

# RACING THIS WEEK

## TRUCKS RECAP

• **Saturday's** DQS SOLUTIONS & STAFFING 250, Michigan International



**WINNER: STEWART FRIESEN**

Stewart Friesen hoisted his first trophy of the season in Saturday afternoon's triple overtime DQS Solutions & Staffing 250 at Michigan International Speedway – a Truck Series race that didn't want to end, ultimately featuring 24 extra laps.

The victory snapped a 72-race winless streak for the popular Canadian driver Friesen who had not been among the race's frontrunners all day but was where he needed to be when it counted, collecting his first trophy since winning at Texas Motor Speedway back in 2022. His No. 52 Halmar Friesen Racing Toyota beat Grant Enfinger's Chevy by a slight .111-second – both drivers benefitting from a rash of late-race caution flags.

With most drivers opting for the outside row on the final restart, Friesen was able to move up and take that inside position on the front row alongside Enfinger. The two of them duelled it out over the next two overtime laps to settle the trophy. Neither had a win coming into the race.

"I don't know what to say, thank you to Chris Halmar and all these sponsors and all these race fans, I know there's a lot of Canadians and a lot of Americans," Friesen said as the crowd began a huge roar of approval for the 41-year-old Ontario native as he celebrated his fourth career win.

The runner-up effort equaled a season-best (also at Vegas) for Enfinger and the CR7 team.

ThorSport Racing's Luke Fenhaus, who won his first career pole position for the race, finished third, followed by his teammate, two-time series champion Ben Rhodes and Spire Motorsports' Corey LaJoie making only his sixth truck series start.

The opening two stages of the event went caution-free except for the stage breaks, but the final stage featured seven caution flags. The overtime periods put a dramatic spin on the win.

A big wreck on a restart with five laps remaining eliminated several of the day's strongest competitors – Ross Chastain, who was leading at the time and championship leader Corey Heim, who swept both stages and led 29 laps running top five most of the day.

It all created a seemingly dream scenario for another of the race's best – NASCAR Cup Series regular and Michigan native, Carson Hocevar, who was trying to win his first national series race at his home track. He survived much of the late race melee only to get a penalty following the second overtime green flag for pulling out of line too early on the restart.

He led a race 56 laps but ultimately finished 11th.

Matt Crafton, Jake Garcia, Chandler Smith, rookie Andres Perez De Lara and Layne Riggs rounded out the top-10 in the first Trucks race at the track since 2020. Frankie Muniz finished 14th – his best finish since a 10th place in the Daytona season-opener.

Despite his 18th place finish, Heim stretched out his championship lead and now holds a 133-point advantage over Chandler Smith.

The trucks resume June 20 in the Miller Tech Battery 200 at Pocono. Heim is the defending race winner.

## FIREKEEPERS CASINO 400

Denny Hamlin put on a master class in fuel saving and end-of-race pressure at the two-mile Michigan oval – taking his third win of the season and 57th of his career.



**Denny Hamlin, driver of the #11 Yahoo! Toyota, takes the checkered flag to win the Cup Series FireKeepers Casino 400 at Michigan International Speedway on Sunday.** (Chris Graythen/Getty Images)

# Denny Hamlin's Michigan win was a real gas (saver)

Ultimately Denny Hamlin's No. 11 Joe Gibbs Racing Toyota had just enough fuel to claim the checkered flag at Michigan International Speedway and do one celebratory series of burnouts in front of the huge grandstand crowd before running out of gas on his encore celebration and needing a tow to his ultimate destination: Victory Lane.

The 44-year-old put on a master class in fuel saving and end-of-race pressure at the two-mile oval – taking his third win of the season and 57th of his career. Hamlin crossed the line 1.099-second ahead of Roush Fenway Keselowski Racing's Chris Buescher and his JGR teammate, Ty Gibbs, after the day's most dominant driver, Hendrick Motorsports' William Byron had to pit for fuel on the last lap.

"No, not really," Hamlin said, insisting he wasn't overly worried about running out of fuel in the closing laps. "I wanted to get the lead and obviously he [William Byron] was doing a really good job defending.

"Sorry, but I beat your favorite driver," a grinning Hamlin – in his 701st career series start – addressed the rowdy Michigan crowd.

"This whole team just stepped up," he said. "Great job. We've been so fast this entire year, just haven't finished it for one reason or another, so it feels good to come to Michigan where we've been so close the last couple of years.

