

RACING THIS WEEK

Chandler Smith crosses the finish line to win Friday's Fresh from Florida 250 at Daytona. J. Curry/Getty



O'REILLY RECAP

• **Saturday's** UNITED RENTALS 300, Daytona International Speedway



WINNER: AUSTIN HILL

Austin Hill continued his mastery of NASCAR's big tracks, dominating Saturday's United Rentals 300 at Daytona — the Georgia native's fourth win in the O'Reilly Auto Parts Series season opener here in the last five years.

And as so typically happens on Daytona's 2.5-mile superspeedway, the outcome came down to the dramatic last few laps.

Although he started from pole position and led a race high 78 of the 120 laps, Hill was tested all night — ultimately having to prevail on three restarts in the final 12 laps. His No. 21 Richard Childress Racing Chevrolet beat JR Motorsports driver Justin Allgaier's Chevrolet to the finish line by 0.081 seconds.

It marked Richard Childress Racing's fifth consecutive win in this race, tying a mark set by Dale Earnhardt Inc. from 1990-94. It was Hill's 15th career victory and 11th on a drafting style track.

RSS Racing owner-driver Ryan Sieg finished third despite being caught up in a mid-race incident. Another owner-driver Jordan Anderson Racing's namesake Jordan Anderson was fourth, followed by Allgaier's JR Motorsports teammate Sammy Smith.

Ryan Ellis, Carson Kvapil, Blaine Perkins, Hill's teammate Jesse Love and Rajah Caruth rounded out the top 10. Love led 27 laps, second only to Hill, but got caught up in the frantic finish.

TRUCKS RECAP

• **Friday's** FRESH FROM FLORIDA 250, Daytona International Speedway



WINNER: CHANDLER SMITH

Chandler Smith came from the middle of nowhere to win Friday's Fresh From Florida 250 at Daytona and immediately gave credit where credit was due.

"Thank you, thank you, thank you, Ty Majeski!" Smith shouted after taking the checkered flag in the Trucks season opener at the 2.5-mile superspeedway.

In a star-studded race salted with four full-time Cup drivers, Hall of Famer Tony Stewart, daredevil Travis Pastrana and YouTuber Cleetus McFarland, the two Trucks regulars combined to put a Ford in Victory Lane.

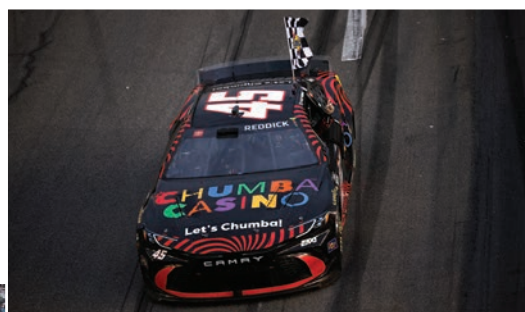
Driving the No. 38 Front Row Motorsports F-150, Smith was sixth as the lead group rounded Turn 3 on the second lap of overtime, with John Hunter Nemechek out front. But as Nemechek moved up to attempt a late block on Gio Ruggiero, Smith steamed through in the open bottom lane with a strong push from Majeski.

Ruggiero came home second in his No. 17 Tricon Garage Toyota, 0.044 seconds behind Smith. Christian Eckes was third, with Majeski and Nemechek in fourth and fifth.

Cup driver Ricky Stenhouse was sixth, followed by Brenden "Butterbean" Queen.

DAYTONA 500

In the final 500 yards of the Great American Race, Tyler Reddick got a welcome push from teammate Riley Herbst, muscled his way past Chase Elliott and powered his No. 45 23XI Racing Toyota to the finish line.



Tyler Reddick, driver of the #45 Chumba Casino Toyota, takes the checkered flag to win the Cup Series Daytona 500 at Daytona International Speedway on Sunday. (Sean Gardner/Getty)

Reddick emerges from Daytona frantic finish

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. — Tyler Reddick waited for the last moment to make his move—and it paid off with victory in Sunday's 68th running of the Daytona 500.

In the final 500 yards of the Great American Race, Reddick got a push from teammate Riley Herbst, muscled his way past Chase Elliott and powered his No. 45 23XI Racing Toyota toward the finish line.

As the track exploded in chaos behind him, when Herbst tried an ill-fated late block on Brad Keselowski and a knot of cars slid sideways across the finish line, Reddick already was celebrating a 0.308-second victory over 2023 Daytona 500 winner Ricky Stenhouse Jr.

