

RACING THIS WEEK

XFINITY RECAP

• **Saturday's** HARD ROCK BET 300, Homestead-Miami Speedway



WINNER: JUSTIN ALLGAIER

In one of the most dramatic finishes of the season, JR Motorsports' Justin Allgaier took the lead on the final lap of overtime and held off his former teammate Sam Mayer for the win – the ultimate dash for cash as it were in the Hard Rock Bet 300 at Miami.

For much of the day, it looked like former Cup Series champ Kyle Larson would answer his win in the Truck Series race Friday night at the track with a victory on Saturday. He led a dominant 132 of the 201 laps and held a 15-second advantage on the field when a caution flag flew with eight laps remaining, bunching up the field for that final overtime re-start.

Larson chose the bottom lane for the re-start with second place Mayer opting to pull his No. 41 Haas Factory Team Ford directly behind Larson instead of on the front row alongside him. Just as the green flag flew for that final two laps, Mayer's car hit the rear of Larson's and knocked Larson's Chevrolet out of shape.

As that happened, the outside line of Austin Hill and Allgaier zoomed forward with Hill taking the race lead. A lap later, Allgaier caught Hill and got around him for the victory – his first top-five in 16 previous Homestead races and the second straight win for the reigning series champion, matching a trophy-haul at Las Vegas last week.

Allgaier also won the first \$100,000 Dash 4 Cash bonus check from series sponsor Xfinity.

TRUCKS RECAP

• **Friday's** BAPTIST HEALTH 200, Homestead-Miami Speedway



WINNER: KYLE LARSON

Kyle Larson made a dramatic run to the checkered flag, rallying from a late spinout to methodically race back through the field and pass the night's most dominant trucks in the final 10 laps to claim victory in Friday's Baptist Health 200 at Homestead-Miami.

It was a fittingly remarkable end to a typically competitive night in the Truck Series. Larson spun his No. 07 Spire Motorsports Chevrolet with 45 laps remaining in the 134-lapper and dropped out of the top-20. But the 2021 Cup Series champ drove back through the field and moved forward picking off one frontrunner after another.

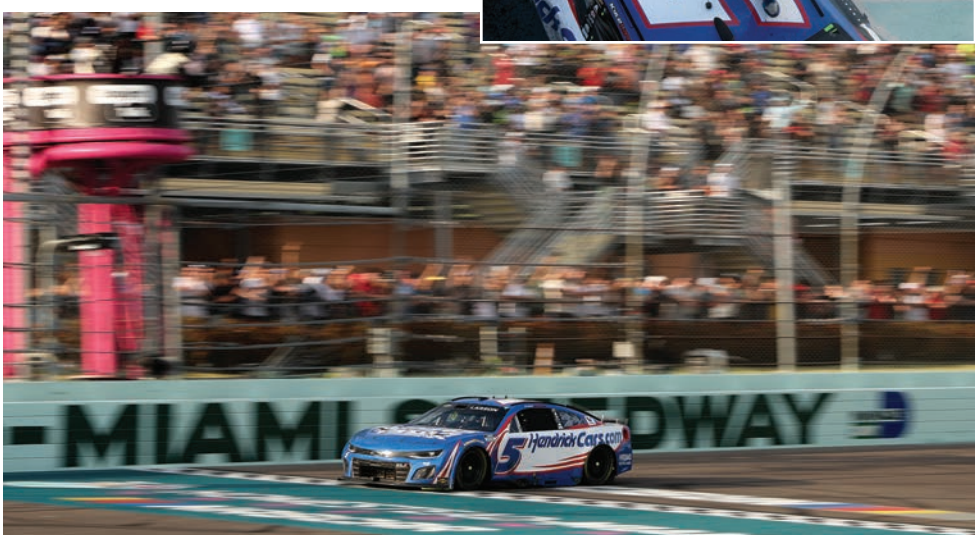
Larson passed Front Row Motorsports rookie Layne Riggs with two laps to go and never looked back, finishing 1.340-seconds ahead.

The night's most dominant driver, TRICON Garage's Corey Heim finished third after leading a race best 78 laps. Heim was disappointed standing on pit road after the race. His No. 11 TRICON Garage Toyota started from pole position, swept both stage wins and led the most laps.

Tyler Ankrum and Daniel Hemric rounded out the top-five finishers. Floridian Ross Chastain, who competes fulltime in the Cup Series, led 33 laps but finished sixth.

STRAIGHT TALK WIRELESS 400

Kyle Larson was able to seize upon a miscue by Hendrick Motorsports teammate Alex Bowman to rally his way to his first Cup win of the season Sunday at Miami.



Kyle Larson, driver of the #5 HendrickCars.com Chevrolet, crosses the finish line to win the Cup Series Straight Talk Wireless 400 at Homestead-Miami Speedway Sunday. (Chris Graythen/Getty Images)

For Larson, 2 out of 3 ain't bad at Miami

HOMESTEAD, Fla. – Kyle Larson, proved himself the weekend's most dominant driver at Homestead-Miami Speedway, winning two of the three national series races, capping off the extraordinary three-day performance with a victory in Sunday's Straight Talk Wireless 400 Cup Series race.

