

TRUCKS RECAP

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



WINNER: COREY HEIM

Reigning Truck Series champion Corey Heim held off a dramatic checkered flag charge – in lapped traffic from his TRICON Garage teammate Kaden Honeycutt – to claim his first career win at the iconic Michigan International Speedway in Saturday's DQS Solutions & Staffing 250 powered by Precision Vehicle Logistics.

It's Heim's 26th career victory, but first ever on the two-mile Michigan high banks giving him series wins now on 22 different tracks – second best all-time – only Hall of Famer Ron Hornaday Jr. has won at 31 venues. It's Heim's third win in only five truck starts this season and comes a week after announcing he will join 23XI Racing in the Cup Series for 2027.

Heim's No. 1 TRICON Garage Toyota passed the day's most dominant truck driven by Cup regular Carson Hocevar with 15 laps remaining and crossed the line only .065-second ahead of Honeycutt's No. 11 TRICON Garage Toyota – the truck Heim drove to the championship last season.

He immediately thanked Honeycutt for the push forward in the final laps – his only laps out front all day – acknowledging the help put just enough distance on Hocevar, who led a race best 65 of the 126 laps.

"We discussed it pre-race that we were going to race it out in the end and that's what we did," the 23-year-old Georgia native Heim said. "He tried to get to my right rear there which would have probably won the race and I had to protect it.

"Props to Kaden there and to [fellow Toyota driver] Christopher Bell, I don't know where he ended up but he was strong all day. The last couple laps there at the end, were pretty awesome.

"That was a lot of fun, I had a blast," he added.

The 21-year-old Honeycutt certainly kept Heim honest in the closing run to the checkered, hoping to earn his second career win – matching his work at Watkins Glen, N.Y. in May.

"Good race there at the end, us five up there and I'm sure it was a good race for the fans so that was good," Honeycutt said. "It was unfortunate I didn't get the win there."

Although boosted by a strong showing all day at his "home track," Michigan-native Hocevar was disappointed with his finish, explaining his No. 77 Spire Motorsports Chevrolet truck had been overheating. He was hoping to win for the home crowd and especially for his mother, celebrating her birthday. "Everyone did a good job," he said. "Felt like I could have done a better job but don't know what I could have done differently. Would like to see what I would have had full power."

Front Row Motorsports teammates Chandler Smith and Layne Riggs rounded out the top-five – a valiant effort from Riggs, who went a lap down early after a pit stop issue. A winner in the previous two races, Riggs' fifth place keeps him atop the championship standings by 26 over Honeycutt.

Bell finished sixth in the No. 62 Halmar Friesen Toyota after sweeping both stage wins and leading 37 laps – one of six race leaders on the afternoon. Cup driver Ricky Stenhouse Jr was seventh, followed by Connor Mosack, Jake Garcia and Tyler Ankrum.

FIREKEEPERS CASINO 400

Denny Hamlin pulled off an amazing run from the rear of the starting grid Sunday to claim his second consecutive trophy in the Cup Series, this time at a sold-out Michigan International Speedway.



Denny Hamlin, driver of the #11 National Debt Relief Toyota, takes the checkered flag to win the Cup Series FireKeepers Casino 400 at Michigan International Speedway on Sunday. (Brett Farmer/Getty)

Hard-charging Hamlin perseveres at Michigan

On an action-packed afternoon where perseverance proved as important as raw speed, Denny Hamlin pulled off an amazing run from the rear of the starting grid to claim the checkered flag, taking his second consecutive and fourth overall trophy in the Cup Series' FireKeepers Casino 400 at a sold-out Michigan International Speedway.

The massive effort marked Hamlin's 63rd career win – tying him with the late Kyle Busch for ninth-place on the Cup Series all-time wins list. The showing – combined with points leader Tyler Reddick's first DNF of the season – cut Hamlin's deficit to Reddick nearly in half. He now trails him by only 51 points with 11 races left to settle the Cup Series regular season title.

Hamlin, 45, celebrated the victory – his third of the year and second consecutive last-to-first efforts – by waving a black and white No. 18 "Kyle Busch" flag outside his driver's window driving around the track for a victory lap – capped by a burnout. The ode to the two-time series champ Busch, Hamlin's former teammate who passed away suddenly two weeks ago from pneumonia and sepsis, received huge applause and a standing ovation from the massive grandstand crowd.

