

RACING THIS WEEK

TRUCKS FINISH: Corey Heim takes the checkered flag to win Friday's Black's Tire 200 at Rockingham Speedway.
M. Oliphant/Getty



TRUCKS RECAP

• **Friday's BLACK'S TIRE 200**, Rockingham Speedway



WINNER: COREY HEIM

ROCKINGHAM, N.C. — Even as a part-time driver, Corey Heim proved he can still dominate—until the final four laps of Friday's Black's Tire 200 at Rockingham Speedway, that is.

Heim led a personal-best 178 laps in winning his second Truck Series race of the season and the 25th of his career—fifth most all-time.

In the closing laps, however, he had to overcome skewed steering and chattering tires in his No. 1 Toyota to fend off a determined charge from Tricon Garage teammate Kaden Honeycutt's No. 11 Tundra.

Heim won last year's series title in the No. 11, but he's not defending this season as he explores opportunities in all three of NASCAR's national series.

Nevertheless, Heim swept the first two stages of a race for the 13th time in his career. His two stage wins on Friday were his 44th and 45th.

Heim is the first driver this season to score maximum points in a race in any of the top three series, winning both stages and turning the fastest lap—22.965 seconds on Lap 174. He earned 76 points in the victory.

What's more, Heim won his second straight race in the Triple Truck Challenge—good for a \$100,000 bonus—and will race for \$500,000 Saturday at Bristol Motor Speedway. That bonus is available to a driver who can win all three races in "The Trip."

"Yeah, it means a lot," Heim said of the potential payday. "I don't really think about it in the truck, but being able to reflect on it, it would be cool to be the first person to sweep all three if we are able to do it. There is a lot of motivation for these guys in the 1 camp with (sponsor) Celsius as our primary next week, so excited about that."

All statistics aside, Heim had to use his full arsenal of race craft over the final four laps to hold off Honeycutt, who was seeking his first victory. Experiencing a vibration similar to that of a tire losing air, Heim adroitly worked traffic as the race near its end.

Honeycutt got to Heim's bumper with three laps left and actually nosed ahead to lead the white-flag lap, but Heim drove aggressively into Turn 1, using teammate Tanner Gray to block Honeycutt's progress.

Exiting Turn 4 on the final circuit, Heim held a slight lead and arrived at the finish line 0.090 seconds ahead of the car he drove to last year's championship.

"I felt like I didn't push it any harder than any previous run or do any more damage to the right front, but it was like all of a sudden with four to go, my truck started just... I had to turn more right down the straightaway to keep it straight," Heim said.

Front Row Motorsports teammates Layne Riggs and Smith finished third and fourth, but Smith's No. 38 Ford was disqualified in post-race inspection for a ride-height infraction. That elevated Stewart Friesen to fourth, followed by Grant Enfinger, Tyler Ankrum (last year's Rockingham winner), Corey Lajoie and Ty Majeski.

Pole winner Jake Garcia finished ninth, one lap down, and Cole Butcher was 10th.

N.C. EDUCATION LOTTERY 250

William Sawalich pulled away to win Saturday at Rockingham. The victory was the first in the O'Reilly Series for the 19-year-old Sawalich, the youngest driver to win at the 0.94-mile track in any of NASCAR's top three series.



William Sawalich, driver of the #18 Soundgear Toyota, takes the checkered flag to win the O'Reilly Auto Parts Series North Carolina Education Lottery 250 Presented by Black's Tire at Rockingham Speedway on Saturday. (James Gilbert/Getty)

Super run for Sawalich's Supra at Rockingham

ROCKINGHAM, N.C. — Grabbing the lead and control of the race after a restart on Lap 172, William Sawalich pulled away over the final 79 laps to win Saturday's North Carolina Education Lottery 250 Presented by Black's Tire at Rockingham Speedway.

The victory was the first in the NASCAR O'Reilly Auto Parts Series for the 19-year-old Sawalich, the youngest driver to win at the 0.94-mile track in any of NASCAR's top three series.

Sawalich, who led 80 laps, crossed the finish line 0.863 seconds ahead of Joe Gibbs Racing teammate Brandon Jones to end the five-race winning streak of JR Motorsports and preserve the series record of six straight victories for JGR.

"It means everything," said Sawalich, who gained three positions to 11th in the series standings. "Honestly, it was a tough year last year and a tough start to the year this year. Gosh, it feels good to get it done here at Rockingham in front of an awesome crowd."

