH BATTERY 250, Pocono Raceway



**WINNER: JUSTIN ALLGAIER**

Saturday's MillerTech Battery 250 at Pocono (Pa.) Raceway featured a record 18 lead changes and a record 10 cautions – including a seven-minute red flag period – but in the end, it was a very familiar scenario in Victory Lane: championship leader Justin Allgaier and the No. 7 JR Motorsports team celebrating an inspired drive.

Allgaier led a race best 35 of the 100 laps – ultimately taking the lead for good on a restart with two laps remaining. Haas Factory teammates Sam Mayer – who was Allgaier's greatest challenge on the day – and Sheldon Creed created a three-wide push for the lead on the final restart but ultimately slid backwards as Allgaier's JR Motorsports teammate William Byron was able to push Allgaier's No. 7 Chevrolet forward to create a gap on the field.

The advantage was all Allgaier needed to race off to a .607-second win over Joe Gibbs Racing's Brent Crews – who passed Byron on the last corner of the last lap for second place.

The victory was the 2024 series champion Allgaier's first at the historic Pocono 2.5-mile triangle-shaped track giving him wins now at 21 different venues. And it marked the fifth win of the year for Allgaier, tying his previous high season win total.

"First of all, I've got to say thank you to William Byron because without his shove at the end of the race, it was probably game over," Allgaier said before thanking the fans for filling the grandstands.

"This season has been special with [crew chief] Andrew Overstreet and this whole number seven team and this pit crew right here," he said, adding with a grin, "We're going to go celebrate this one for sure."

Slowed by all the caution flags – four in the opening 25-lap stage alone – the early part of the race never allowed for one driver to establish a rhythm and truly set a pace among all the starting and stopping.

Polesitter Taylor Gray led 24 laps and won the opening stage and Crews claimed the stage two win. But the final half of the race was really a duel between Allgaier and Mayer, who led 14 laps and exchanged the lead with Allgaier frequently in the race's closing laps – sometimes on the same lap. They started side-by-side out front on the three final restarts and Mayer looked like his No. 41 Haas Factory Team Chevrolet would at least keep Allgaier honest. In the end, Mayer and Creed finished fourth and fifth.

Incredibly, Allgaier's effort – the 33rd victory of his career – now puts him an unbelievable 250 points up on second place, Richard Childress Racing driver Jesse Love in the series championship standings with seven regular season races remaining. Love only completed a single lap after being collected in the first of 10 yellow-flag incidents on the day.

Anthony Alfredo, Rajah Caruth, Brandon Jones, the defending Pocono race winner Connor Zilisch and Carson Kvapil rounded out the top-10.

Jeremy Clements led a lap and finished 16th. The 41-year-old South Carolinian tied Kenny Wallace for the O'Reilly Auto Parts Series most all-time starts – 547 races.

## GREAT AMERICAN GETAWAY 400

Denny Hamlin's victory Sunday marked the first-time in his 21-year fulltime career he's won three consecutive races – at Nashville, Michigan and now Pocono. He now has 64 series wins – placing him ninth on the all-time list, breaking a tie with the late two-time series champion Kyle Busch.



The checkered flag flies, and for the 64th time in his Cup Series career, Denny Hamlin wins, this time taking Sunday's Great American Getaway 400 at Pocono Raceway. (James Gilbert/Getty)

## Hot Hamlin continues Pocono domination

Quite simply, Pocono Raceway's best was best once again.

Joe Gibbs Racing driver Denny Hamlin hoisted his record eighth Cup Series trophy at the iconic 2.5-mile Pocono track in Sunday's The Great American Getaway 400 presented by VISITPA – his No. 11 JGR Toyota holding off the No. 45 23XI Racing Toyota of Tyler Reddick by 1.678-seconds in a dramatic fuel-saving dance to the checkered flag.

The victory marks the first-time in his 21-year fulltime career Hamlin's won three consecutive races – at Nashville, Michigan and now Pocono. It's sure been a productive summer for the 45-year-old Virginian who now has 64 series wins – placing him ninth on the sport's all-time list, breaking a tie with his former teammate, the late two-time series champion Kyle Busch.

