

# RACING THIS WEEK

**TRUCKS BURNOUT ALERT!** Layne Riggs celebrates after winning Friday's Allegiance 200 at Nashville. J. Bachman/Getty



## O'REILLY RECAP

• **Saturday's** SPORTS ILLUSTRATED RESORTS 250, Nashville Superspeedway



**WINNER: JUSTIN ALLGAIER**

After a multiple brilliant and exhilarating door-to-door battles – veteran against rookie – in the closing portion of the race, JR Motorsports' Justin Allgaier prevailed to hoist his series best fourth O'Reilly Auto Parts Series race trophy of the season.

The 2024 series champion had to hold off 18-year-old rookie Brent Crews, who called the close-quarter racing in Saturday's Sports Illustrated Resorts 250 at Nashville Superspeedway "the most fun I've had without winning."

Allgaier's win in the No. 7 JR Motorsports Chevrolet – ultimately by 1.4-second over Crews – was his third at the 1.33-mile Nashville concrete oval and the 32nd overall win of his championship career. And it took hard, clean side-by-side racing lap-after-lap for Allgaier to eventually get by Crews' No. 19 Joe Gibbs Motorsports Toyota for good with 20 laps remaining.

The veteran Allgaier celebrated by climbing out of his Chevy's roof hatch then bowing to the Nashville crowd – an ode to the trademark winning celebration of two-time NASCAR Cup Series champion Kyle Busch, who passed away lafter being ill with pneumonia and sepsis.

Crews' teammate William Sawalich finished third. Sam Mayer finished fourth, his fifth straight top 10 at Nashville, with another JGR driver, Brandon Jones, rounding out top five.

## TRUCKS RECAP

• **Friday's** ALLEGIANCE 200, Nashville Superspeedway



**WINNER: LAYNE RIGGS**

Layne Riggs set the pace early in Friday night's rain-delayed Truck Series race at Nashville Superspeedway then rallied to a dramatic final lap pass when it mattered most to claim the track's iconic "Victory Guitar" trophy in the Allegiance 200.

Riggs, who started sixth on the race's eighth and final restart with 16 laps to go, passed the defending race winner Rajah Caruth coming off Turn 4 on the next to last lap after getting a strong push forward from his Front Row Motorsports teammate Chandler Smith to hold the front position and take his second consecutive – and third – win of the season in the No. 34 Front Row Motorsports Ford.

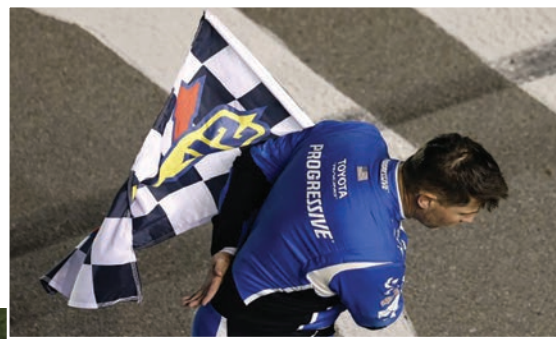
It was an emotional win for Riggs, who dedicated the victory to Busch and an equally as emotional outing for Caruth, who honored Busch with his own run toward the trophy.

Cup Series regular Ross Chastain finished fourth in the Niece Motorsports Chevrolet followed by Tyler Ankrum in the No. 18 McAnally-Hilgemann Chevy.

Stewart Friesen, Grant Enfinger, 2024 Nashville winner Christian Eckes, Gio Ruggiero and Daniel Dye rounded out the top 10.

## CRACKER BARREL 400

Denny Hamlin prevailed over Joe Gibbs Racing teammates Christopher Bell and Chase Briscoe in a wild four-lap dash to the finish Sunday, marking his second win of the 2026 season in a 1-2-3 finish for the organization.



Denny Hamlin prevails Sunday at Nashville, claiming his second win of the 2026 season. He then honored his longtime Joe Gibbs Racing teammate, Kyle Busch, with a showman's bow (top). (Sean Gardner/Getty)

# Hamlin grabs second win in JGR run at Nashville

LEBANON, Tenn. – Call it victorious whiplash.

Race polesitter Denny Hamlin took the lead at the drop of the green flag – was penalized and re-set to last in the 38-car field for jumping that start – then rallied his way forward again in the ensuing 300 laps to be in front for the checkered flag of Sunday night's Cup Series Cracker Barrel 400 at Nashville Superspeedway.