"Our Supra was on rails today, obviously. Good in Stage 1 (fifth), Stage 2 (second) and obviously amazing in clean air. Lapped traffic took me out last year (in a 25th-place finish), so that was running through my head a little bit, but, man, I just studied the race last year, calmed down—and everything's fine."

With the win, Sawalich earned eligibility for the first Dash 4 Cash race next Saturday at Bristol Motor Speedway. The top four finishers at Rockingham—Sawalich, Jones and third- and fourth-place finishers Justin Allgaier and Rajah Caruth—will compete for a \$100,000 bonus in that event, with the top finisher among them claiming the prize.

Caruth, in fact, made a spectacular three-wide pass of both Sheldon Creed and Carson Kvapil with nine laps left to grab the last Dash 4 Cash position. Kvapil finished fifth and Creed sixth, followed by Taylor Gray, Parker Retzlaff, Ryan Sieg and pole winner Corey Day.

For the first half of the race, Day appeared to have the dominant car. The 20-year-old led a race-high 118 of the 250 laps and swept the first two stages—the first stage wins of his career.

But Day lost five positions on a slow pit stop during the second stage break and never recovered. On Lap 174, he pitted out of sequence for a loose lug nut and charged from 24th over the final 70 laps to post his seventh straight top 10.

"We had a couple of bad pit stops," Day said. "We got behind there, and it was hard to dig ourselves out of the hole."

Jones was pleased with the progress his runner-up finish represents.

"I left Martinsville a little frustrated at myself last week (after finishing 18th)," Jones said. "We weren't quite aggressive enough at times, so today, I was super adamant on being super aggressive. I am going to take all of the runs I can get. I'm going to put people in bad situations, if I can, and just move forward."

"I think we did a really good job of it. We kept fighting both sides of it with balance today. Sam (McAuley, crew chief) did a great job taking all of my feedback and making a car, I think, capable of winning. It was just a matter of trying to get some track position, and he (Sawalich) got such a big restart on that last restart (after the seventh caution on Lap 206) that it was hard to catch him."

Allgaier had the consolation of leaving Rockingham with a lead of 126 points over second-place Jesse Love in the O'Reilly Auto Parts standings. Love hit the outside wall after a shove from Caruth, lost track position on a subsequent unscheduled pit stop on Lap 153 and finished 27th, two laps down.

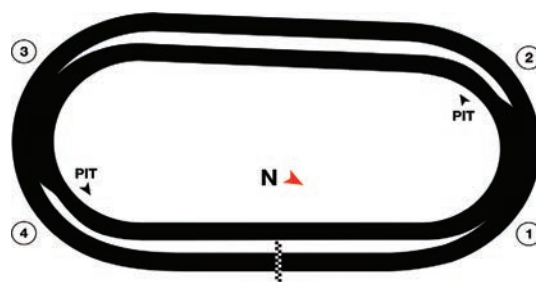
Of note

- Sawalich is the first Minnesota-born driver to win a race in any of NASCAR's top three national series.

- Caruth's fourth-place finish in the No. 88 JRM Chevrolet was a career-best. He'll be driving the No. 32 Jordan Anderson Racing Chevrolet at Bristol while Kyle Larson takes a turn in the No. 88 Camaro.

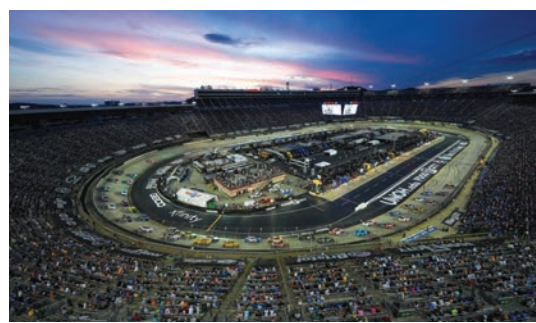
- JR Motorsports put three drivers (Allgaier, Caruth and Kvapil) in the top 10, extending the organization's streak of at least one driver in the top 10 to 65 races—second in the series all-time to Roush Fenway Keselowski Racing (79 straight top 10s).