Larson was able to seize upon a miscue by his Hendrick Motorsports teammate Alex Bowman, who put his pole-winning No. 48 Chevrolet in the outside retaining wall with six laps remaining Sunday. That contact allowed Larson's No. 5 Hendrick Motorsports Chevrolet to pass him for the race lead and jet off to a 1.205-second win – the 32-year-old Californian's first series trophy of the year.

"I knew me coming towards those guys they were going to start moving around and making mistakes and I felt like if I could just keep pressure on Alex [Bowman], he may make a mistake and he caught the wall there and I got around him easier than I expected to," the 2021 Cup Series champion Larson said. "Still had to work hard though. My balance in clean air was really loose just like those guys were. Hats off to the whole team."

Bowman, who started from pole position, led 43 laps and was obviously disappointed even in a second-place outcome, coming so close to his first victory of the year.

"Guess I choked that one away for sure," Bowman said, revealing he actually hit the wall harder the lap before he got passed. "Just kind of burned myself up. Saw the 5 [Larson] coming, so I moved around a little bit.

"Man, I hate that for this Ally 48 group they deserve better than that. Just a couple mistakes there. Felt like we were okay all day there."

23XI Racing's Bubba Wallace finished third, leading a season high 56 laps in the No. 23 Toyota. Joe Gibbs Racing's Chase Briscoe finished fourth in the No. 19 Toyota – the afternoon proving to be season best finishes for Larson, Bowman, Wallace and Briscoe.

JGR's Denny Hamlin rounded out the top-five finishing order and won Stage 2 – his 15 laps out front are most on the year for him.

The day's most dominant driver was Team Penske's Ryan Blaney, whose No. 12 Ford led a race best 124 laps, only to suffer an engine failure with 60 laps remaining. A huge blast of smoke burst out of the car as it slowed abruptly onto the frontstretch from a top-five position.

He ended up 36th of the 37 cars, the 2023

season champion suffering his third straight DNF of the year.

"I didn't have any warning," said Blaney, a runner-up in the previous two Homestead races. "When I got back to wide open down the front, that was all she wrote. Just stinks. Really fast Ford Mustang, led a lot of laps, lost a little bit of track position with stuff on pit road, but got back to third and it was a great race between me, Bubba and Larson. I'm sure Denny [Hamlin] was going to get back into it, it was going to be quite a battle in the last 60 laps or so.

"Just didn't really work out for us. We'll continue to keep fighting. I appreciate the 12 guys for giving me just a hot rod today, an incredibly, incredibly fast race car today. We'll keep our head up. Just one of those things where it isn't really going our way right now. But the good news is we're bringing fast cars and that's all you can ask for."

Roush Fenway Keselowski Racing's Chris Buescher rallied to a sixth-place finish, followed by Kaulig Racing's A.J. Allmendinger, 23XI Racing's Tyler Reddick, RFK's Ryan Preece and Spire Motorsports' Justin Haley.

With the win Larson moved into second place in the NASCAR Cup Series championship standings, 36 points behind Hendrick teammate, Daytona 500 winner William Byron. Bowman is now third in the championship, 39 points back. The fourth member of the team, Chase Elliott finished 18th and is sixth in the standings

The promising start to the season a strong confidence-builder for all the drivers.

"Had to keep plugging away, proud of myself, proud of the team, just a lot of gritty hard work there today between damage on pit road, qualifying bad, bad restarts all that stuff," said Larson, whose 30 career wins are now second only to NASCAR Hall of Famers Jeff Gordon (93) and Jimmie Johnson (83) among Hendrick drivers.

"Just super pumped," Larson said. "One of the coolest wins I think of my Cup career just because of all the heartbreak here, the heartbreak yesterday. Just kept my head down and kept digging."

The heartbreak Larson referred to was his 2-for-3 showing in his three-peat attempt. He won Friday's Truck Series race and suffered a gut-wrenching near-miss in Saturday's NASCAR Xfinity Series race – an afternoon where he led the most laps only to get tapped from behind in an overtime restart and finish fourth.

Larson will attempt the three-race sweep at Bristol (Tenn.) Motor Speedway in April.

XFINITY FINISH: Justin Allgaier celebrates after winning Saturday's Hard Rock Bet 300 at Miami. J. Gilbert/Getty



NEXT RACE: COOK OUT 400



Martinsville Speedway

3 p.m. ET Sunday, FS1

Located: Ridgeway, VA

First race: 1950

Distance: 210.4 mi (338.606 km)

Laps: 400

Most wins (driver): Richard Petty (9)

Founded in 1947 by the late H. Clay Earles, Martinsville Speedway is only track which has hosted NASCAR Cup Series races every year since the division's inception in 1949.