"Just so special here," said a smiling Hamlin of his effort at the iconic Tricky Triangle.

"Just so happy for this whole Joe Gibbs Racing team," he continued. "This is a team effort. They've given me fast cars. The pit crew is flawless right now, we've just got it all going."

"I'd say it's certainly the best we've been," Hamlin said of his team's current confidence level. "We come to the race track every week knowing that we've got a great shot to win. The team is doing an amazing job knowing exactly what I need in the car every week and that's why we're winning."

Now with only 10 races left to set the 16-driver Chase field, Hamlin's win streak has decisively cut Reddick's once three-digit lead atop the Cup Series championship standings. Reddick is now only 19 points ahead of Hamlin – who along with NBA legend Michael Jordan co-owns Reddick's team. It's the smallest margin atop the standings on the year for the five-race winner Reddick.

"It's a bummer," conceded Reddick, who rallied from fifth to second place in the closing laps, after concerns of a tire going down on a late race restart.

"We definitely lost time in a couple spots there. Some of it is everyone's racing hard for track position and some of it is just bad luck, I guess, just where you catch cars."

"We knew qualifying was going to be tricky coming into this and just weren't able to get stage points – scoring the points we did, just didn't get the job done."

Hamlin's JGR teammate Christopher Bell who gambled with a fuel-saving strategy in the closing laps, was passed by Hamlin with five laps remaining and then ran out of gas just as the field took the white flag. He finished 26th despite his valiant effort on the day, nursing a broken left wrist he suffered in an accident last week at Michigan.

"We were mired back in the 20s so I think it was an amazing call," Bell said of the gamble, calling the calculated risk "worth it."

Hendrick Motorsports' William Byron finished third in the No. 24 Chevrolet, followed by Legacy Motor Club's John Hunter Nemechek – claiming his first top-five finish of the season. His race best 42 laps out front in the No. 42 Toyota Sunday were more laps than he led in either the entire 2024 or 2025 seasons.

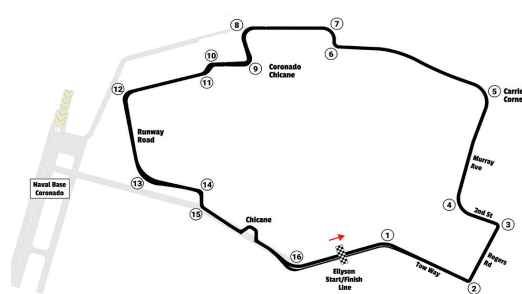
Hendrick's Kyle Larson finished fifth and led laps early. Legacy's Erik Jones was sixth – his second consecutive top-10 – followed by Roush Fenway Keselowski Racing's Chris Buescher, Trackhouse Racing's Ross Chastain, JGR's Ty Gibbs and Team Penske's Ryan Blaney.

Hendrick Motorsports driver Chase Elliott finished 11th – just missing out on a fifth consecutive Pocono top-10. Hamlin won stage one and Front Row Motorsports' Todd Gilliland claimed the stage two win – his first career stage victory.

With the regular season winding down, points positions to determine which 16 drivers will race for the championship are close. Trackhouse Racing's Shane Van Gisbergen is 14th, 10 points to the clear of 17th place Brad Keselowski. Jones and Austin Cindric are ranked 15th and 16th – both only four points to the good. Team Penske's Joey Logano is behind Keselowski, 21 points out of 16th place.

The NASCAR Cup Series will headline a triple-header weekend in Southern California with Sunday's inaugural Anduril 250 (4 p.m. ET on Prime Video, MRN, SiriusXM NASCAR Radio) at the Qualcomm Circuit on Naval Base Coronado.

## NEXT: ANDURIL 250



**Naval Base Coronado, San Diego**  
4 p.m. ET Sunday, Prime

- **Circuit length:** 3.4 mi (5.5 km)
- **Race length:** 255 mi (410.383 km)
- **Laps:** 75
- **Surface:** Asphalt
- **Turns:** 16

• **Of note:** The 16-turn street course race at Naval Base Coronado effectively replaces the Chicago Street Race.