NEXT: FOOD CITY 500



Bristol Motor Speedway
3 p.m. ET Sunday, FS1

- **Location:** 151 Speedway Boulevard, Bristol, Tennessee
- **Capacity:** 146,000
- **Owner:** Speedway Motorsports (January 1996–present)
- **Opened:** July 23, 1961
- **Course:** Oval (1961–present)
- **Surface:** Concrete
- **Length:** 0.533 mi (0.858 km)
- **Turns:** 4
- **Banking:** Turns, 24–28°; Straights, 4–8°
- **Fastest Cup lap:** 0:14.945; Kyle Larson, Chevrolet SS, 2018
- **Nicknames:** World's Fastest Half-Mile, The Last Great Colosseum, Thunder Valley, Holy Grail of Short Tracks



Kyle Larson won last year's Food City 500 at Bristol. GETTY

2026 CUP SERIES STANDINGS

Top 30 as of March 29

Rank/Driver	Points	Rank/Driver	Points
1 Tyler Reddick 23XI	353	16 Daniel Suárez Spire	167
2 Ryan Blaney Penske	271	17 M. McDowell Spire	158
3 Denny Hamlin Gibbs	259	18 Austin Cindric Penske	149
4 Chase Elliott Hendrick	249	19 Ross Chastain Track.	136
5 William Byron Hendrick	238	20 AJ Allmendinger Kaulig	134
6 Ty Gibbs Gibbs	222	21 Chase Briscoe Gibbs	131
7 Christopher Bell Gibbs	212	22 Zane Smith Front Row	126
8 Brad Keselowski RFK	206	23 Erik Jones LEGACY	119
9 Kyle Larson Hendrick	206	24 Kyle Busch Childress	119
10 Chris Buescher RFK	206	25 Josh Berry Wood Bros.	112
11 Bubba Wallace 23XI	206	26 J. Nemechek LEGACY	109
12 Joey Logano Penske	185	27 Austin Dillon Childress	105
13 Ryan Preece RFK	180	28 Todd Gilliland Fr. Row	96
14 S. V. Gisbergen Track.	174	29 Noah Gragson Fr. Row	93
15 Carson Hocevar Spire	171	30 Riley Herbst 23XI	90

2026 O'REILLY AUTO PARTS STANDINGS

Top 20 as of April 4

Rank/Driver	Points	Rank/Driver	Points
1 Justin Allgaier #7	422	11 William Sawalich #18	214
2 Jesse Love #2	296	12 Taylor Gray #54	203
3 Sheldon Creed #00	291	13 Sam Mayer #41	173
4 Austin Hill #21	277	14 Ryan Sieg #39	168
5 Corey Day #17	272	15 Brennan Poole #44	162
6 Carson Kvapil #1	267	16 Anthony Alfredo #96	157
7 Sammy Smith #8	260	17 Jeb Burton #27	142
8 Brandon Jones #20	247	18 Blaine Perkins #31	122
9 Parker Retzlaff #99	229	19 Patrick Staropoli #48	119
10 Rajah Caruth #88	215	20 Brent Crews #19	114

NEXT RACE: SUBURBAN PROPANE 300, Bristol Motor Speedway, 7:30 p.m. ET Saturday, CW

2026 CRAFTSMAN TRUCK STANDINGS

Top 20 as of April 3

Rank/Driver	Points	Rank/Driver	Points
1 Corey Heim #1	190	11 Tyler Ankrum #18	113
2 Kaden Honeycutt #11	190	12 Grant Enfinger #9	109
3 Layne Riggs #34	179	13 Jake Garcia #98	107
4 Chandler Smith #38	173	14 Tanner Gray #15	106
5 Ty Majeski #88	168	15 A. Perez De Lara #44	95
6 Giovanni Ruggiero #17	149	16 Cole Butcher #13	95
7 Christian Eckes #91	143	17 Brenden Queen #12	93
8 Ben Rhodes #99	138	18 Daniel Hemric #19	91
9 Stewart Friesen #52	119	19 Landen Lewis #45	71
10 Justin Haley #16	114	20 Kris Wright #81	71

NEXT RACE: TENNESSEE ARMY NATIONAL GUARD 250, Bristol, 7:30 p.m. ET Friday, FS1

O'REILLY WINNER QUOTE

"Our Supra was on rails today, obviously. Good in Stage 1 (fifth), Stage 2 (second) and obviously amazing in clean air. Lapped traffic took me out last year (in a 25th-place finish), so that was running through my head a little bit, but, man, I just studied the race last year, calmed down—and everything's fine."

— William Sawalich, who bested Joe Gibbs Racing teammate Brandon Jones to win Saturday's NC Education Lottery 250



William Sawalich and crew celebrate in Victory Lane Saturday at Rockingham.
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