RACING THIS WEEK

TRUCKS BURNOUT ALERT! Corey Heim celebrates after winning Friday's EcoSave 250 at Charlotte Motor Speedway. **D. Jensen/Getty**

XFINITY RECAP

• **Saturday's** BLUE CROSS NC 250, Charlotte Motor Speedway Road Course

WINNER: CONNOR ZILISCH

It was another routine victory for Xfinity Series rookie phenom Connor Zilisch, who hit double digits with his 10th win of the season.

Behind Zilisch, it was a chaotic scramble for the remaining five berths in the Round of 8 of the series Playoffs.

It was a banner day for JR Motorsports, which needed a stroke of good fortune to get all four of its drivers into the Round of 8—and got it.

After leading practice and winning his eighth pole position of the season, Zilisch led 61 of 68 laps and collected the victory when NASCAR called the sixth caution for oil on the track after Zilisch had taken the white flag.

The win was the 10th of the season for the 19-year-old driver of the No. 88 JR Motorsports Chevrolet, his first on the circuit and the 11th of his career.

The drama of the Playoffs all but obscured a career-best runner-up finish by Austin Green, who stayed out with Zilisch for the overtime restart. Non-Playoff drivers Kaz Grala, Connor Mosack, Jeb Burton and William Sawalich secured positions four through seven.

Defending series champion Justin Allgaier was eighth, with Sanchez finishing ninth.

Carson Kvapil joined Zilisch, Allgaier and Smith as JR Motorsports entries in the Round of 8th. Sheldon Creed (11th), Jesse Love (12th) and Sam Mayer (19th) all made the Round of 8 on points.

TRUCKS RECAP

• **Friday's** ECOSAVE 250, Charlotte Motor Raceway Roval

WINNER: COREY HEIM

Recovering from a first-lap crash in "Calamity Corner," Corey Heim rallied to win Friday's EcoSave 250 at the Charlotte Road Course, setting a single-season Truck Series record with his 10th win of the 2025 campaign.

Driving a heavily taped No. 11 TRICON Garage Toyota, Heim took the lead by staying out for an overtime restart while teammate Brent Crews, who had led a race-high 56 laps, pitted for fuel and tires.

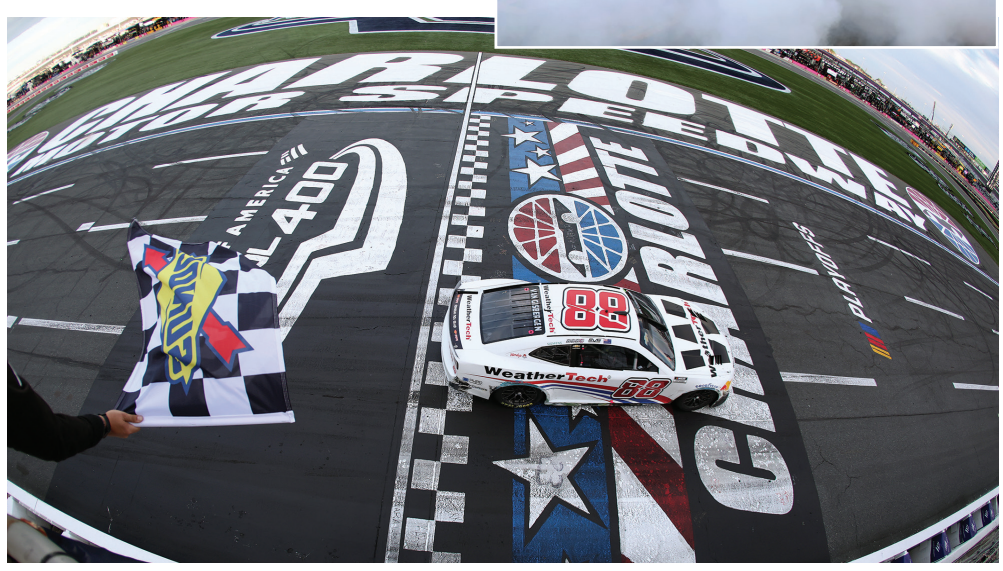
Heim drove away on the restart and beat runner-up Crews to the finish line by 1.338 seconds, leading the first-ever 1-2-3 finish for TRICON, with rookie Gio Ruggiero coming home third.