At .526 miles in length, Martinsville Speedway is the shortest track on the NASCAR Cup Series circuit. Because of its small size, tight corners and unique shape – described most often as a paperclip – Martinsville offers some of the most exciting and close-quarters racing in the sport. Also because of its size, fans are closer to the action than any other track on the circuit. The cars are never more than a few hundred yards away and sometimes they seem close enough to reach out and touch.

NOTABLE RACES

1953: Herb Thomas was originally declared the winner, but a recheck showed that he had been credited with an extra lap.

1979: Richard Petty posted his first win in a Chevrolet and first short track win since 1975.

1984: Geoff Bodine edged Ron Bouchard for the win, the first for Bodine and the first for Hendrick Motorsports; it was also the first for crew chief Harry Hyde since 1977.

1997: Jeff Gordon edged Bobby Hamilton for the win, ending a four-race win streak in the Virginia 500 by Rusty Wallace.

2002: Bobby Labonte posted his first career short-track win.

2004: Rusty Wallace posted his final Cup win.

2010: Denny Hamlin stormed four-abreast through traffic on a late restart to steal the win.



William Byron won in OT last year at Martinsville. (Getty)

2025 CUP SERIES STANDINGS

Top 30 as of March 23

Rank/Driver	Points	Rank/Driver	Points
1 William Byron #24	244	16 Ryan Preece #60	130
2 Kyle Larson #5	208	17 Kyle Busch #8	130
3 Alex Bowman #48	205	18 John H. Nemechek #42	130
4 Tyler Reddick #45	189	19 Ricky Stenhouse #47	129
5 Christopher Bell #20	186	20 AJ Allmendinger #16	126
6 Chase Elliott #9	181	21 Austin Cindric #2	121
7 Bubba Wallace #23	166	22 Daniel Suárez #99	109
8 Denny Hamlin #11	164	23 Erik Jones #43	107
9 Chris Buescher #17	164	24 Justin Haley #7	105
10 Ryan Blaney #12	162	25 Zane Smith #38	103
11 Joey Logano #22	160	26 Todd Gilliland #34	98
12 Josh Berry #21	142	27 Carson Hocevar #77	95
13 Chase Briscoe #19	135	28 Austin Dillon #3	95
14 Ross Chastain #1	134	29 Ty Dillon #10	95
15 Michael McDowell #71	134	30 Brad Keselowski #6	84

2025 XFINITY SERIES STANDINGS

Top 20 as of March 22

Rank/Driver	Points	Rank/Driver	Points
1 Justin Allgaier #7	249	11 Harrison Burton #25	145
2 Sam Mayer #41	220	12 Jeb Burton #27	143
3 Jesse Love #2	218	13 Brandon Jones #20	141
4 Austin Hill #21	202	14 Carson Kvapil #1	141
5 Sheldon Creed #00	187	15 Nicholas Sanchez #48	137
6 Sammy Smith #8	184	16 Daniel Dye #10	131
7 Connor Zilisch #88	164	17 Christian Eckes #16	128
8 Ryan Sieg #39	156	18 Josh Williams #11	115
9 Aric Almirola #19	151	19 Brennan Poole #44	107
10 Taylor Gray #54	151	20 Dean Thompson #26	106

NEXT RACE: MARINE CORPS 250, Martinsville Speedway, 5 p.m. ET Saturday, CW

2025 TRUCK SERIES STANDINGS

Top 20 as of March 21

Rank/Driver	Points	Rank/Driver	Points
1 Corey Heim #11	177	11 Ben Rhodes #99	99
2 Ty Majeski #98	169	12 Tanner Gray #15	97
3 Chandler Smith #38	150	13 Giovanni Ruggiero #17	94
4 Grant Enfinger #9	149	14 Matt Crafton #88	87
5 Stewart Friesen #52	138	15 Matt Mills #42	76
6 Tyler Ankrum #18	127	16 Jack Wood #91	73
7 Daniel Hemric #19	125	17 Bayley Currey #41	68
8 Layne Riggs #34	122	18 Rajah Caruth #71	68
9 Jake Garcia #13	103	19 A. Perez De Lara #77	67
10 Kaden Honeycutt #45	101	20 Frankie Muniz #33	64

NEXT RACE: BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB OF THE BLUE RIDGE 200, Martinsville, 7:30 p.m. ET Friday, FS1

MIAMI WINNER QUOTE

"I knew me coming towards those guys they were going to start moving around and making mistakes and I felt like if I could just keep pressure on Alex [Bowman], he may make a mistake and he caught the wall there and I got around him easier than I expected to."

- Kyle Larson, who grabbed his first Cup win of the season in Sunday's Straight Talk Wireless 400



Kyle Larson and son Owen in Victory Lane Sunday at Miami.

JAMES GILBERT/GETTY IMAGES

SEAS THE DAY

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