Reddick was the 25th different leader—a record for the race—and the only lap he led was the last one.

After a winless 2025, Reddick expressed both satisfaction and relief at doing what 23XI co-owners Denny Hamlin and Michael Jordan hired him to do.

"Last year was really hard for all of us, hard for me," Reddick said. "When you're a Cup driver and you get to this level and drive for Michael Jordan, it's expected you win every single year.

"For us to go on that drought it made us look hard in the mirror, and I am really proud of everyone on our Chumba Casino Toyota Camry. Worked really hard in the offseason, and there were many points in this race where we weren't making decisions we wanted to, but we just reset, and every opportunity we got to reset, we went back at it.

"Just speechless. I didn't know if I'd ever win this race. It's surreal, honestly. The best part is my son asked before this race, 'Are you finally going to win this race?' Something about today just felt right."

The final two laps produced more plot twists than a dime novel. Spire Motorsports driver Carson Hocevar led at the white flag but spun in Turn 1 and fell out of the lead pack, taking Erik Jones and Michael McDowell with him. Elliott took control and appeared ready to win his first Crown Jewel race before Reddick gained momentum off Herbst's bumper.

Moments later, Herbst's attempted block stopped Keselowski's huge run near the outside wall and sealed the win for Reddick.

Behind Stenhouse, 2015 Daytona 500 winner Joey Logano slid across the finish line in third place, followed by Elliott and Keselowski.

"Yeah, a lot of chaos," said Keselowski, who raced while still recovering from a broken right femur. "Last restart I gave William Byron a great push, and just wasn't enough to move our lane. I was giving him all I had, and then right here at the end I had this huge run and the 35 (Herbst) wrecked us. Really disappointed.

As wild as the finish was, the biggest melee of the afternoon came much earlier.

With seven laps left in the second stage, contact between the No. 40 Chevrolet of Justin Allgaier and the No.11 Toyota of three-time Daytona 500 winner Denny Hamlin ignited a 20-car wreck in the tri-oval.

Allgaier was leading the top line but left a narrow lane open to his right. As Hamlin attempted to fill the hole, Allgaier's car twitched toward the wall, turned across the nose of Hamlin's Camry and lit the fuse of chaos behind him.

Even though Herbst was listed in that incident, his car was not severely damaged and survived to become a key component in the 23XI victory, as Jordan acknowledged after the race.

"I thought Riley did an unbelievable job pushing at the end," Jordan said. "That shows you what teamwork can really, really do. He doesn't get enough credit. He won't get enough credit. But we feel the love. We understand exactly what he did.

"We hung in there all day. Great strategy by the team, and we gave ourselves a chance at the end. Look, I'm ecstatic. I don't even know what to say. It feels like I won a championship, but until I get my ring, I won't even know."

Smith, Chris Buescher, Herbst, Josh Berry and Bubba Wallace finished sixth through 10th, respectively. Byron, trying for a third straight Daytona 500 win, came home 12th, and pole winner Kyle Busch was 15th.

The lead changed hands among the record 25 different drivers 665 times. Smith took the first stage win—the first of his career—and Wallace won the second under caution for the 20-car accident.

NEXT RACE: AUTOTRADER 400



EchoPark Atlanta

3 p.m. ET Sunday, FOX

- Location: 30 miles south of Atlanta on Highways 19 & 41 - 1500 Tara Place.
- Constructed: Original track was built in 1959-1960. The reconfiguration was completed in 1997. Repaved and re-profiled to 28 degree banking in 2021.
- Track size: 1.54 mile quad-oval.
- Size and bankings of turns: Approximately 1/4 mile each banked at 28 degrees.
- Banking of straightaways: Each are banked at 5 degrees.
- First race: July 31, 1960 (Dixie 500); winner, Fireball Roberts.
- Fastest Cup qualifying lap: Geoffrey Bodine, Nov. 15, 1997, with a time of 28.074 seconds and a speed of 197.478 mph.
- Formerly Atlanta Motor Speedway, the next evolution of the track debuted June 2025 with rebranding of the track to EchoPark Speedway.



