



RACING THIS WEEK

TRUCKS RECAP

• Saturday's WINDOW WORLD 250, North Wilkesboro



WINNER: CHANDLER SMITH

Chandler Smith owes Front Row Motorsports teammate Layne Riggs a vote of thanks after Saturday's Window World 250 at North Wilkesboro Speedway.

After Riggs' Ford slid up into the No. 11 Toyota of Corey Heim in Turn 2 of the final lap, Smith took the lead and held on for the win, his first at the 0.625-mile short track and his second of the season in the Truck Series.

Heim, who led 162 of 255 laps, left North Wilkesboro with a 17th-place finish and a percolating rivalry with Riggs, his nemesis throughout the race.

Corey Heim knocks Layne Riggs for 'scum racing' after last-lap clash at North Wilkesboro

Riding on tires that were 68 laps older than Smith's, Heim had the lead for the overtime restart on Lap 254. He quickly cleared Smith on his inside and Riggs behind him, but Riggs mounted a strong run through Turns 3 and 4 on the white-flag lap and steered to Heim's inside.

Riggs slid up into Heim's truck, which turned sideways as Smith claimed the lead and headed for the finish line with Riggs in his wake. Smith's margin of victory over his teammate was 0.611 seconds.

The final overtime lap was the only one Smith led on Saturday in collecting his seventh career Truck Series win.

"I feel like this place... tires kind of mattered, but they also kind of didn't," said Smith, who started from the rear of the field after unapproved adjustments to fix a brake issue in his No. 38 Ford. "I didn't think we were as good as the 11 — obviously we had a tire advantage on him there."

"That last restart, I did everything but the right thing. My teammate, Layne Riggs, executed perfectly, and we came out on the right end of the stick."

Heim took exception to the the "perfect" execution.

On a Lap 81 restart after the first stage break, Riggs ran Heim toward the outside wall, handing the lead and ultimately Stage 2 win to Grant Enfinger. Then came OT controversy.

After the race, Heim expressed his displeasure to Riggs on pit road.

"He tried to do it to the 7 (Carson Hocevar) last week for the win, and mission accomplished for him, I guess, this week," Heim said. "And it cost him one, too. I don't know. We've given up so many of them this year, after dominating the race."

"The 38 (Smith) was the only other guy that was rightfully good. I felt like he deserved to win over anyone else, not the 34 (Riggs). I got really loose into (Turn) 3. Just struggled being loose on the short runs, and he had an opportunity to wreck me. Just disappointed."

Riggs had a different perception of the final lap. "I had a huge run, and I went bottom. I didn't fence him," Riggs said. "I slid him up the track and gave him one lane there. I feel like I didn't really do anything wrong there."

Tyler Ankrum finished third, followed by Daniel Hemric and Enfinger. Ty Majeski, Gio Ruggiero, Kaden Honeycutt, Kyle Busch and Sammy Smith completed the top 10.

NASCAR ALL-STAR RACE

Christopher Bell took the checkered flag in Sunday's All-Star Race at North Wilkesboro Speedway. The No. 20 Joe Gibbs Racing driver outdueled the 2024 winner of the event, Joey Logano, in the final 10 laps.



Christopher Bell, driver of the #20 Mobil 1 Toyota, takes the checkered flag to win the NASCAR Cup Series All-Star Race at North Wilkesboro Speedway on Sunday.

(David Jensen/Getty Images)

Bell grabs the All-Star crown from Logano

NORTH WILKESBORO, N.C. — Fireworks lit up the sky, and smoke billowed from the tires of the No. 20 Joe Gibbs Racing Toyota as Christopher Bell celebrated his first victory in the NASCAR All-Star Race at North Wilkesboro Speedway.

On Sunday night, Bell climbed from his car to a standing ovation. Scratch that—virtually everyone in the packed grandstands already had been standing for the final 28 lap green-flag run, as Bell battled Joey Logano side-by-side and finally cleared last year's winner for the lead on Lap 241 of 250.

At that point, Bell had better right-side tires than Logano, who had stayed out under the promoter's caution signaled by unofficial flagman Michael Waltrip on Lap 215.

Bell pitted for two tires under the yellow, restarted sixth on Lap 223 behind five cars that stayed out and quickly advanced to second with a pass of Ross Chastain on Lap 227.

From that point, it was game-on for Bell, who pursued Logano relentlessly. On Lap 241, Bell pulled even with Logano, drifted out toward the wall, taking Logano with him and completed the decisive pass. His winning margin was 0.744 seconds.

"North Wilkesboro, how about that one?" Bell shouted after climbing from his car with the smoke still lingering from his celebratory burnout. "That right there is absolutely incredible. North Wilkesboro, best short track on the schedule."

The victory was the first for a Toyota driver since JGR's Kyle Busch took the checkered flag in 2017.

Logano, who led 199 of 200 laps in last year's All-Star Race victory at the historic 0.625-mile short track, led a race-high 139 laps on Sunday to 28 for Bell. The driver of the No. 22 Team Penske Ford held a comfortable lead when the yellow flag for the promoter's caution—a new wrinkle introduced by Speedway Motorsports CEO Marcus Smith—slowed the action, forced a pit stop choice and bunched the field.

The caution and the tire disadvantage prevented Logano from winning his second straight All-Star Race and third overall.

"Thought maybe we could hold him off, but the 20 had a good enough restart, cleared too many of them too fast," Logano said. "I couldn't get away in time. It took me

