

RACING THIS WEEK

Connor Zilisch, driver of the #88 Red Bull Chevrolet, during Saturday practice for Sunday's DuraMax Grand Prix at COTA. He would go on to finish 14th. **L. Riely/Getty**



O'REILLY RECAP

• **Saturday's** FOCUSED HEALTH 250, Circuit of the Americas, Austin, TX



WINNER: SHANE VAN GISBERGEN

With a bold move moments after the final restart of Saturday's Focused Health 250 at Circuit of the Americas, Shane van Gisbergen once again exhibited his road course supremacy.

Taking the inside line into Turn 1 after the restart with five laps left, van Gisbergen made a four-wide pass for the lead from the sixth position and pulled away to win the fifth O'Reilly race of his career, this time by 0.780 seconds over runner-up Austin Hill.

In a rough event with more than its share of contact, van Gisbergen led five times for 31 laps, including the last five after the decisive move, as then-leader and Stage 2 winner Sam Mayer ran wide in the first corner, clearing the inside for the winning pass.

The win was SVG's first at COTA in his second O'Reilly race at the track. He is winless in two Cup starts at COTA.

SvG's victory was the 10th straight on road courses for JR Motorsports and the 106th for the organization overall.

Austin Hill's runner-up finish was his third in five starts at the track.

In a race billed as a matchup between van Gisbergen and pole winner Connor Zilisch, Sammy Smith finished third, followed by Jesse Love and Corey Day, as Zilisch suffered issues that dropped him to 21st at the end.

Brent Crews, 17, finished sixth in his series debut. He is the first driver under 18 to lead laps in the series since Casey Atwood accomplished the feat in 1998.

TRUCKS RECAP

• **Saturday's** ONLYBULLS GREEN FLAG 150, Grand Prix of St. Petersburg (FL)



WINNER: LAYNE RIGGS

In a thrilling final run to the checkered flag, Layne Riggs bobbed and weaved, saving fuel to keep a pair of hard-charging fellow Ford drivers in Ty Majeski and Ben Rhodes behind him — ultimately earning his first trophy of the season in the Truck Series inaugural race on the streets of downtown St. Petersburg, Florida.

Riggs' No. 34 Front Row Motorsports Ford crossed the line a .879-seconds ahead of Majeski for the sixth victory of his career in Saturday's dramatic, high-action OnlyBulls Green Flag 150.

Starting 28th in the 36-car field, Riggs finished seventh in the opening 20-lap stage and won the second stage 20 laps later. Riggs said the fuel light was flickering with about eight laps to go and that he was almost certain he wasn't going to have enough to finish.

It lasted long enough to take the win and allow for victory donuts around the crowded course as he celebrated the first road course victory of his career, leading a race best 41 of the 80 laps.

Sunny skies and a scenic 1.8-mile 14-turn course along the downtown St. Pete waterfront provided a great scene for the series' first ever street course event and the trucks did not disappoint the large and enthusiastic crowd.

DURAMAX GRAND PRIX

Tyler Reddick made history on Sunday at COTA, powering the No. 45 Toyota to victory and becoming the only driver in NASCAR history to win the first three races of a season.



Tyler Reddick, driver of the #45 Chumba Casino Toyota, celebrates with the checkered flag after winning the Cup Series DuraMax Grand Prix Powered by ReladDyne at Circuit of The Americas on Sunday. (James Gilbert/Getty)

3rd time a no-doubter for Reddick at COTA

AUSTIN, Texas—Ever since the Chicago Bulls reign of the 1990s, the “three-peat” has been the sole province of NBA superstar Michael Jordan.

Now “His Airness” has to share the distinction with one of his drivers.

Tyler Reddick made history on Sunday at Circuit of the Americas, powering the No. 45 Toyota co-owned by Jordan and Denny Hamlin to victory in the DuraMAX Texas Grand Prix Powered by ReladDyne.

A week earlier at EchoPark Speedway near Atlanta, Reddick became the sixth driver to win the first two races of a NASCAR Cup Series season. At COTA on Sunday, he became the only driver in NASCAR history to win the first three.

