

RACING THIS WEEK

SNEAK PEEK: Chase Elliott and his No. 9 Hendrick Motorsports Chevrolet will sport a fresh UniFirst paint scheme in 2025 at select races. The 2020 Cup champ is slated to run the look at Miami, Darlington (Spring), Michigan, Richmond and Charlotte Roval.



Three's a charm for 23XI

23XI Racing announced the addition of a third Cup Series car and its newest team member, Riley Herbst.

Herbst, who concluded the 2024 Xfinity Series season driving the No. 98 Monster Energy car, will pilot the No. 35 Monster Energy Toyota Camry XSE when the 2025 Cup Series season begins. Building on the success of its existing two-car lineup, the expansion marks a significant milestone for 23XI Racing, which continues to grow its impact in the sport since debuting in 2021.

Herbst, who has eight career Cup Series starts, will embark on his rookie campaign in NASCAR's top series in 2025 alongside veteran teammates Bubba Wallace and Tyler Reddick. The move to full-time Cup Series racing comes after several years of competing in the Xfinity Series. Since 2018, Herbst has 175 starts in the Xfinity Series, three career wins, and playoff appearances in four of his five full-time seasons. His first career win came in the fall race last season at his home track, Las Vegas Motor Speedway. Herbst also won earlier this year at Indianapolis and capped off the year with a win at the season finale in Phoenix. The move marks a reunion between Toyota and Herbst, who started his Xfinity career at Joe Gibbs Racing.

"It's an honor to join 23XI and Toyota for the opportunity to race in the Cup Series each week," said Herbst. "Racing full-time in the Cup Series has been my goal since I started in NASCAR and I'm excited to start my Cup career with such an accomplished and driven team. What 23XI has accomplished in a short time is impressive and I look forward to building on their success as the organization grows. It's also great to continue representing Monster and I'm excited about adding to their legacy in NASCAR."

"As 23XI enters our fifth season next year, we felt the time was right to continue the growth of our organization by adding a third team, and Riley is a driver we think will be a great fit for us," said Steve Lauletta, 23XI Team President. "We have a very solid foundation with both Bubba and Tyler, and we know they will be a great resource for Riley as he begins his journey in the Cup Series."

"Riley Herbst has built his career with Monster Energy and he is part of the Family," said Mitch Covington, Monster Energy's SVP of Sports Marketing. "From his ascent to championship-caliber driver in the Xfinity Series to his next step into the Cup Series, we are just thrilled to power into this phase."

Monster Energy, a longtime partner with Herbst, will be the primary sponsor on the No. 35 Toyota Camry. With a long history in NASCAR, dating back to their first race in 2004, Monster is no stranger to racing fans and embodies much of the passion that drivers and fans bring to the sport. Herbst has represented the brand in various series for almost ten years and will add to Monster's current representation at 23XI.

The No. 35 team will be led by Davin Restivo, Herbst's crew chief from the No. 98 team. Restivo assumed crew chief duties with Herbst at the midpoint of last season and has guided the team to three wins and a berth in the 2024 Xfinity playoffs.



For the first time in 20 years, **Kyle Busch** went winless in the Cup Series.

Since his rookie campaign in 2005, Busch scored at least one win per season — and as many as eight two times (2008, 2018) — at the sport's top level. His 19 consecutive seasons with a victory are an all-time record — one he anticipated continuing in 2024.

But a drop in performance from the otherworldly standard Busch set for himself resulted in the fewest top fives (five), top 10s (10) and laps led (230) of his career, with an 18.3 average finish that marked his worst since his rookie year (21.0, 2005).

Simply put, Busch described the 2024 season — his second driving the No. 8 Richard Childress Racing Chevrolet — as "character building." "Certainly frustrating," Busch said during Championship Weekend at Phoenix Raceway. "We probably had a handful of opportunities that slipped out from under us. So can't say that we shouldn't have won this year or never had an opportunity to, but obviously didn't get it done."

The past two years have been ones of significant change for Busch. Now 39, Busch started his career with three years at Hendrick Motorsports before joining forces with Joe Gibbs Racing for 15 years. His success over those 18 seasons was remarkable, as he collected 60 wins and two Cup championships.



