



# RACING

## THIS WEEK



**CUP QUOTABLE:** "Being most consistent each and every week and finishing consistently in the top five is the easiest way to prove that you're capable of your next win. So we've got to get to that point first." — **Kyle Busch**, winless in 2025, on returning to winning form and doing so with a new crew in 2026



### CUP SEASON IN REVIEW

**Ross Chastain**, No. 1 Trackhouse Racing Chevrolet



**Crew chief:** Phil Surgen

**Final 2025 ranking:**

10th

**Key stats:** 1 win, 4 top fives, 12 top 10s, 83 laps led

**How 2025 ended:** After missing the Cup Series Playoffs in 2024, Ross Chastain powered his No. 1 Trackhouse Racing Chevrolet back into the postseason following his win in the Coca-Cola 600 on Memorial Day Weekend at Charlotte, which turned out to be his only victory of the 2025 season. The native of Alva, Florida, made it to the Round of 12 before getting eliminated from the playoffs after the chaotic final lap of the Charlotte Roval cutoff race. Chastain made contact with Denny Hamlin in the frontstretch chicane at the Roval to get a spot he needed to keep his title hopes alive, but he ended up spinning them both out and ultimately watched his playoff run conclude on the Charlotte frontstretch in reverse across the start/finish line. Still, at the end of the year, Chastain was the top Trackhouse driver in the final standings in 10th, ahead of teammates Shane van Gisbergen (12th) and Daniel Suárez (29th).

**Best race:** On Lap 395 of the Coca-Cola 600, Chastain made a move to the inside on William Byron in Turns 1 and 2 to take the lead, as his No. 1 Chevrolet led the final six laps at Charlotte to score his sixth career Cup Series victory and first crown-jewel win. The path to Victory Lane at the 1.5-mile North Carolina intermediate track was not an easy one because Chastain was in a backup car after crashing in the Saturday practice session, due to a left-rear tire going down, which caused his car to spin in Turn 3 and hit the wall. As a result, Trackhouse team members worked into the early hours of Sunday morning at the shop to ensure that Chastain's car was ready to go racing for 600 miles deep into Sunday night. Chastain went on to make history by becoming the first driver to win from an official starting position of last place (40th) since the late Bobby Allison in 1969 at Richmond, per NASCAR Insights.

**Other season highlights:** Chastain persevered to the runner-up position at Texas, despite being critical of his No. 1 Trackhouse Chevrolet's lack of speed in qualifying after starting 31st. He also got into a feud with Joey Logano on numerous occasions at Martinsville, Chicago and Dover before both drivers decided to bury the hatchet and move on from their on-track disagreements.

**Stat to know:** For the first time since the start of his Trackhouse tenure in 2022, Chastain led fewer than 100 laps. The driver of the No. 1 Chevrolet led 83 laps in nine of 36 races.

**Looking ahead:** Chastain will return to the No. 1 Chevrolet in 2026, but crew chief Surgen is moving on to a different role within the organization. On Nov. 7, Trackhouse named Brandon McSwain the new crew chief for Chastain. McSwain comes over from Hendrick Motorsports after working as a race engineer on Byron's No. 24 team. With a new voice atop the box in McSwain, this organizational change could be the spark Chastain needs to get back toward the front of the field more consistently and lead laps.

### CUP SEASON IN REVIEW

**Shane van Gisbergen**, No. 88 Trackhouse Racing Chevrolet

**Crew chief:** Stephen Doran

**Final 2025 ranking:** 12th

**Key stats:** 5 wins, 5 top fives, 7 top 10s, 312 laps led

**How 2025 ended:** SvG's first full Cup Series season ended with a pair of significant accomplishments — a spot in the playoffs and a runaway to Sunoco Rookie of the Year honors. SvG turned the circuit's road-course races into a near-monopoly, winning five of the six on the schedule to sew up his postseason footing. Though his title eligibility ended after the opening Round of 16, he closed out strong with a Charlotte Motor Speedway Roval win and steady improvement in the second half of the season on the oval tracks — a trend that included his first oval top 10, at Kansas Speedway in September.

**Best race:** Any of van Gisbergen's quintet of wins could qualify here, but his romp to victory in the series' inaugural visit to Mexico City set that wave in motion. Van Gisbergen put his No. 88 Chevrolet on pole position in Saturday's qualifying session, then battled through a race-day stomach ailment to lead 60 of the 100 laps. His triumph was so thorough that his 16.567-second margin of victory was the Cup Series' largest in 15-plus years.

**Other season highlights:** After his Mexico City mastery, two more wins by a margin of 10-plus seconds followed at Watkins Glen International and the Roval. SvG also converted for his second win in three tries at the Chicago Street Race, and he made it two in a row the next week at Sonoma Raceway, where he led 97 of the 110 laps. Van Gisbergen started on the front row in five of six road-course events in 2025, with Circuit of The Americas (started and finished sixth) the lone exception.