After a back-and-forth among teammates on a final restart with four laps remaining – featuring a three-wide last-lap challenge for the win among three Joe Gibbs Racing Toyotas – Hamlin delivered the manufacturer its first victory at the 1.33-mile Nashville concrete oval, his No. 11 Toyota finishing a slight .115-second ahead of Christopher Bell and Chase Briscoe.

"The 20 [Bell] and 19 [Briscoe] were battling so hard on that first corner it just let me get to the inside of the 20 at the first corner after the restart and from there, side-by-side with the 20," Hamlin, 45, said describing the dramatic final laps that resulted in his 62nd career win.

"He [Bell] drove in so deep on that last lap into [turn] one that it just allowed me to barely clear off of [turn] two.

"What an unbelievable day starting first, going to last and then back to first."

For Bell, the close finish marked his second runner-up showing in as many weeks – simultaneously frustrating and encouraging. As with Hamlin, he recovered from an early race challenge – a pit stop miscue dropping his No. 20 JGR Toyota from running among the top five to 30th place for a restart just before the finish of Stage 1.

"It was great racing, I hope the fans enjoyed that," Bell said. "Just disappointed in myself, disappointed for my team. We brought a great race car and I didn't get the job done."

The finish was certainly indicative of the close racing, important strategy calls and just flat-out team speed ultimately necessary to finally settle a race that featured a race record 31 lead changes among a record 15 drivers.

The race was delayed almost two hours because of weather, but when the action

resumed, there was plenty of drama and intrigue.

The sold-out Nashville crowd issued a silent salute on lap eight to the late two-time NASCAR Cup Series champion Kyle Busch, 41, a beloved four-time Nashville winner (twice each in the CRAFTSMAN Trucks and O'Reilly Auto Parts Series), who passed away last week of sepsis.

In the laps thereafter, the intense action quickly settled in. Hamlin's 57 laps out front were a race high, but nine different drivers led double digit laps. And 11 caution flags affected strategy throughout the night.

Hyak Motorsports' Ricky Stenhouse Jr finished fourth in the No. 47 Chevrolet, followed by a career-best fifth-place effort by Trackhouse Racing's Shane van Gisbergen. The New Zealand road course ace turned in one of his best oval performances running among the top 10 all night. His 12 laps led in the No. 97 Trackhouse Chevrolet were most for him on an oval track.

Reigning championship leader, 23XI Racing's Tyler Reddick and Hendrick Motorsports' Chase Elliott were scored sixth and seventh but were collected in an accident just after taking the checkered flag in a hard push by the field to the finish.

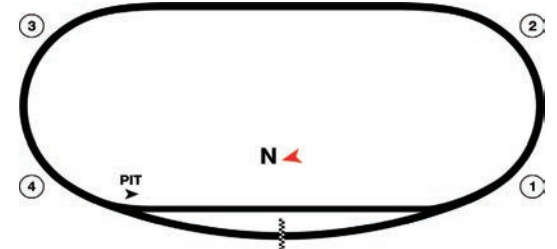
Last year's race winner, Ryan Blaney, was eighth followed by Zane Smith, whose No. 38 Front Row Motorsports Ford was leading until 12 laps to go. Spire Motorsports' Carson Hocevar was 10th. Hendrick's Kyle Larson – the reigning series champion – led 56 laps (only one less than Hamlin) but finished 23rd.

The race featured two first-time stage winners on the season – Kaulig Racing's A.J. Allmendinger (Stage 1) and last week's Charlotte race winner, Spire Motorsports' Daniel Suárez (Stage 2).

With his sixth-place finish Reddick remains atop the standings, 97 points ahead of Hamlin and 174 points up on Blaney in third place.

The series moves a few hours north to Michigan Speedway for Sunday's FireKeepers Casino 400 (3 p.m. ET, Amazon Prime, MRN, SiriusXM NASCAR Radio). Denny Hamlin is the defending race winner.

## NEXT: FIREKEEPERS CASINO 400



**Michigan International Speedway**  
3 p.m. ET Sunday, Prime

- **Location:** 12626 U.S. Highway 12, Cambridge Township, Mich., just south of the village of Brooklyn
- **Opened:** October 13, 1968
- **Capacity:** 56,000
- **Course:** D-shaped oval
- **Length:** 2 miles (3.219 km)
- **Turns:** 4
- **Banking:** Turns, 18°; Frontstretch, 12°; Backstretch, 5°
- **Of note:** This massive two-mile oval is celebrated by fans and drivers for its high speeds and expansive racing surface. With enough room for three- and four-wide racing, it provides a constant showcase of skill. For those who crave the roar of engines and peak NASCAR action, it remains an essential stop on the circuit.
- **Cup lap record:** 0:36.093, Kevin Harvick, Ford Fusion, 2018 FireKeepers Casino 400



Kevin Harvick set the Cup lap speed record at Michigan in 2018.