"Such a gratifying day to restart 11th or 12th and charge to the front," added Hamlin, who has now won multiple races in the last seven consecutive seasons.

With 20 laps remaining, Hamlin had made his way from 11th place to fifth in the running order, behind the day's most dominant cars – Carson Hocevar in the No. 77 Spire Motorsports Chevrolet and Byron in the No. 24 Hendrick Motorsports Chevrolet.

Both Hocevar, a Michigan native racing for his first career NASCAR Cup Series win, and Byron were told by their crew chiefs they were going to run out of fuel before the end of the race. Instead of a fuel issue however, Hocevar, who led 32 laps, had to pit from the race lead with 19 laps remaining for a flat tire.

Byron, who led a race best 98 of the 200 laps, inherited the lead from Hocevar and then had to try to fend off Hamlin – who methodically started moving forward – racing Byron hard and forcing the

championship leader out of any sort of fuel-save mode.

Hamlin got by Byron with four laps to go and Byron dove down pit road for fuel on the final lap, having to settle for a 28th place finish. Hocevar finished 29th.

"Ultimately, maybe not as good mileage as the guys farther back to start that run and that's just the way the cautions go and the nature of being closer to the front and burning a lot of fuel," Byron said. "That one, you can't really do a lot about. It sucks. It really stings.

"But we had a really good car. I thought we executed well. It seemed like we waited a little more on fuel on that last stop and just burned more, not able to do much about that. So it is what it is."

Bubba Wallace drove the No. 23 23XI Racing Toyota – a team Hamlin co-owns – to fourth place. Hendrick Motorsports' Kyle Larson was fifth.

Trackhouse Racing's Ross Chastain was sixth. Front Row Motorsports' Zane Smith finished a season-best seventh place. Richard Childress Racing's Kyle Busch was eighth followed by RFK teammates Ryan Preece and Brad Keselowski – marking the first time all three RFK cars finished among the top-10 this season.

There were 13 lead changes among 11 drivers and Hamlin led only five laps.

A nearly 12-minute red flag period occurred early in the race while workers ensured the track was race-worthy after a four-car incident that sent the No. 48 Hendrick Motorsports Chevrolet, driven by Alex Bowman, hard into the wall after being clipped by Cole Custer's spinning No. 41 Haas Factory Team Ford. Bowman spoke to reporters after being checked out at the medical center. It marked the seventh time in the last nine races, however, that the perennial championship contender Bowman has finished 25th or worse.

With 11 races remaining in the regular season, Byron holds a 41-point lead over Larson in the championship points standings. There have been nine race winners. Team Penske's Austin Cindric currently holds the 16th and final spot in the Cup Series Playoffs point standings.

The Cup Series will make its first international points-paying trip with Sunday's Viva Mexico 250 at Mexico City's renowned Autódromo Hermanos Rodríguez road course (3 p.m. ET, Amazon Prime, MRN, SiriusXM NASCAR Radio, MAX).

**TRUCKS FINISH:** Stewart Friesen takes the checkered flag to win Saturday's DQS Solutions & Staffing 250 at Michigan. **M. Oliphant/Getty**



## NEXT: VIVA MEXICO 250



## Autodromo Hermanos Rodriguez

Mexico City - 100 laps / 241 miles  
3 p.m. ET Sunday, Prime

Sunday's race at Autodromo Hermanos Rodriguez in Mexico City is the first international points event in the Cup Series' modern history.

Kennedy said the partnership with Mexico City is a multiyear deal.

"This has been on our radar for a long time," said Ben Kennedy, NASCAR executive vice president, chief venue & racing innovation officer. "We've been talking about the continued iteration of our schedule, right? You can go back a few years, went to new markets like Nashville and Austin, Texas. We went to the Coliseum for the Clash. ... We went to our first street race in downtown Chicago, and this is going to be another first for us in a lot of ways. This is going to be certainly a monumental event for us, the first time we're going south of the border."

Although a points-paying Cup Series event in Mexico will be a first, NASCAR has long held a position in the country. The Hermanos Rodriguez circuit hosted four races in the Xfinity Series from 2005-08, and three current Cup Series stars are among its winners – Martin Truex Jr., Denny Hamlin and Kyle Busch.

NASCAR has also sanctioned the NASCAR México Series since its formation in 2004, and the Hermanos Rodríguez course will be the site of this year's season finale on Nov. 3. Mexican-born Cup Series driver Daniel Suárez is among those who have emerged from that tour.