With Heim advancing to the Championship 4, the other seven Playoff drivers left the opening race in the Round of 8 clustered together around the elimination line. Daniel Hemric (11th Friday after starting from the rear) and Tyler Ankrum (ninth) are second and third in the standings, two points above the cut line.

Fourth-place finisher Rajah Caruth is fourth in the standings, just one point to the good over Layne Riggs, two clear of defending series champion Ty Majeski and four ahead of Grant Enfinger and Kaden Honeycutt.

PLAYOFFS 6: BANK OF AMERICA ROVAL 400

As expected, road course maven Shane van Gisbergen won Sunday's Bank of America Roval 400, but that was only a small part of the story at the Charlotte Road Course.



Shane van Gisbergen, driver of the #88 WeatherTech Chevrolet, takes the checkered flag to win the Cup Series Bank of America ROVAL 400 at Charlotte Motor Speedway on Sunday. (David Jensen/Getty Images)

SvG once again is king of the road course

As expected, road course maven Shane van Gisbergen won Sunday's Bank of America Roval 400, but that was only a small part of the story at the Charlotte Motor Speedway Road Course.

Long after van Gisbergen took the checkered flag to record his fifth straight road course victory of the Cup Series season, Ross Chastain made a banzai run in the frontstretch chicane and wiped out Denny Hamlin's Toyota in an attempt to secure the final spot in the Playoffs' Round of 8.

Spinning after the contact with Hamlin's car, Chastain threw his car into reverse and sped backwards across the finish line, but the effort proved futile. The final Round of 8 spot instead went to defending series champion Joey Logano, who finished 20th and advanced by four points over the Trackhouse Racing driver.

A pair of mistakes on pit road cost Chastain dearly. At the first stage break, he ran wide into the 90-degree corner at the exit from pit road, missed the turn and came to a stop, losing 15 positions to restart 30th.

After recovering from that error and putting himself in position to advance, Chastain sped on pit road on Lap 87 of 109, ran long to the finish and lost too many spots on the final two laps to hold off Logano.

"(Trackhouse owner) Justin (Marks) hired me to carry this 1 car and to drive it and to be a leader, and I just completely unraveled our day," a crestfallen Chastain said. "We definitely had the speed on the last lap, yeah, and missed turn 7, and I slid the rear tires and let the 11 (Hamlin) by.

"Yeah, not acceptable. I just completely ... you know, just completely unacceptable."

Logano was delighted to escape the race at the 2.28-mile circuit with the opportunity for a fourth Cup Series title intact.

Eliminated along with Chastain were pole winner Tyler Reddick (10th), Bubba Wallace (15th) and Austin Cindric, who needed a win to advance and instead finished last (37th) after a litany of issues throughout the race.

Ryan Blaney and Chase Elliott already had advanced to the Round of 8 with respective Round of 12 victories at New Hampshire Motor Speedway and Kansas Speedway. Race runner-up Kyle Larson, third-place Christopher Bell, William Byron, Chase Briscoe, Hamlin and Logano joined them after Sunday's elimination race.

Both Larson and Bell made van Gisbergen's task harder than usual. The New Zealander, however, was so good at managing his fragile tires that he finished the final 59-lap stage on two pit stops compared with three for his closest pursuers.

The result was a whopping 15.160-second margin of victory over Larson for the driver of the No. 88 Trackhouse Racing Chevrolet. The victory was his fifth of the season and sixth overall, and his five straight road course wins are one short of Jeff Gordon's series record, set from 1997 through 2000.

