

RACING THIS WEEK

TRUCKS BURNOUT ALERT! Corey Heim celebrates after winning Friday's eero 250 at Richmond Raceway. C. Graythen/Getty



TRUCKS RECAP

• **Friday's** EERO 250, Richmond Raceway



WINNER: COREY HEIM

RICHMOND, Va. – Corey Heim earned a Truck Series’ best seventh victory of the season in the eero 250 at Richmond Raceway Friday night, but this first short track victory for the regular season champion took a fast Toyota truck, some real perseverance and a bit of racing good fortune.

The 23-year-old Georgia native started from pole position in the series’ regular season finale on the historic three-quarter mile venue, but he quickly had to deal with his front row starting mate, Ty Majeski who pressed him all night. Majeski swept both stage wins and his race best 143 of the 250 laps out front was more laps led than he turned in the entire season.

Ultimately, Majeski’s shot at his first win of the year suffered a setback when he was collected in an incident with his ThorSport Racing teammate Matt Crafton while leading late in the race.

Although Majeski recovered and raced forward, Heim, who led 75 laps himself in the No. 11 TRICON Garage Toyota, got to the front when it mattered most and drove away – taking the lead for good with 20 laps remaining and then holding off the reigning series champ Majeski by .923-second at the checkered flag.

With the victory, Heim becomes the youngest driver in series history to get to 18 career wins.

“Felt like we were the best truck at [short tracks] Martinsville (Va.) and North Wilkesboro (N.C.) but they got away from us and we kind of got this one back,” Heim said of his short track struggles this season. “I didn’t feel like we were the best truck tonight. I feel like the 98 was really stout, but obviously had a run-in and got some damage.

“Being there when it counted was the first goal and we were and just able to execute from there.”

The race formally set the 10-driver Playoff field. Heim, Layne Riggs, Chandler Smith, Daniel Hemric, Tyler Ankrum and Rajah Caruth advanced to the six-race Playoffs via victories. Majeski, Grant Enfinger, Kaden Honeycutt and Jake Garcia topped the rest of the series in points to earn their championship chance.

The 20-year-old Garcia had to hold off former series champion Ben Rhodes and highly-touted rookie Gio Ruggiero Friday. Ultimately his seventh-place finish was enough to give Garcia a 19-point edge on Rhodes and 31-point margin on Ruggiero, who made a valiant run, restarting second on that final restart with 35 laps remaining despite starting last in the 35-truck field.

Riggs finished third in the No. 34 Front Row Motorsports Ford with Spire Motorsports teammates Sammy Smith and Corey LaJoie rounding out the top-five positions.

Ruggiero, Garcia, Rhodes, Chandler Smith and Kaden Honeycutt rounded out the top-10. Honeycutt will compete for the driver’s title and his No. 52 Halmar Friesen Racing Toyota will contend for owners’ points.

The 2025 NASCAR CRAFTSMAN Truck Series Playoffs begin Saturday, Aug. 30, with the Sober or Slammer 200 at Darlington (S.C.) Raceway.

COOK OUT 400

Austin Dillon led 107 laps on Saturday night at Richmond, including the final 49, to claim the victory and automatic berth in the 16-driver Cup Playoff field.



Eventual winner Austin Dillon, driver of the #3 Bass Pro/Winchester Chevrolet, and Ryan Blaney, driver of the #12 BodyArmor Sports Drink Ford, battle during the Cup Series Cook Out 400 at Richmond Raceway on Saturday. (Samuel Corum/Getty Images)

Dillon cooks up sweet victory at Richmond

RICHMOND, Va. – Austin Dillon claimed his sixth career Cup Series race trophy, earned a 2025 Playoff bid and, just as importantly, enjoyed some sweet redemption in Saturday night’s Cook Out 400 at Richmond Raceway.

Dillon led 107 laps on the night, including the final 49 to claim the victory and automatic berth in the 16-driver Playoff field – vaulting from a 25th place position in the championship standings before the green flag to a championship berth at the checkered flag in a clutch effort from the 2018 Daytona 500 winner and his No. 3 Richard Childress Racing team.

It was the most laps Dillon had led all season and marks the third time he’s won a race in the closing weeks of the regular season.

It was a huge statement for Dillon, 35, who won this race last year, but was later ruled ineligible to participate in the Playoffs after receiving a penalty from NASCAR for aggressive driving in the final laps at the historic three-quarter mile Richmond track.

