

RACING THIS WEEK

XFINITY BURNOUT ALERT! Sam Mayer celebrates after winning Saturday's HyVee Perks 250 at Iowa Speedway.
M. Oliphant/Getty



XFINITY RECAP

• **Saturday's** HYVEE PERKS 250, Iowa Speedway



WINNER: SAM MAYER

Sam Mayer took control of Saturday's Hy-Vee Perks 250 at Iowa Speedway after a Lap 221 restart and maintained it the rest of the way to record the first victory for the Haas Factory team and the first in the series for Ford this season.

Mayer won at Iowa for the second straight year, having won in a JR Motorsports Chevrolet last season. The eighth victory of his career ended Sunoco rookie Connor Zilisch's three-race winning streak.

Driving the No. 41 Haas Factory Team Ford, Mayer edged ahead of pole winner and runner-up Jesse Love on Lap 223 before Brandon Jones spun in oil from Matt DiBenedetto's Chevrolet to cause the eighth caution of the afternoon.

On the subsequent restart on Lap 234, Mayer streaked away and left Love and other pursuers in his wake. After taking the white flag, Mayer was cruising to the victory when Garrett Smithley's spin caused the ninth and final caution and froze the field, with Mayer in the winning position.

After finishing fourth in the first stage, Mayer overshot his No.1 pit stall, which sits at a difficult angle around a curve near the exit from pit road. Mayer restarted 16th on Lap 71 but worked his way back through the field and regained the fourth spot by the end of Stage 2.

Ross Chastain finished third behind Mayer and Love, with Zilisch running fourth and Harrison Burton fifth.

For practical purposes, Zilisch's bid for a fourth straight Xfinity Series ran into trouble during the first stage break. After winning Stage 1, Zilisch brought his No. 88 Chevrolet to pit road for service, but the front tire changer failed to get lugs tight on the left front wheel.

Zilisch restarted 25th on Lap 71 and initially made rapid progress through the field. As the second stage progressed, Zilisch stalled out in traffic, with his Camaro getting increasingly loose behind other cars.

The 19-year-old phenom finished the stage in 17th-place and restarted the final stage in the same position on Lap 130. He climbed as high as third in the running order but couldn't find a way to prevail during a succession of late restarts.

In fact, Zilisch's car broke loose in a three-wide scenario with teammates Chastain and reigning series champion Justin Allgaier on Lap 214. Contact from Zilisch's car knocked Chastain sideways into Allgaier's Chevrolet.

With Allgaier finishing 16th, he and Zilisch's are now tied for the series lead with four races left in the regular season.

Burton took a major step toward the Playoffs with his second top-five finish of the season. He's now 11th on the current Playoff grid, 17 points ahead of 12th-place Ryan Sieg and 19 points ahead of cousin Jeb Burton, the first driver below the elimination line.

Driving the No. 11 Kaulig Racing Chevrolet after the abrupt release of Josh Williams from the ride, Carson Hocevar finished sixth, followed by Sheldon Creed, Ryan Sieg, Carson Kvapil and Christian Eckes.

IOWA CORN 350

With his first victory at the 0.875-mile short track and the 15th of his career, William Byron regained the series lead by 18 points over teammate Chase Elliott, who finished 14th.



William Byron, driver of the #24 Raptor Chevrolet, takes the checkered flag to win the Cup Series Iowa Corn 350 Powered by Ethanol at Iowa Speedway on Sunday.
(Meg Oliphant/Getty Images)

Fuel-savvy Byron grabs win at Iowa

NEWTON, Iowa — An extraordinary spat of cautions in Sunday's Iowa Corn 350 Powered by Ethanol allowed William Byron to save an extraordinary amount of fuel, and that proved the difference in Byron's second victory of the season and first since the Daytona 500.

Squeezing 144 laps out of his fuel cell at an Iowa Speedway track where the fuel window is roughly 100 laps, Byron crossed the finish line ahead of a trio of pursuers—pole winner Chase Briscoe, first and second stage winner Brad Keselowski and defending race winner Ryan Blaney—all on different strategies.

Byron's margin of victory over second-place Briscoe was 1.192 seconds, with Keselowski in third and Blaney in fourth both within a car-length of the runner-up at the finish line.

Byron's No. 24 Hendrick Motorsports Chevrolet ran out of fuel during his celebratory burnouts on the frontstretch, forcing him to cut the smoke show short.