Christopher Bell, driver of the #20 DEWALT Toyota, celebrated in Victory Lane after winning last season at Atlanta. Getty

2026 CUP SERIES STANDINGS

Top 30 as of February 15

| Rank/Driver | Points | Rank/Driver | Points |
|-----------------------|--------|-------------------------|--------|
| 1 Tyler Reddick | 58 | 16 Noah Gragson | 27 |
| 2 Joey Logano | 46 | 17 Michael McDowell | 26 |
| 3 Chase Elliott | 43 | 18 William Byron | 25 |
| 4 Zane Smith | 41 | 19 John Hunter Nemechek | 25 |
| 5 Ricky Stenhouse Jr. | 39 | 20 Ty Dillon | 23 |
| 6 Brad Keselowski | 39 | 21 Cody Ware | 20 |
| 7 Chris Buescher | 39 | 22 AJ Allmendinger | 18 |
| 8 Bubba Wallace | 37 | 23 Ross Chastain | 17 |
| 9 Kyle Larson | 37 | 24 Ryan Preece | 17 |
| 10 Carson Hocevar | 36 | 25 Erik Jones | 16 |
| 11 Ryan Blaney | 36 | 26 Ty Gibbs | 16 |
| 12 Riley Herbst | 35 | 27 Cole Custer | 13 |
| 13 Daniel Suarez | 35 | 28 Shane van Gisbergen | 12 |
| 14 Josh Berry | 33 | 29 Austin Cindric | 12 |
| 15 Kyle Busch | 29 | 30 Austin Dillon | 9 |

2026 O'REILLY AUTO PARTS STANDINGS

Top 20 as of February 14

| Rank/Driver | Points | Rank/Driver | Points |
|-----------------------|--------|--------------------------|--------|
| 1 Austin Hill #21 | 75 | 11 Parker Retzlaff #99 | 28 |
| 2 Justin Allgaier #7 | 50 | 12 Anthony Alfredo #96 | 26 |
| 3 Carson Kvapil #1 | 47 | 13 Brennan Poole #44 | 25 |
| 4 Jesse Love #2 | 37 | 14 Kyle Sieg #28 | 22 |
| 5 Sammy Smith #8 | 36 | 15 William Sawalich #18 | 22 |
| 6 Blaine Perkins #31 | 36 | 16 Lavar Scott #45 | 21 |
| 7 Ryan Sieg #39 | 34 | 17 Josh Billicki #07 | 20 |
| 8 Rajah Caruth #88 | 34 | 18 Patrick Staropoli #48 | 19 |
| 9 Jordan Anderson #32 | 33 | 19 Carson Ware #30 | 18 |
| 10 Ryan Ellis #02 | 31 | 20 Sheldon Creed #00 | 18 |

NEXT RACE: BENNETT TRANSPORT. & LOGISTICS 250, EchoPark Atlanta, 5 p.m. ET Saturday, CW

2026 CRAFTSMAN TRUCK STANDINGS

Top 20 as of February 13

| Rank/Driver | Points | Rank/Driver | Points |
|-----------------------|--------|-------------------------|--------|
| 1 Chandler Smith #38 | 65 | 11 A. Perez De Lara #44 | 24 |
| 2 Christian Eckes #91 | 46 | 12 Cole Butcher #13 | 23 |
| 3 Ty Majeski #88 | 45 | 13 Tanner Gray #15 | 23 |
| 4 Gio Ruggiero #17 | 35 | 14 Travis Pastrana #42 | 22 |
| 5 Kaden Honeycutt #11 | 34 | 15 Frankie Muniz #33 | 21 |
| 6 Brenden Queen #12 | 32 | 16 Daniel Dye #10 | 20 |
| 7 Nick Leitz #5 | 31 | 17 Clay Greenfield #95 | 19 |
| 8 Tyler Ankrum #18 | 28 | 18 Mini Tyrrell #14 | 18 |
| 9 Stewart Friesen #52 | 27 | 19 Josh Reaume #22 | 17 |
| 10 Ben Rhodes #99 | 26 | 20 Spencer Boyd #76 | 16 |

NEXT RACE: FR8 RACING 208, EchoPark Atlanta, 1:30 p.m. ET Saturday, FS1

DAYTONA WINNER QUOTE

"Last year was really hard for all of us, hard for me. When you're a Cup driver and you get to this level and drive for Michael Jordan, it's expected you win every single year. For us to go on that drought it made us look hard in the mirror, and I am really proud of everyone on our Chumba Casino Toyota Camry. — Tyler Reddick, who used a last lap pass to take the Daytona 500 Sunday



Tyler Reddick and Michael Jordan, NBA Hall of Famer and co-owner of 23XI Racing, celebrate with the crew in Victory Lane at Daytona Sunday. 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