“Man, that feels good, got to thank the good Lord above,” said Dillon, who finished a healthy 2.471-seconds ahead of Playoff contender, Hendrick Motorsports’ Alex Bowman, who leaves Richmond now holding the last championship points position with one regular season race remaining next week at the always-unpredictable Daytona International Speedway.

“I really wanted that one,” Dillon said after an emotional hug from his brother Ty, who finished 18th on Saturday. “Last year hurt really bad just going through the whole process of it. But this one feels so sweet. Man, I love Richmond.

“God has timing. His timing is the best timing. ... It’s just so special. Every one of these means so much to me. My grandfather [NASCAR Hall of Fame team owner Richard Childress], for all that he’s put up in believing in me, because there’s been a lot of ups and downs, could have been easy for him to change the drivers in this 3-car. Today it feels really darn good.”

While encouraged with his strong showing, the runner-up Bowman was also frustrated that lapped traffic in the closing laps impeded him from making more of a final run at Dillon. He now sits in the final Playoff transfer position by 29 points over Roush Fenway Keselowski’s Chris Buescher.

Hendrick Motorsports’ William Byron clinched the Regular Season Championship with his 12th-place finish – a huge upward swing in momentum considering he was collected in the race’s only major incident, a 10-car crash on lap 199 of the 200-lap race. He said his No. 24 Chevrolet suffered only some light splitter damage in the incident and was able to regain track position steadily through the night.

“We had honestly some really good runs tonight,” said Byron, who has led the points standings for 20 of the first 25 weeks of the season. “Feels great. Really the best 12th place finish I’ve ever had. We came. In here and just did a solid job. We qualified solid, but this is definitely our toughest race track. We had a solid plan and executed and it feels good. This team has worked hard.”

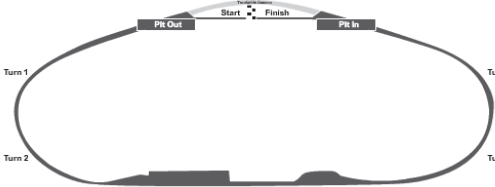
A Team Penske Ford Mustang trio rounded out the top-five finishing positions. Ryan Blaney, the 2023 series champion was third in the No. 12 Team Penske Ford – the first time in his stellar career he’s had a top-five run at Richmond. His teammate, reigning series champion Joey Logano turned in an impressive fourth-place finish in the No. 22 Team Penske Ford after starting last (38th) in the field. And Austin Cindric completed the impressive team effort in the No. 2 Team Penske Ford Mustang.

“I always look at different ways to get around here every time I come back,” Penske said of the Richmond oval. “I don’t think it’s a secret. I struggle really bad here. We work really hard to try to figure out how can we improve, like how can I improve, how can we work on the car to figure out what will mesh.”

Hendrick Motorsports’ Kyle Larson, Trackhouse Racing’s Daniel Suarez, Wood Brothers Racing’s Josh Berry – a Penske partner team, Roush Fenway Keselowski Racing’s Brad Keselowski and the hometown favorite, Joe Gibbs Racing’s Denny Hamlin rounded out the top-10.

If there is no new winner at Daytona next week, both 23XI Racing’s Tyler Reddick and Bowman stand to transfer into the Playoffs on points. Reddick, who won the opening stage and led 41 laps early finished 34th, four laps down after his car was hit in tight racing. He is 15th in the Playoff standings, with a 60-point edge above the Playoff cutoff line while Bowman is 16th – 29 points to the good.

NEXT: COKE ZERO SUGAR 400



Daytona International Speedway
7:30 p.m. ET Saturday, NBC

ABOUT

- Location: 1801 West International Speedway Blvd, Daytona Beach, Florida 32114
- Capacity: 101,500-167,785 (w/infield, depending on configuration); 123,500 (grandstand)
- The history of Daytona International Speedway began in 1953 when Bill France Sr. realized the days of racing on the beach were numbered due to spreading land usage of a rapidly growing population and huge race crowds. France put his plans for the future of racing in Daytona Beach in motion on April 4, 1953 with a proposal to construct a permanent speedway facility. On Aug. 16, 1954, France signed a contract with City of Daytona Beach and Volusia County officials to build what would become Daytona International Speedway, the “World Center of Racing.” In 1957, land clearing began for the Speedway. The famous 31-degree highbanks were included in the design of the track so higher speeds could be achieved and to make it easier for fans to see the cars race around the 2.5-mile tri-oval. The dirt for the banking was taken from the infield and resulted in a 29-acre space that is known as Lake Lloyd.
- Racing moved from the beach-road course to Daytona International Speedway in 1959 and the first DAYTONA 500 took place on Feb. 22 in front of a crowd of over 41,000. Car entries included both hard tops and convertibles (it was the only DAYTONA 500 that included convertibles). The finish of the inaugural DAYTONA 500 was too close to call. Johnny Beauchamp went to Victory Lane, but 61 hours later Lee Petty was declared the official winner after a clip of newsreel footage showed that Petty nipped Beauchamp at the line by approximately two feet.
- On July 5, 2013, ground broke on the \$400 million DAYTONA Rising frontstretch renovation project that would transform the speedway into a state-of-the-art facility. The Speedway now has approximately 101,500 permanent, wider seats, 40 escalators, 17 elevators, twice as many restrooms, three times as many concession stands and three concourse levels.