Both Bell and Larson were aggressive in their attempts to unseat NASCAR's current road course king. On Lap 63, Larson muscled his way past van Gisbergen, with Bell following into second.

After a cycle of green-flag pit stops, the Kiwi passed Bell for second. Eight laps later, he dived to the inside of Larson's No. 5 Chevrolet in the Turn 7 hairpin and regained the lead.

After another round of pit stops, SVG and Larson swapped the lead with significant contact between their cars before van Gisbergen passed Larson through the backstretch chicane on Lap 98 and held it the rest of the way.

"Yeah, just started getting hot and sliding around, but what an awesome race," van Gisbergen said. "Kyle and Christopher driving really good and got a little rough, but, man, the battle was awesome.

"With the Chevy, I lost it a little bit at the start of Stage 3, and whatever they did for the rest of the race, unbelievable. Really enjoyed that, and that was a long time waiting, hoping the yellow wasn't going to come out (as he ran late on older tires)."

Briscoe made the Round of 8 by 19 points with a 14th-place finish despite feeling ill during the race. At one point, he asked for a bag of ice, which he stuffed inside his driver's suit.

"It was definitely an odd day," Briscoe said. "We definitely just weren't that great. I don't know. They gave me a pill in the beginning, and I felt a lot better. I was just so dizzy ... I've been fighting something all week, and I sound terrible, I'm sure.

"After those first 20 laps, I was able to kind of feel fine. At the end I was struggling a little bit, but I was just focusing on not making any mistakes. Not a super pretty day for our Bass Pro Shops, Tracker Toyota. It was good enough—that's all we needed to do."

Non-Playoff drivers Chris Buescher, Michael McDowell, Ryan Preece and Daniel Suarez finished fourth through seventh, respectively. Elliott was eighth, followed by AJ Allmendinger and Reddick.

ROVAL WINNER QUOTE

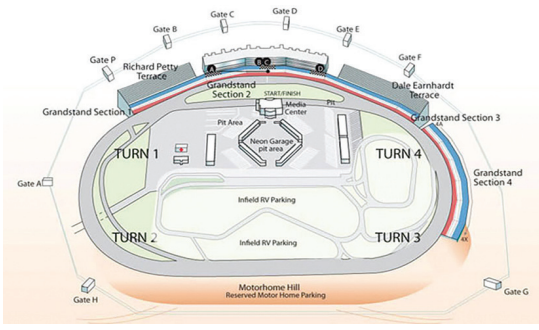
"Yeah, just started getting hot and sliding around, but what an awesome race. Kyle and Christopher driving really good and got a little rough, but, man, the battle was awesome."

— Shane van Gisbergen, who showed once again who's king of the road course Sunday at Charlotte Roval

Shane van Gisbergen with his customary rugby ball kick into the stands after winning Sunday at Charlotte Roval.

DAVID JENSEN/ GETTY IMAGES

CUP PLAYOFFS: 7TH RACE
SOUTH POINT 400



Las Vegas Motor Speedway
5:30 p.m. ET Saturday, USA

Las Vegas Motor Speedway is a 1.5 mile tri-oval intermediate speedway. The track complex has hosted various major racing events since its opening, including NASCAR, IndyCar, and Champ Car. The venue has a capacity of 80,000 as of 2023.

Length: 1.500 miles (2.414 km)

Surface: Asphalt

Opened: 1971

Banking: Turns: 20°; Frontstretch: 9°; Backstretch: 9°

Joey Logano won last year's South Point 400 Playoff race, securing his spot in the Championship 4. **GETTY**

CUP PLAYOFFS NOTES

• The Playoffs Round of 8 field is cemented after non-playoff driver Shane van Gisbergen picked up his fifth consecutive road course victory Sunday at the Charlotte Roval.

• Joey Logano clinched the final spot in the semifinal round, using fresh tires after a pit stop with 11 laps to go to sneak past Ross Chastain by four points.