Anduril, a defense products company, is the presenting sponsor of NASCAR San Diego Weekend and the Anduril 250 Race at the



Base Cup Series street race that honors the 250th anniversary of the United States Navy. As part of a multi-year agreement, Anduril has also been named the official defense partner of NASCAR.



Aerial view of the Naval Air Station North Island at Naval Base Coronado San Diego.



Shane van Gisbergen won last year's street race in Chicago. Will he prevail this year in San Diego? GETTY

## 2026 CUP SERIES STANDINGS

Top 30 as of June 14

Rank/Driver	Points	Rank/Driver	Points
1 Tyler Reddick #45	704	16 Austin Cindric #2	355
2 Denny Hamlin #11	685	17 Brad Keselowski #6	351
3 Ryan Blaney #12	539	18 Joey Logano #22	334
4 Chase Elliott #9	509	19 Ryan Preece #60	322
5 Ty Gibbs #54	506	20 Michael McDowell #71	306
6 Kyle Larson #5	494	21 AJ Allmendinger #16	301
7 Chris Buescher #17	461	22 Ricky Stenhouse Jr #47	299
8 Daniel Suárez #7	450	23 Ross Chastain #1	294
9 Carson Hocevar #77	449	24 Zane Smith #38	283
10 Christopher Bell #20	421	25 Todd Gilliland #34	283
11 William Byron #24	415	26 John H. Nemechek #42	277
12 Chase Briscoe #19	411	27 Riley Herbst #35	271
13 Bubba Wallace #23	394	28 Austin Dillon #3	257
14 S. van Gisbergen #97	361	29 Noah Gragson #4	214
15 Erik Jones #43	355	30 Josh Berry #21	200

## 2026 O'REILLY AUTO PARTS STANDINGS

Top 20 as of June 13

Rank/Driver	Points	Rank/Driver	Points
1 Justin Allgaier #7	842	11 William Sawalich #18	445
2 Jesse Love #2	592	12 Brent Crews #19	432
3 Corey Day #17	575	13 Taylor Gray #54	429
4 Sheldon Creed #00	569	14 Rajah Caruth #32	424
5 Brandon Jones #20	547	15 Ryan Sieg #39	395
6 Austin Hill #21	523	16 Brennan Poole #44	328
7 Carson Kvapil #9	523	17 Anthony Alfredo #96	319
8 Sammy Smith #8	504	18 Dean Thompson #26	306
9 Sam Mayer #41	459	19 Jeremy Clements #51	284
10 Parker Retzlaff #99	446	20 Jeb Burton #27	262

**NEXT RACE:** UNITED RENTALS RACE TO SERVE 250, Naval Base Coronado, 5 p.m. ET Saturday, CWV

## 2026 CRAFTSMAN TRUCK STANDINGS

Top 20 as of June 6

Rank/Driver	Points	Rank/Driver	Points
1 Layne Riggs #34	497	11 Corey Heim #1	274
2 Kaden Honeycutt #11	471	12 Stewart Friesen #52	269
3 Chandler Smith #38	407	13 Grant Enfinger #9	256
4 Gio Ruggiero #17	383	14 Brenden Queen #12	242
5 Christian Eckes #91	379	15 Justin Haley #16	230
6 Ben Rhodes #99	316	16 A. Perez De Lara #44	225
7 Ty Majeski #88	312	17 Tanner Gray #15	221
8 Tyler Ankrum #18	283	18 Dawson Sutton #26	186
9 Daniel Hemric #19	278	19 Mini Tyrrell #14	175
10 Jake Garcia #98	278	20 Corey LaJoie #75	158

**NEXT RACE:** TRUCKS RACE AT SAN DIEGO, San Diego Street Course, 7 p.m. ET Friday, FS1

## POCONO WINNER QUOTE

"Just so special here. Just so happy for this whole Joe Gibbs Racing team. This is a team effort. They've given me fast cars. The pit crew is flawless right now, we've just got it all going. I'd say it's certainly the best we've been."

— Denny Hamlin, who once again Sunday mastered the Tricky Triangle at Pocono Raceway



Denny Hamlin in Victory Lane Sunday at Pocono.

DAVID JENSEN/GETTY

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