Harrison Burton snagged a Playoff berth with a win last year in the Coke Zero 400. GETTY

2025 CUP SERIES STANDINGS

Top 30 as of August 16

Rank/Driver	Points	Rank/Driver	Points
1 William Byron #24	839	16 Kyle Busch #8	537
2 Chase Elliott #9	771	17 Ty Gibbs #54	512
3 Denny Hamlin #11	766	18 AJ Allmendinger #16	504
4 Kyle Larson #5	759	19 Brad Keselowski #6	496
5 Ryan Blaney #12	756	20 Carson Hocevar #77	488
6 Christopher Bell #20	748	21 Michael McDowell #71	478
7 Tyler Reddick #45	714	22 Josh Berry #21	476
8 Chase Briscoe #19	698	23 Erik Jones #43	472
9 Alex Bowman #48	685	24 S. van Gisbergen #88	464
10 Bubba Wallace #23	639	25 Austin Dillon #3	460
11 Chris Buescher #17	625	26 J. H. Nemechek #42	459
12 Joey Logano #22	616	27 Zane Smith #38	441
13 Ryan Preece #60	591	28 Ricky Stenhouse #47	434
14 Ross Chastain #1	589	29 Daniel Suárez #99	433
15 Austin Cindric #2	543	30 Justin Haley #7	389

2025 XFINITY SERIES STANDINGS

Top 20 as of August 9

Rank/Driver	Points	Rank/Driver	Points
1 Connor Zilisch #88	823	11 Harrison Burton #25	578
2 Justin Allgaier #7	816	12 Nicholas Sanchez #48	555
3 Sam Mayer #41	799	13 Jeb Burton #27	548
4 Jesse Love #2	731	14 Ryan Sieg #39	540
5 Austin Hill #21	690	15 Christian Eckes #16	506
6 Carson Kvapil #1	660	16 Dean Thompson #26	496
7 Brandon Jones #20	646	17 Daniel Dye #10	465
8 Sheldon Creed #00	625	18 Brennan Poole #44	439
9 Taylor Gray #54	624	19 Jeremy Clements #51	406
10 Sammy Smith #8	603	20 William Sawalich #18	397

NEXT RACE: WAWA 250 POWERED BY COCA-COLA, Daytona, 7:30 p.m. ET Friday, CW

2025 TRUCK SERIES STANDINGS

Playoff 10 + 10 as of August 15

Rank/Driver	Points	Rank/Driver	Points
1 Corey Heim #11	2065	11 Ben Rhodes #99	491
2 Layne Riggs #34	2026	12 Gio Ruggiero #17	479
3 Chandler Smith #38	2019	13 Tanner Gray #15	423
4 Daniel Hemric #19	2011	14 Stewart Friesen #52	397
5 Tyler Ankrum #18	2010	15 Connor Mosack #81	385
6 Ty Majeski #98	2010	16 Matt Crafton #88	364
7 Grant Enfinger #9	2007	17 A. Perez De Lara #44	345
8 Rajah Caruth #71	2005	18 Matt Mills #42	337
9 Kaden Honeycutt #02	2003	19 Jack Wood #91	308
10 Jake Garcia #13	2002	20 Dawson Sutton #26	303

NEXT RACE: SOBER OR SLAMMER 200, Darlington Raceway, 12 p.m. ET Friday, Aug. 30, FS1

RICHMOND WINNER QUOTE

“It’s just so special. Every one of these means so much to me. My grandfather (Richard Childress), for all that he’s put up in believing in me, because there’s been a lot of ups and downs, could have been easy for him to change the drivers in this 3-car. Today it feels really darn good.”

— Austin Dillon, who secured a Cup Playoff spot with a win Saturday at Richmond



Austin Dillon celebrates in Victory Lane after winning at Richmond Saturday.

SAMUEL CORUM/GETTY IMAGES

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.