While he led a race-high 58 of 95 laps, there was nothing easy about Reddick's 11th career victory and his second at the 2.4-mile road course. In order to claim the trophy, he had to hold off New Zealander Shane van Gisbergen, who was seeking his sixth straight road course victory. “It means the world,” said Reddick. “Yeah, it's so fitting. We get going at the end there, and I'm leading and there's SvG, the guy I've been trying to beat for a while now. Just to be able to outlast him there and hold on for the win is just incredible.”

“Just really proud of this Chumba Casino Toyota Camry, everyone at 23XI. We worked really hard. We did not like getting beat like that at road courses. It's one race, but it was so important, so fitting that we were able to get three in a row and make history.”

After the three victories, Reddick holds a commanding 70-point lead over 23XI teammate Bubba Wallace, who finished 11th on Sunday. Chase Elliott is third in the standings, 72 points back.

Jordan was elated with the NASCAR “three-peat.”

“He had a chance to win three in a row, and that's the hardest one to win,” said Jordan, who led the Bulls to three straight NBA titles on two separate occasions. “He kept to his strategy, and, man, the guys put together a great car.”

“I think (crew chief) Billy (Scott) did an unbelievable job in calling the game, calling the race, and Tyler did a good job. He

beat some good competition. You see SvG coming back there, you get a little nervous, but I think he had him covered pretty much the whole day.”

Reddick maintained the lead after a restart on Lap 79, after the Chevy of Stage 1 winner Ross Chastain jettisoned a wheel to cause the third caution of the afternoon and the only one for an on-track incident.

Restarting third, van Gisbergen charged past Ryan Blaney and secured the second position downhill through the esses. For the first eight laps of the final 18-lap green-flag run, SvG harried the race winner, but Reddick gradually pulled away, using his Camry's horsepower and forward drive to gap van Gisbergen's No. 97 Chevrolet up the hill toward Turn 1.

Reddick's winning margin over the Trackhouse Racing driver was a deceptively large 3.944 seconds.

“We lacked a little bit of turn and a little bit of drive,” van Gisbergen said. “Tyler was just amazing. The way he was driving was really good, and his car was good. We just didn't quite have enough, but it was a great point's day for this No. 97 Safety Culture Chevrolet team, which is what we need for getting into the Chase.”

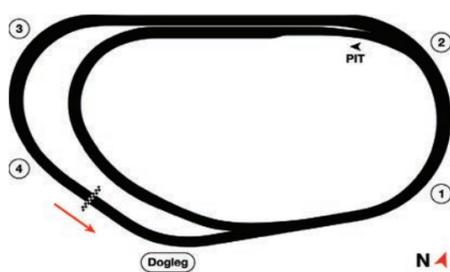
“It was still an amazing result, but you're always disappointed with second when the expectations are so high. But overall, it was a really good day.”

Defending race winner Christopher Bell finished third, followed by Stage 2 winner Ty Gibbs and Michael McDowell. Hendrick Motorsports teammates Kyle Larson and Elliott ran sixth and seventh, respectively.

Eighth was Blaney, who pressured Reddick early in the final stage, pulling beside the 23XI Camry in Turn 6A. Just as he did later with Van Gisbergen, however, Reddick fended off the attack and pulled away before he and Blaney came to pit road for fuel and tires on Lap 69.

AJ Allmendinger and Denny Hamlin completed the top 10, though Allmendinger needed medical attention after the race, thanks to a failure of his cool shirt in the Texas heat, with track temperatures measured at 109 degrees at the start of the race.

NEXT: STRAIGHT TALK WIRELESS 500



Phoenix Raceway

3:30 p.m. ET Sunday, FS1

- **Location:** 7602 Jimmie Johnson Drive, Avondale, Arizona 85323
- **Capacity:** 42,000
- **Owner:** NASCAR (November 2019–present)
- **Opened:** January 4, 1964
- **Construction cost:** \$1 million
- **Course:** Dogleg oval (2011–present)
- **Surface:** Asphalt
- **Length:** 1.000 mi (1.609 km)
- **Turns:** 4
- **Banking:** Frontstretch, 9°; Backstretch, 3°; Turns 1 and 2, 9°; Turns 3 and 4, 11°