**Stat to know:** SvG's rapid accumulation of wins became a point of distinction in 2025. His victory at Watkins Glen in August, in just his 38th Cup Series



start, made him the first driver to hit the five-win mark that quickly since fellow road-race ace Dan Gurney reached that plateau in just 13 starts back in 1968.

**Quotable:** "It was kind of a season of two halves, it felt like. The first half was a lot of learning, but since Mexico, when we won our first race, it's all kind of clicked, and you get that confidence and momentum, you know, and it's just kind of built from Mexico. Yeah, the second half of the season's made it pretty easy to forget about the first half." — SvG, who was 33rd in Cup Series points before his Mexico win in mid-June turned his season around

**Looking ahead:** SvG indicated that little change was expected for his team's composition in the offseason, and that continuity should provide the 36-year-old New Zealander with a solid foundation for his second full-time campaign. SvG signed a multiyear contract extension Aug. 8, keeping him with Trackhouse for the foreseeable future. The one significant shift will be with his car number. Incoming rookie Connor Zilisch will fly the No. 88, and van Gisbergen will drive the No. 97, using a number that carries special meaning and tradition for his family and one that he campaigned faithfully in his rise to Supercar stardom Down Under.

**Daniel Suárez**, No. 99 Trackhouse Racing Chevrolet



**Crew chief:** Matt Swiderski

**Final 2025 ranking:** 29th

**Key stats:** 0 wins, 2 top fives, 7 top 10s, 35 laps led

**How 2025 ended:** There were flashes of excellence for Suárez throughout the year, but it wasn't enough to make the 2025 Cup Series Playoffs in his ninth season. While Trackhouse teammates Ross Chastain and Shane van Gisbergen reached the postseason, Suárez

struggled to run consistently inside the top 15 and had an average finish of 20.9 — his worst in five seasons at Trackhouse and three positions behind his 17.9 mark in 2024.

**Best race:** Suárez nearly snuck his way into the playoffs early into the season at Las Vegas. Late-race strategy paid off for the likes of Suárez, Josh Berry and Ryan Preece as they found themselves toward the front of the field on the final restart. The No. 99 held the lead up until 16 laps to go when Berry passed Suárez and went on to win his first career Cup race. Suárez still finished second, which was one of two runner-up results on the year (Daytona summer).

**Other highlights:** Suárez plated back-to-back top 10s at Talladega and Texas in the spring. Starting two weeks later, he had no finish worse than 19th between Nashville and Pocono, and during

that four-race stretch, the Mexican-born driver arguably had the greatest drive of his career, taking the No. 9 JR Motorsports Chevrolet from last to first as the 33-year-old wheelman won the Xfinity Series race in his home country. He also ended the Cup Series regular season strong with three consecutive top-10 results, coming just 0.031 seconds short of a playoff bid in the Daytona regular-season finale as Ryan Blaney took the win.

**Stat to know:** Suárez led only 35 laps across the 2025 season, his lowest total since leading 20 laps in 2020 with Gaunt Brothers Racing.

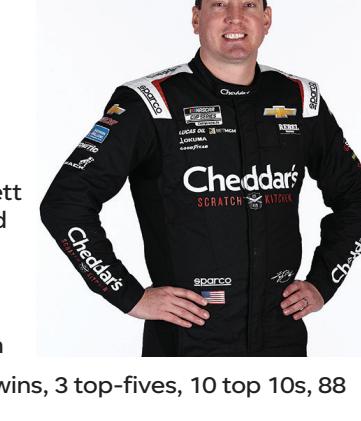
**Quotable:** "I'm just enjoying. I'm like a kid on Christmas. That's why you guys see me with a smile ... I love the pressure. You put me against the wall, and I'm going to come back at you swinging ... So I'm good with it. You know, this is just gonna be a better story. You know, we win on Sunday, and then we're gonna be laughing about, 'hey, we almost didn't make practice.' You know, it's a shame that it happened, but we don't blame anyone. We just find solutions." — Suárez on soaking up the spotlight in the Cup Series' debut in Mexico City

**Looking ahead:** Suárez will get a reset in 2026 as he moves on from Trackhouse to pilot the No. 7 Chevrolet for Spire Motorsports, teaming up with Michael McDowell and Carson Hocevar. Suárez is seeking his first victory since the Atlanta spring race in February 2024 and his third career postseason appearance.