BY THE NUMBERS 2024 Xfinity Series season

Here's a look back through the numbers and the most impressive stats from the 2024 NASCAR Xfinity Series season:

Three drivers got their first win in 2024: **Jesse Love** (Talladega), **Shane van Gisbergen** (Portland, pictured, above), **Connor Zilisch** (Watkins Glen).

Seventeen drivers won at least once in 2024 (including **Austin Hill**, pictured; only two seasons had more than 17 (18 in 1988, 2017).

William Sawalich became the third youngest driver to win a pole in the Xfinity Series when he won the honor at Phoenix Raceway during the season finale (18 years, one month and six days).

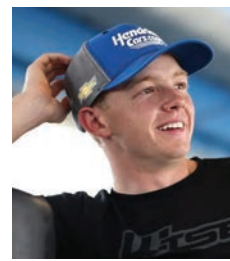
Fourteen drivers won a pole in 2024. **Jesse Love** led all drivers with five poles, the most by a rookie since Christopher Bell in 2018.

With his win at Las Vegas Motor Speedway, **AJ Allmendinger** became the oldest Xfinity Series winner (42 years, 10 months and three days) since Mark Martin at Las Vegas in 2011.

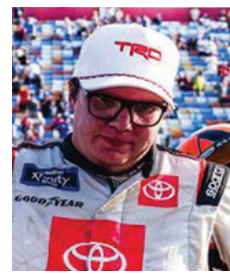


Sam Mayer bested Ryan Sieg by 0.002 seconds, tying the record for the second-closest margin of victory in Xfinity Series history.

Connor Zilisch won the pole and recorded his first career win in his first start at Watkins Glen. At 18 years, one month and 23 days, he became the second youngest winner in Xfinity Series history behind Joey Logano at Kentucky in June 2008.



Sheldon Creed's 16 top-five finishes in 2024 are tied for the most among all drivers with Chandler Smith. Six of the 16 were runner-ups, becoming the first driver to have six runner-up finishes without a win.

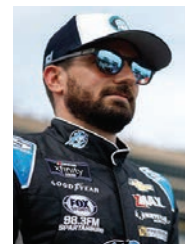


Kyle Larson's win at Circuit of The Americas was Hendrick Motorsports' first Xfinity Series win in No. 17 car. Chase Elliott went on to win the organization's second race in the No. 17 Chevy at Charlotte in May.



Joe Gibbs Racing's No. 20 machine became the first car in Xfinity Series history to get its first four wins of a season with four different drivers. The team ended the year with nine wins, with four different drivers winning twice.

Jeremy Clements broke the Xfinity Series record for most consecutive starts at Darlington with his 383rd consecutive start; he finished the season with 393.



Crew chief move for JGR

Joe Gibbs Racing announced that **Tyler Allen** will be the crew chief for Ty Gibbs and the No. 54 team in the NASCAR Cup Series beginning in 2025. This year, Allen served as the crew chief of JGR's No. 20 NASCAR Xfinity Series team for eight of the team's nine wins on the way to a runner-up finish in the owner's championship.

Prior to his rookie season as a crew chief in 2024, Allen spent seven years as a race engineer working under Adam Stevens. During their time together, the Bellevue, Washington native was a part of Kyle Busch's 2019 Cup Series championship team and five Championship 4 appearances (2017-2019 with Busch and 2022-2023 with Christopher Bell). Allen's 2024 season included eight victories working with multiple drivers, 17 top-five finishes and 22 top-10s. In one Xfinity Series race working with Ty Gibbs, the duo won the pole award at Charlotte before leading 27 laps on the way to a ninth-place finish.

"It's an honor to be named crew chief for Ty Gibbs and the 54 Team as we head into the 2025 season," said Allen. "This opportunity has been a dream of mine since starting here at JGR 10 years ago. Ty has shown a lot of speed and potential the last two years, and I look forward to building on that experience to get the 54 car in Victory Lane."

Allen will oversee the No. 54 team for Gibbs' third season in the Cup Series. Gibbs showed marked improvement from year one to year two as he claimed eight top-five finishes, 12 top-10s, two pole awards, 417 laps led and a playoff berth in his sophomore campaign.