Although Hamlin won pole position for Sunday's race, he started from the rear of the 37-car field after the team made adjustments after qualifying. The opening stage was mostly frustrating for Hamlin, who only managed to run between 20-30th place early. But the perennial championship contender and his JGR team made adjustments all day and he was running top-five by lap 140 of the 200-lapper. And moving forward quickly.

"Great car, unbelievable," Hamlin said, thanking his crew after taking the checkered flag. After a day where patience and confidence mattered most, his No. 11 Toyota led 40 laps – including the final 39 of the 200-lap race – and pulled away to an amazing 11.110-second win over fellow Toyota driver, Legacy Motor's Erik Jones. "That last run there, just hammered down. Had a few good restarts and once I got the lead, laid out all I had.

"The offseason was rough for me, rough for NASCAR family. We lost a lot of people This week we lost Gentleman Ned (Jarrett) and still thinking of Kyle (Busch), (his wife)



Samantha (and children) Brexton and Lennix.

"Just grateful to be able strap in every week and I don't take it for granted this opportunity that I'm in. Just love that we're making the best of it."

A record 11 caution flags – plus a 20-minute red flag – flew for incidents and accidents throughout the afternoon – involved half the field to varying degrees. And while the stoppages slowed the race, it also allowed drivers to save enough fuel late enabling them to make the checkered flag without losing positions on extra pit stops.

Although Hamlin was far in front of the field, the positions just behind him were decided in the closing laps. The runner-up showing was the Michigan-native Jones' best of the season. Bubba Wallace finished third in the 23XI Racing Toyota co-owned by Hamlin and NBA legend Michael Jordan. Hendrick Motorsports' Kyle Larson was fourth in the No. 5 Chevrolet with Spire Motorsports' Carson Hocevar rounding out the top-five in the No. 77 Chevrolet.

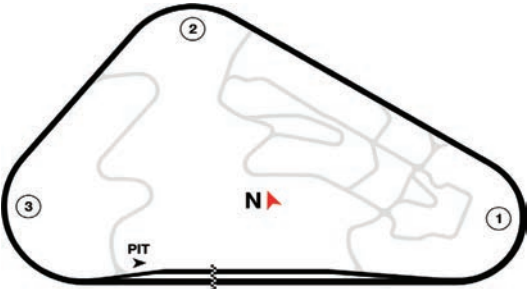
A nine-car chain-reaction wreck early in the race eliminated championship leader, and the 2024 Michigan winner Reddick from contention. Another incident with frontrunners Chase Elliott and Christopher Bell with 51 laps to go necessitated a 20-minute red flag to repair the track wall.

That red flag was necessitated after a hard collision between the two trophy contenders as they ran side-by-side vying for second place. Elliott's No. 9 Hendrick Motorsports Chevrolet got loose and moved up track and into Bell's No. 20 Joe Gibbs Racing Toyota.

It was an especially tough outing for the season's leader Reddick, who won the opening stage – his first of the season – but was among those collected in a nine-car accident on a Lap 83 restart. A chain reaction collision on the fourth row of the triggered by Hocevar eliminated a large contingent of potentially race-winning entries.

Spire's Daniel Suarez – who won at Charlotte two weeks ago – finished sixth followed by three-time series champion, Team Penske's Joey Logano whose seventh-place effort marked his fifth top-10 of the season. Logano's teammate Ryan Blaney was eighth in the No. 12 Ford, followed by Roush Fenway Keselowski's Chris Buescher and JGR's Chase Briscoe.

NEXT: GREAT AMERICAN GETAWAY 400 PRESENTED BY VISITPA



Pocono Raceway

3 p.m. ET Sunday, Prime

• **Location:** 1234 Long Pond Road Blakeslee, Pennsylvania

• **Opened:** May 4, 1969 (initial oval); July 19, 1971 (tri-oval)

• **Capacity:** 76,000 (est.)