### CUP SEASON IN REVIEW

**Kyle Busch**, No. 8 Chevrolet, Richard Childress Racing



**Crew chiefs:**

Randall Burnett (31 races) and Andy Street (five races)

**Final 2025 ranking:**

17th

**Key Stats:** 0 wins, 3 top-fives, 10 top 10s, 88 laps led

**How 2025 ended:** The two-time NASCAR Cup Series champ closed out the season at Phoenix with a fifth-place finish, matching his best result of 2025. After missing the playoffs for the second consecutive year — and only second time of his career — Busch rallied to close out the season with three top 10s in the final 10-race stretch; notably doing so with two different crew chiefs. Randall Burnett, who guided Busch for most of his three-season tenure at Richard Childress Racing, announced he would move to a new team in 2026, and Andy Street was moved atop Busch's pit box to close out the year.

**Best race:** For a driver who has been dominant on ovals for much of his celebrated career, Busch actually turned in his top single-day showing at the Circuit of The Americas road course in Austin, Texas. Busch started eighth and led six times for a season-best 42 laps out front before losing the lead to Christopher Bell and finishing fifth.

**Other season highlights:** Busch, who owns 34 Busch Light Pole Awards in his career, earned a pair of front row starts on the year, starting second at Talladega Superspeedway in the spring and then again at Michigan International Speedway five weeks later. Two of his best finishes happened on road courses — fifth at COTA and fifth again in the Chicago Street Race. While the two-time champion continues to regain form at RCR, he did put together a season-best three-race string of top 10 efforts in the early-going at the 1.5-mile Atlanta Motor Speedway (seventh), the Austin road course (fifth), and the one-mile Phoenix oval (eighth).

**Stat to know:** Busch's low tally of two DNFs on the season was bettered by only one other full-time driver, Tyler Reddick, who had one. And while Busch's average finish of 17.9 is not what is expected of the former champion, it did improve upon last year's mark of 18.3.

### 2025 CUP SERIES FINALS STANDINGS

**Champion 1 + 29 as of November 2**

Rank/Driver	Points	Rank/Driver	Points
1 Kyle Larson #5	5034	16 Josh Berry #21	2150
2 Denny Hamlin #11	5031	17 Chris Buescher #17	889
3 Chase Briscoe #19	5019	18 Ryan Preece #60	861
4 William Byron #24	5004	19 Ty Gibbs #54	783
5 Christopher Bell #20	2403	20 Brad Keselowski #6	762
6 Ryan Blaney #12	2373	21 Kyle Busch #8	737
7 Joey Logano #22	2330	22 Michael McDowell #71	734
8 Chase Elliott #9	2310	23 Carson Hocevar #77	702
9 Tyler Reddick #45	2309	24 Erik Jones #43	665
10 Ross Chastain #1	2272	25 J. H. Nemechek #42	664
11 Bubba Wallace #23	2256	26 AJ Allmendinger #16	649
12 S. v. Gisbergen #88	2192	27 Todd Gilliland #34	616
13 Alex Bowman #48	2192	28 Zane Smith #38	615
14 Austin Cindric #2	2156	29 Daniel Suárez #99	611
15 Austin Dillon #3	2152	30 Ricky Stenhouse #47	562

### 2025 XFINITY FINAL STANDINGS

**Champion 1 + 19 as of November 1**

Rank/Driver	Points	Rank/Driver	Points
1 Jesse Love #2	4040	11 Nicholas Sanchez #48	2198
2 Connor Zilisch #88	4034	12 Harrison Burton #25	2163
3 Justin Allgaier #7	4032	13 Christian Eckes #16	784
4 Carson Kvapil #1	4024	14 Jeb Burton #27	719
5 Brandon Jones #20	2240	15 Ryan Sieg #41	691
6 Austin Hill #21	2230	16 Dean Thompson #26	690
7 Taylor Gray #54	2228	17 Aric Almirola #19	652
8 Sammy Smith #8	2222	18 William Saalbach #18	636
9 Sheldon Creed #00	2218	19 Brennan Poole #44	608
10 Sam Mayer #41	2204	20 Daniel Dye #10	604

**NEXT RACE:** UNITED RENTALS 300, Daytona International, Saturday, Feb. 14, 2026, CW

### 2025 TRUCKS FINAL STANDINGS

**Champion 1 + 19 as of October 1**

Rank/Driver	Points	Rank/Driver	Points
1 Corey Heim #11	4040	11 Gio Ruggiero #17	703
2 Ty Majeski #98	4035	12 Ben Rhodes #99	632
3 Kaden Honeycutt #52	4034	13 Tanner Gray #15	599
4 Tyler Ankrum #18	4023	14 Connor Mosack #81	515
5 Layne Riggs #34	2297	15 Matt Crafton #88	494
6 Rajah Caruth #71	2237	16 A. Perez De Lara #44	472
7 Grant Enfinger #9	2198	17 Matt Mills #42	456
8 Chandler Smith #38	2179	18 Dawson Sutton #26	447
9 Daniel Hemric #19	217		