Denny Hamlin in Victory Lane after winning last year's FireKeepers 400. GETTY

## 2026 CUP SERIES STANDINGS

Top 30 as of May 31

Rank/Driver	Points	Rank/Driver	Points
1 T. Reddick Toyota	657	16 A. Cindric Ford	306
2 D. Hamlin Toyota	560	17 R. Preece Ford	304
3 R. Blaney Ford	483	18 J. Logano Ford	297
4 C. Elliott Chevrolet	460	19 M. McDowell Chevy	275
5 T. Gibbs Toyota	449	20 Z. Smith Ford	272
6 K. Larson Chevrolet	409	21 E. Jones Toyota	270
7 C. Bell Toyota	399	22 AJ Allmendinger Chevy	266
8 C. Buescher Ford	393	23 R. Stenhouse Chevy	263
9 C. Hocevar Chevrolet	383	24 A. Dillon Chevrolet	244
10 D. Suárez Chevrolet	378	25 T. Gilliland Ford	240
11 W. Byron Chevrolet	352	26 R. Chastain Chevrolet	239
12 S. van Gisbergen Chevy	348	27 R. Herbst Toyota	224
13 B. Keselowski Toyota	347	28 J. Nemechek Toyota	213
14 C. Briscoe Toyota	343	29 N. Gragson Ford	202
15 D. Wallace Jr. Toyota	338	30 T. Dillon Chevrolet	177

## 2026 O'REILLY AUTO PARTS STANDINGS

Top 20 as of May 30

Rank/Driver	Points	Rank/Driver	Points
1 Justin Allgaier #7	770	11 Sam Mayer #41	413
2 Jesse Love #2	591	12 Taylor Gray #54	399
3 Corey Day #17	574	13 Rajah Caruth #32	387
4 Sheldon Creed #00	532	14 Brent Crews #19	384
5 Brandon Jones #20	512	15 Ryan Sieg #39	384
6 Austin Hill #21	499	16 Brennan Poole #44	309
7 Carson Kvapil #1	493	17 Anthony Alfredo #96	286
8 Sammy Smith #8	482	18 Dean Thompson #26	282
9 William Sawalich #18	429	19 Jeremy Clements #51	260
10 Parker Retzlaff #99	416	20 Jeb Burton #27	253

**NEXT RACE:** MILLERTECH BATTERY 250, Pocono Raceway, 4 p.m. ET Saturday, June 13, CW

## 2026 CRAFTSMAN TRUCK STANDINGS

Top 20 as of May 29

Rank/Driver	Points	Rank/Driver	Points
1 Layne Riggs #34	458	11 Jake Garcia #98	248
2 Kaden Honeycutt #11	421	12 Grant Enfinger #9	228
3 Christian Eckes #91	365	13 Justin Haley #16	221
4 Chandler Smith #38	362	14 Brenden Queen #12	219
5 Gio Ruggiero #17	352	15 A. Perez De Lara #44	207
6 Ty Majeski #88	309	16 Corey Heim #1	204
7 Ben Rhodes #99	300	17 Tanner Gray #15	202
8 Tyler Ankrum #18	256	18 Dawson Sutton #26	185
9 Stewart Friesen #52	254	19 Mini Tyrrell #14	158
10 Daniel Hemric #19	254	20 Cole Butcher #13	151

**NEXT RACE:** DQS SOLUTIONS & STAFFING 250, Michigan International, 1:30 p.m. ET Saturday, FS1

## NASHVILLE WINNER QUOTE

"The 20 (Christopher Bell) and 19 (Chase Briscoe) were battling so hard on that first corner it just let me get to the inside of the 20 at the first corner after the restart and from there, side-by-side with the 20. He [Bell] drove in so deep on that last lap into [turn] one that it just allowed me to barely clear off of [turn] two."

— Denny Hamlin, who led the way for Joe Gibbs Racing Sunday at Nashville



Denny Hamlin in Victory Lane Sunday at Nashville.

ALEJANDRO ALVAREZ/ NASCAR

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