• **Course:** Tri-oval

• **Surface:** Asphalt

• **Length:** 2.5 miles (4.023 km)

• **Turns:** 3

• **Banking:** Turn 1, 14°; Turn 2, 8°; Turn 3, 6°

• **Of note:** In May, Pocono Raceway completed a hat trick, earning "Best NASCAR Track" honors for the third consecutive year in the *USA TODAY 10Best Readers' Choice Travel Awards*. "The Tricky Triangle" won by fan vote after a four-week period in April. Pocono Raceway topped a field of 20 tracks, finishing ahead of COTA, Las Vegas, Watkins Glen and Richmond, respectively.



Aerial view of Pocono Raceway tri-oval, aka "Tricky Triangle."



Chase Briscoe in Victory Lane after winning last year's Getaway 400. GETTY

2026 CUP SERIES STANDINGS

Top 30 as of June 7

Rank/Driver	Points	Rank/Driver	Points
1 Tyler Reddick #45	669	16 Austin Cindric #2	332
2 Denny Hamlin #11	618	17 Joey Logano #22	329
3 Ryan Blaney #12	512	18 Erik Jones #43	314
4 Chase Elliott #9	482	19 Ryan Preece #60	313
5 Ty Gibbs #54	470	20 Mike McDowell #71	286
6 Kyle Larson #5	453	21 AJ Allmendinger #16	286
7 Carson Hocevar #77	428	22 Zane Smith #38	282
8 Chris Buescher #17	424	23 Ricky Stenhouse #47	271
9 Daniel Suárez #7	418	24 Ross Chastain #1	260
10 Christopher Bell #20	410	25 Todd Gilliland #34	255
11 Bubba Wallace #23	378	26 Riley Herbst #35	250
12 William Byron #24	377	27 Austin Dillon #3	245
13 Chase Briscoe #19	370	28 J. H. Nemechek #42	236
14 S. v Gisbergen #97	355	29 Noah Gragson #4	212
15 Brad Keselowski #6	350	30 Josh Berry #21	196

2026 O'REILLY AUTO PARTS STANDINGS

Top 20 as of May 30

Rank/Driver	Points	Rank/Driver	Points
1 Justin Allgaier #7	770	11 Sam Mayer #41	413
2 Jesse Love #2	591	12 Taylor Gray #54	399
3 Corey Day #17	574	13 Rajah Caruth #32	387
4 Sheldon Creed #00	532	14 Brent Crews #19	384
5 Brandon Jones #20	512	15 Ryan Sieg #39	384
6 Austin Hill #21	499	16 Brennan Poole #44	309
7 Carson Kvapil #1	493	17 Anthony Alfredo #96	286
8 Sammy Smith #8	482	18 Dean Thompson #26	282
9 William Sawalich #18	429	19 Jeremy Clements #51	260
10 Parker Retzlaff #99	416	20 Jeb Burton #27	253

NEXT RACE: MILLERTECH BATTERY 250, Pocono Raceway, 4 p.m. ET Saturday, CW

2026 CRAFTSMAN TRUCK STANDINGS

Top 20 as of June 6

Rank/Driver	Points	Rank/Driver	Points
1 Layne Riggs #34	497	11 Corey Heim #1	274
2 Kaden Honeycutt #11	471	12 Stewart Friesen #52	269
3 Chandler Smith #38	407	13 Grant Enfinger #9	256
4 Gio Ruggiero #17	383	14 Brenden Queen #12	242
5 Christian Eckes #91	379	15 Justin Haley #16	230
6 Ben Rhodes #99	316	16 A. Perez De Lara #44	225
7 Ty Majeski #88	312	17 Tanner Gray #15	221
8 Tyler Ankrum #18	283	18 Dawson Sutton #26	186
9 Daniel Hemric #19	278	19 Mini Tyrrell #14	175
10 Jake Garcia #98	278	20 Corey LaJoie #75	158

NEXT RACE: TRUCKS RACE AT SAN DIEGO, San Diego Street Course, 7 p.m. ET Friday, June 19, FS1

MICHIGAN WINNER QUOTE

"Great car, unbelievable. Just amazing. That last run there, just hammered down. Had a few good restarts and once I got the lead, laid out all I had. ... This week we lost Gentleman Ned (Jarrett) and still thinking of Kyle (Busch), (his wife) Samantha (and children) Brexton and Lennix."

— Denny Hamlin, who started from the rear and made a huge run to win at Michigan International Sunday



Denny Hamlin in Victory Lane Sunday at Michigan.

SEAN GARDNER/GETTY

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