• William Byron, Chase Briscoe and Denny Hamlin all advanced based on finishing position at the Roval. Byron placed 11th, Briscoe 14th and Hamlin 23rd.

• Both Kyle Larson and Christopher Bell clinched Round of 8 spots earlier in Sunday's 109-lap thriller, Larson advancing after placing second in Stage 1 and Bell advancing after finishing seventh in Stage 2.

• A pair of former Cup Series champions already clinched their spots in the semifinal round before Roval. Team Penske's Ryan Blaney and Chase Elliott of Hendrick Motorsports.

2025 CUP SERIES STANDINGS

Playoff 8 + 22 as of October 5

Rank/Driver	Points	Rank/Driver	Points
1 Denny Hamlin	**4036**	16 Josh Berry	2078
2 Ryan Blaney	**4034**	17 Chris Buescher	822
3 Kyle Larson	**4032**	18 Ryan Preece	748
4 William Byron	**4032**	19 Ty Gibbs	678
5 Christopher Bell	**4028**	20 Brad Keselowski	655
6 Chase Elliott	**4018**	21 Michael McDowell	647
7 Chase Briscoe	**4018**	22 Carson Hocevar	633
8 Joey Logano	**4008**	23 Kyle Busch	633
9 Tyler Reddick	2187	24 AJ Allmendinger	620
10 Bubba Wallace	2177	25 Erik Jones	615
11 Ross Chastain	2172	26 J. Hunter Nemechek	601
12 Shane van Gisbergen	2142	27 Zane Smith	550
13 Alex Bowman	2110	28 Daniel Suarez	536
14 Austin Cindric	2094	29 Todd Gilliland	510
15 Austin Dillon	2091	30 Ricky Stenhouse Jr.	508

2025 XFINITY SERIES STANDINGS

Playoff 8 + 12 as of October 4

Rank/Driver	Points	Rank/Driver	Points
1 Connor Zilisch #88	**3071**	11 Austin Hill #35	2086
2 Justin Allgaier #7	**3038**	12 Harrison Burton #25	2060
3 Brandon Jones #20	**3018**	13 Christian Eckes #16	675
4 Sam Mayer #41	**3016**	14 Jeb Burton #27	655
5 Jesse Love #2	**3014**	15 Ryan Sieg #39	623
6 Sammy Smith #8	**3009**	16 Dean Thompson #26	621
7 Carson Kvapil #1	**3005**	17 William Sawalich #18	603
8 Sheldon Creed #00	**3003**	18 Brennan Poole #44	558
9 Taylor Gray #54	2100	19 Daniel Dye #10	557
10 Nicholas Sanchez #48	2092	20 Jeremy Clements #51	492

NEXT RACE: FOCUSED HEALTH 302, Las Vegas Motor Speedway, 7:30 p.m. ET Saturday, CW

2025 TRUCK SERIES STANDINGS

Playoff 8 + 12 as of October 3

Rank/Driver	Points	Rank/Driver	Points
1 Corey Heim #11	**3122**	11 Gio Ruggiero #17	614
2 Daniel Hemric #19	**3051**	12 Ben Rhodes #99	572
3 Tyler Ankrum #18	**3051**	13 Tanner Gray #15	506
4 Rajah Caruth #71	**3050**	14 Connor Mosack #81	471
5 Layne Riggs #34	**3049**	15 A. Perez De Lara #44	436
6 Ty Majeski #98	**3048**	16 Matt Crafton #88	431
7 Grant Enfinger #9	**3046**	17 Matt Mills #42	402
8 K. Honeycutt #52	**3046**	18 Stewart Friesen #52	397
9 Chandler Smith #38	2104	19 Dawson Sutton #26	390
10 Jake Garcia #13	2085	20 Jack Wood #91	376

NEXT RACE: LOVE'S RV STOP 225, Talladega Superspeedway, 4 p.m. ET Friday, Oct. 17, FS1