"Man, how about that for some fuel mileage?" Byron asked rhetorically after climbing from his car. "We've had our fair share of things not go our way with fuel mileage, and just super thankful for (crew chief) Rudy (Fugle), all these guys, all the engineers, all the engineers back at the shop.

"Just this whole race team, we've been through a lot this year. It's been a lot of growing pains. It's been tough on us. But it feels really good today to get a win."

After running in the top five for most of last Sunday's Cup Series race at Indianapolis Motor Speedway, Byron ran out of fuel in overtime while running third. With Fugle coaxing him repeatedly to save fuel at Iowa, Byron conserved just enough.

And at last, the result of the race matched the speed he has shown consistently this season.

"Honestly, I felt like we had a good car and just kind of raced it and just tried to be there at the end, and we were," said Byron, who led the first 67 laps and the last 74. "And luckily, the fuel was enough there at the end.

"I think I ran out right there (during the burnout). That's why I stopped."

With his first victory at the 0.875-mile

short track and the 15th of his career, Byron regained the series lead by 18 points over teammate Chase Elliott, who finished 14th after pitting for fuel on Lap 283 of 350.

What enabled Byron to stretch his fuel to 144 laps was a series of seven quick cautions within 65 laps of the start of the final stage. All told, 12 cautions slowed the race for 72 laps.

Briscoe got close to Byron during the final 64-lap green-flag run but couldn't challenge for the lead.

"There at the end, I was running William down," Briscoe said. "I thought I was really in the catbird seat there, and I just got there and kind of stalled out.

"I kind of experienced that when I was leading earlier. I caught the back of the field, and same thing; as soon as I got there, I just kind of died."

Needing a victory to qualify for the Cup Series Playoffs, Keselowski won the first two stages, but his fuel advantage on the final run was negated by the abundant cautions.

"Just the way the yellows fell," Keselowski said. "We had so many yellows there in Stage 3 that it got the 24 (Byron) and the 19 (Briscoe) to where they could make it on fuel pitting way outside the window, and we just couldn't get back by them.

"Got back by a lot of guys; restarted I think 24th there after we pitted and got all the way up to third, but that was as far as I could get."

Ryan Preece ran fifth and trimmed the lead of Roush Fenway Keselowski teammate Chris Buescher from 42 to 23 points in the battle for what could be the final berth in Playoffs.

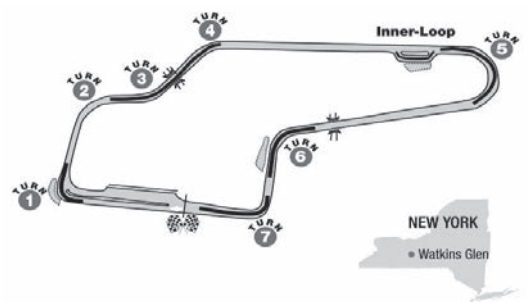
Brickyard 400 winner Bubba Wallace rallied from two laps down and overcame damage to his No. 23 Toyota to finish sixth. Alex Bowman was seventh, solidifying his hold on a potential Playoff spot by maintaining a 63-point edge over Preece.

Carson Hocevar came home eighth, followed by Joey Logano and Austin Dillon.

Byron led 141 laps to 81 for Briscoe and 68 for Keselowski.

The quest for the final Playoff spots continues in next Sunday's Go Bowling at the Glen on the road course at Watkins Glen International (2 p.m. ET on USA, MRN and SiriusXM NASCAR Radio).

NEXT: GO BOWLING AT THE GLEN



Watkins Glen International

Watkins Glen, NY

2 p.m. ET Sunday, USA

TRACK LENGTH	2.45 miles (3.78 km)
TRACK TYPE	Road Course
SURFACE	Asphalt
BANKING	6-10 degrees on turns
CAUTION SPEED	45 MPH

ABOUT THOSE TURNS at 'THE GLEN'

1: Once drivers take the green flag, they are faced with a downhill trek into the first corner. Carrying a ton of speed down the straightaway, this is a heavy braking zone in order to get the car slowed down enough to make the right-hand turn.

2: Drivers hop on a short straight which leads them gradually uphill and into the second right-hand corner. Begins the ascent through "esses."

3: Continuing the uphill climb through the esses, this sweeping left-hander can be treacherous.

4: Drivers complete the uphill climb and the corner starts to level off, building backstretch speed.