The last time NASCAR was at Phoenix, Kyle Larson celebrated the 2025 Cup Championship in Victory Lane after finishing third, but first among the Championship 4 drivers. Ryan Blaney won the race. GETTY

2026 CUP SERIES STANDINGS

Top 30 as of March 1

Rank/Driver	Points	Rank/Driver	Points
1 Tyler Reddick #45	186	16 Ryan Preece #60	68
2 Bubba Wallace #23	116	17 Ty Gibbs #54	65
3 Chase Elliott #9	114	18 Noah Gragson #4	65
4 Ryan Blaney #12	100	19 Ty Dillon #10	65
5 Shane v Gisbergen #97	90	20 Ross Chastain #1	64
6 Joey Logano #22	90	21 J.H. Nemechek #42	63
7 Daniel Suárez #7	87	22 Kyle Busch #8	61
8 AJ Allmendinger #16	86	23 Denny Hamlin #11	60
9 Michael McDowell #71	83	24 Christopher Bell #20	59
10 Carson Hocevar #77	82	25 Riley Herbst #35	53
11 Chris Buescher #17	81	26 Ricky Stenhouse Jr #47	49
12 Brad Keselowski #6	78	27 Chase Briscoe #19	46
13 William Byron #24	76	28 Josh Berry #21	45
14 Zane Smith #38	75	29 Cole Custer #41	40
15 Kyle Larson #5	73	30 Todd Gilliland #34	39

2026 O'REILLY AUTO PARTS STANDINGS

Top 20 as of February 28

Rank/Driver	Points	Rank/Driver	Points
1 Austin Hill #21	154	11 Brandon Jones #20	73
2 Jesse Love #2	126	12 Brennan Poole #44	70
3 Justin Allgaier #7	115	13 Taylor Gray #54	69
4 Sheldon Creed #00	106	14 William Sawalich #18	66
5 Carson Kvatil #91	95	15 Patrick Staropoli #48	60
6 Rajah Caruth #88	90	16 Ryan Sieg #39	57
7 Sammy Smith #8	86	17 Blaine Perkins #31	57
8 Corey Day #17	86	18 Jeb Burton #27	55
9 Parker Retzlaff #99	81	19 Nicholas Sanchez #25	53
10 Sam Mayer #41	78	20 Anthony Alfredo #96	52

NEXT RACE: GOVX 200, Phoenix Raceway, 7:30 p.m. ET Saturday, CW

2026 CRAFTSMAN TRUCK STANDINGS

Top 20 as of February 28

Rank/Driver	Points	Rank/Driver	Points
1 Chandler Smith #38	152	11 Brenden Queen #12	66
2 Ben Rhodes #99	118	12 Tyler Ankrum #18	64
3 Ty Majeski #88	102	13 Daniel Dye #10	64
4 Giovanni Ruggiero #17	98	14 Jake Garcia #98	58
5 Layne Riggs #34	96	15 Cole Butcher #13	52
6 Kaden Honeycutt #11	87	16 Kris Wright #81	49
7 A. Perez De Lara #44	85	17 Tanner Gray #15	48
8 Stewart Friesen #52	70	18 Landen Lewis #45	47
9 Christian Eckes #91	69	19 Daniel Hemric #19	46
10 Justin Haley #16	67	20 Mini Tyrrell #14	45

NEXT RACE: BUCKLE UP SOUTH CAROLINA 200, Darlington, 7:30 p.m. ET Friday, March 20, FS1

COTA WINNER QUOTE

“We get going at the end there, and I'm leading and there's SvG, the guy I've been trying to beat for a while now. Just to be able to outlast him there and hold on for the win is just incredible. Just really proud of this Chumba Casino Toyota Camry, everyone at 23XI. We worked really hard.”

— Tyler Reddick, who dominated the field to take Sunday's DuraMax Grand Prix



Tyler Reddick celebrates with Michael Jordan, NBA Hall of Famer and co-owner of 23XI Racing, after winning his third race in a row to start the season.

JAMES GILBERT/GETTY

SEAS THE DAY

Reel in your hunger with this fresh catch! Creamy tuna salad with chopped celery piled high on a fresh-baked roll.



TUNA SALAD sub

Country Fair