"This, for me, is like a dream," Suárez said. "This is really a dream come true. Exactly 10 years ago, I was here racing NASCAR Mexico in 2014, and I won a race here before leaving NASCAR México and moving full-time to the NASCAR Xfinity Series in 2015, and I knew that some, some years before my time, the NASCAR Xfinity Series had the opportunity to come to Mexico for a few years and I remember thinking what a dream it would be for me to race the NASCAR Cup Series one day in my country. I remember thinking that, and fast forward now nine years later, and here we are in Mexico City."

The Mexico City track – which has road course and oval configurations – has hosted various series since its construction in 1959. The circuit, named in honor of racing brothers Ricardo and Pedro Rodríguez shortly after it opened, was remodeled in 2015 and has hosted eight Formula 1 grands prix since then.

## 2025 CUP SERIES STANDINGS

*Top 30 as of June 8*

Rank/Driver	Points	Rank/Driver	Points
1 William Byron #24	576	16 Austin Cindric #2	318
2 Kyle Larson #5	535	17 Josh Berry #21	309
3 Denny Hamlin #11	494	18 Carson Hocevar #77	304
4 Christopher Bell #20	480	19 AJ Allmendinger #16	304
5 Chase Elliott #9	464	20 Ricky Stenhouse #47	302
6 Tyler Reddick #45	460	21 Erik Jones #43	286
7 Ryan Blaney #12	427	22 Zane Smith #38	285
8 Ross Chastain #1	414	23 Michael McDowell #71	285
9 Joey Logano #22	395	24 Ty Gibbs #54	270
10 Bubba Wallace #23	383	25 J. H. Nemechek #42	270
11 Chase Briscoe #19	363	26 Austin Dillon #3	270
12 Chris Buescher #17	342	27 Todd Gilliland #34	265
13 Alex Bowman #48	335	28 Daniel Suárez #99	254
14 Ryan Preece #60	322	29 Justin Haley #7	234
15 Kyle Busch #8	322	30 Ty Dillon #10	232

## 2025 XFINITY SERIES STANDINGS

*Top 20 as of May 31*

Rank/Driver	Points	Rank/Driver	Points
1 Justin Allgaier #7	593	11 Harrison Burton #25	348
2 Austin Hill #21	481	12 Nicholas Sanchez #48	343
3 Sam Mayer #41	473	13 Sammy Smith #8	340
4 Jesse Love #2	432	14 Taylor Gray #54	316
5 Connor Zilisch #88	395	15 Daniel Dye #10	300
6 Sheldon Creed #00	381	16 Dean Thompson #26	285
7 Carson Kvapil #1	380	17 Brennan Poole #44	274
8 Brandon Jones #20	379	18 Christian Eckes #16	270
9 Jeb Burton #27	365	19 Jeremy Clements #51	264
10 Ryan Sieg #39	365	20 Josh Williams #11	258

**NEXT RACE:** CHILANGO 150, Autodromo in Mexico City, 4:30 p.m. ET Saturday, CW

## 2025 TRUCK SERIES STANDINGS

*Top 20 as of June 7*

Rank/Driver	Points	Rank/Driver	Points
1 Corey Heim #11	605	11 Ben Rhodes #99	338
2 Chandler Smith #38	472	12 Gio Ruggiero #17	337
3 Daniel Hemric #19	454	13 Rajah Caruth #71	336
4 Grant Enfinger #9	441	14 Tanner Gray #15	297
5 Tyler Ankrum #18	424	15 Matt Crafton #88	281
6 Layne Riggs #34	424	16 Jack Wood #91	249
7 Kaden Honeycutt #45	408	17 A. Perez De Lara #77	247
8 Ty Majeski #98	393	18 Connor Mosack #81	247
9 Jake Garcia #13	389	19 Matt Mills #42	245
10 Stewart Friesen #52	347	20 Dawson Sutton #26	241

**NEXT RACE:** MILLERTECH BATTERY 200, Pocono Raceway, 5 p.m. ET Friday, June 20, FS1

## MICHIGAN WINNER QUOTE

"This whole team just stepped up. Great job. We've been so fast this entire year, just haven't finished it for one reason or another, so it feels good to come to Michigan where we've been so close the last couple of years. Such a gratifying day to restart 11th or 12th and charge to the front,"  
- Denny Hamlin, who grabbed his third Cup win of the year Sunday at Michigan



**Denny Hamlin and crew in Victory Lane Sunday at Michigan.**

CHRIS GRAYTHEN/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.

**Country Fair**  
FRESH & LOCAL