5: Backstretch allows the drivers to gain a ton of momentum, which leads them into another heavy braking zone and into the inner loop section. Hot on the brakes upon entry, this is a great place to overtake someone before making a quick series of right- and left-hand turns.

5: Also referred to as the carousel. With a banking of 10 degrees, the steepest turn of the road course, it allows drivers to build up speed as they make their way onto the straightaway into Turn 6.

6: Drivers use this turn to make a quick pass or set themselves up for a pass heading into 7.

7: A short chute gives drivers time to adjust to make a good angle through the final corner. Chance to make a quality pass into the frontstretch and down to the start-finish line.



Chris Buescher held off Shane van Gisbergen (in red, right) to claim his career first road course victory at Watkins Glen in the Playoffs last year. **GETTY**

2025 CUP SERIES STANDINGS

Top 30 as of August 3

Rank/Driver	Points	Rank/Driver	Points
1 William Byron #24	770	16 Ty Gibbs #54	487
2 Chase Elliott #9	752	17 Austin Cindric #2	481
3 Kyle Larson #5	725	18 AJ Allmendinger #16	456
4 Denny Hamlin #11	719	19 Brad Keselowski #6	453
5 Christopher Bell #20	684	20 J. H. Nemechek #42	447
6 Tyler Reddick #45	673	21 Josh Berry #21	443
7 Ryan Blaney #12	665	22 Carson Hocevar #77	443
8 Chase Briscoe #19	640	23 Michael McDowell #71	440
9 Alex Bowman #48	614	24 Erik Jones #43	436
10 Bubba Wallace #23	581	25 S. van Gisbergen #88	398
11 Chris Buescher #17	574	26 Ricky Stenhouse #47	398
12 Joey Logano #22	560	27 Zane Smith #38	395
13 Ryan Preece #60	551	28 Austin Dillon #3	384
14 Ross Chastain #1	544	29 Justin Haley #7	378
15 Kyle Busch #8	501	30 Todd Gilliland #34	367

2025 XFINITY SERIES STANDINGS

Top 20 as of August 2

Rank/Driver	Points	Rank/Driver	Points
1 Connor Zilisch #88	772	11 Harrison Burton #25	546
2 Justin Allgaier #7	772	12 Nicholas Sanchez #48	535
3 Sam Mayer #41	756	13 Ryan Sieg #39	529
4 Jesse Love #2	702	14 Jeb Burton #27	527
5 Austin Hill #21	650	15 Christian Eckes #16	477
6 Carson Kvapil #1	622	16 Dean Thompson #26	468
7 Brandon Jones #20	618	17 Daniel Dye #10	445
8 Sheldon Creed #00	611	18 Brennan Poole #44	414
9 Taylor Gray #54	596	19 William Sawalich #18	386
10 Sammy Smith #8	567	20 Jeremy Clements #51	384

NEXT RACE: MISSION 200 AT THE GLEN, Watkins Glen International, 3 p.m. ET Saturday, CW

2025 TRUCK SERIES STANDINGS

Top 20 as of July 25

Rank/Driver	Points	Rank/Driver	Points
1 Corey Heim #11	735	11 Rajah Caruth #71	415
2 Chandler Smith #38	592	12 Gio Ruggiero #17	409
3 Layne Riggs #34	585	13 Stewart Friesen #52	397
4 Daniel Hemric #19	544	14 Tanner Gray #15	386
5 Grant Enfinger #9	536	15 Connor Mosack #81	343
6 Kaden Honeycutt #45	520	16 Matt Crafton #88	328
7 Ty Majeski #98	508	17 A. Perez De Lara #77	312
8 Tyler Ankrum #18	502	18 Jack Wood #91	304
9 Jake Garcia #13	447	19 Matt Mills #42	289
10 Ben Rhodes #99	431	20 Dawson Sutton #26	274

NEXT RACE: TRUCKS RACE, Watkins Glen International, 5 p.m. ET Friday, FS1

IOWA WINNER QUOTE

"Just this whole race team, we've been through a lot this year. It's been a lot of growing pains. It's been tough on us. But it feels really good today to get a win."

— William Byron, who had just enough fuel to win Sunday at Iowa



William Byron celebrates in Victory Lane at Iowa Sunday.

SEAN GARDNER/ NASCAR

ALL AMERICAN

SUB + MELT

Declare your freedom from hunger with ham, Smith's bologna, hard salami and cheese on a toasty pretzel bun or piled high on a Barnbuster sub.