Allen was previously announced as the crew chief for Taylor Gray and JGR's No. 54 Xfinity Series team in 2025. With Allen's move to the Cup Series, veteran crew chief Jason Ratcliff will return to the top of the pit box to work with Gray.

"I'm thrilled to join Taylor and the 54 team for the 2025 season," said Ratcliff. "After a year away from the track, I'm eager to return to the pit box every weekend. Taylor has the talent and determination to excel, and it's our mission to help him achieve that success." Ratcliff stepped down from the box following the 2023 season and spent 2024 in a new position as JGR's Team/Driver Coordinator for the organization's Xfinity and ARCA Menard Series program.

JGR also announced that Chris Gabehart has been promoted to competition director while Chris Gayle will transition to the crew chief role for Denny Hamlin and the No. 11 team.



2024 CUP SERIES FINAL STANDINGS

Top 30 (w/ **Champion in bold**) as of Nov. 10

Rank/Driver	Points	Rank/Driver	Points
1 J. Logano Ford	5040	16 H. Burton Ford	2122
2 R. Blaney Ford	5035	17 C. Buescher Ford	930
3 W. Byron Chevrolet	5034	18 D. Wallace Jr. Toyota	878
4 T. Reddick Toyota	5031	19 R. Chastain Chevrolet	852
5 C. Bell Toyota	2413	20 Ky. Busch Chevrolet	766
6 K. Larson Chevrolet	2378	21 C. Hocevar Chevrolet	686
7 C. Elliott Chevrolet	2343	22 T. Gilliland Ford	630
8 D. Hamlin Toyota	2329	23 M. McDowell Ford	624
9 A. Bowman Chevrolet	2319	24 N. Gragson Ford	612
10 M. Truex Jr. Toyota	2258	25 R. Stenhouse Chevy	590
11 A. Cindric Ford	2248	26 R. Preece Ford	584
12 D. Suárez Chevrolet	2226	27 J. Berry Ford	579
13 B. Keselowski Ford	2209	28 E. Jones Toyota	516
14 C. Briscoe Ford	2184	29 D. Hemric Chevrolet	515
15 T. Gibbs Toyota	2169	30 Z. Smith Chevrolet	505

2024 XFINITY SERIES FINAL STANDINGS

Top 20 (w/ **Champion in bold**) as of Nov. 9

Rank/Driver	Points	Rank/Driver	Points
1 Justin Allgaier #7	4035	11 Sammy Smith #8	2185
2 Cole Custer #00	4029	12 Shane v Gisbergen #97	2157
3 AJ Allmendinger #16	4028	13 Ryan Sieg #28	856
4 Austin Hill #21	4027	14 Brandon Jones #9	696
5 Chandler Smith #81	2314	15 Anthony Alfredo #5	641
6 Sheldon Creed #18	2264	16 Brennan Poole #44	572
7 Riley Herbst #98	2254	17 Aric Almirola #20	560
8 Jesse Love #2	2247	18 Josh Williams #11	515
9 Sam Mayer #1	2205	19 Jeb Burton #22	512
10 Parker Kligerman #48	2190	20 Jeremy Clements #51	477

NEXT RACE: UNITED RENTALS 300, Daytona International, Saturday, Feb. 15, 2025, CW

2024 TRUCK SERIES FINAL STANDINGS

Top 20 (w/ **Champion in bold**) as of Nov. 8

Rank/Driver	Points	Rank/Driver	Points
1 Ty Majeski #98	4065	11 Layne Riggs #38	605
2 Corey Heim #11	4055	12 Stewart Friesen #52	557
3 Christian Eckes #19	4048	13 Tanner Gray #15	550
4 Grant Enfinger #9	4042	14 Matt Crafton #88	524
5 Nicholas Sanchez #2	2280	15 Chase Purdy #77	513
6 Taylor Gray #17	2247	16 Dean Thompson #5	469
7 Rajah Caruth #71	2213	17 Jake Garcia #13	459
8 Tyler Ankrum #18	2183	18 Bayley Currey #41	392
9 Ben Rhodes #99	2150	19 Kaden Honeycutt #45	384
10 Daniel Dye #43	2141	20 Bret Holmes #32	360

NEXT RACE: FRESH FROM FLORIDA 250, Daytona International, Friday, Feb. 14, 2025, FS1

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