

RACING THIS WEEK

XFINITY RECAP

• **Saturday's** TENNESSEE LOTTERY 250, Nashville Superspeedway



WINNER: JUSTIN ALLGAIER

Justin Allgaier joked before the start of Saturday's Tennessee Lottery 250 that he needed to win his second Xfinity Series race at Nashville so he could earn another guitar trophy and have one for each of his two daughters.

Hours later, his dominant work in the race was indeed sweet music for his title hopes. For the second time in his career, the veteran Allgaier swept both in-race stages and went on to claim victory at the 1.33-mile concrete oval – his third win of the 2025 season.

The reigning series champion had to hold off his 18-year-old rookie JR Motorsports teammate, Connor Zilisch in the closing laps, however, before ultimately driving his No. 7 Chevrolet to the win by a slight 1.289-seconds.

The two had been separated by less than half a second for much of the closing 20 laps before lapped traffic helped Allgaier pull away in the longest green flag run – 48 laps. In all he led a race high 101 of the race's 188-laps.

Haas Factory Team's Sam Mayer's No. 41 Ford finished third, just in front of his teammate Sheldon Creed in the No. 00 Ford and a third JR Motorsports Chevy, driven by last week's Cup Series race winner, Ross Chastain.

Aric Almirola, Austin Hill, Jesse Love and rookie Carson Kvapil and Sammy Smith rounded out the top 10.

It was the first win for a full-time Xfinity driver in the last three and extends Allgaier's points lead.

TRUCKS RECAP

• **Friday's** RACKLEY ROOFING 200, Nashville Superspeedway



WINNER: RAJAH CARUTH

In the closing laps of Friday night's Rackley Roofing 200 at Nashville Superspeedway, Rajah Caruth had a question for himself.

"How bad do you want it?" Caruth thought silently, as four-time winner Corey Heim and Layne Riggs pursued him relentlessly over the final circuits.

Caruth answered his own question by driving flawlessly over the final 15 laps and crossed the finish line 0.518 seconds ahead of Heim in second and 0.629 seconds ahead of Riggs in third.

The victory was Caruth's first at Nashville, his first of the season and the second of his career, and it vaulted him into the Truck Series Playoffs.

After Heim won the second stage—his ninth stage win of the season—a quick pit stop under caution during the stage break gave Caruth the lead on Lap 100, and he held it the rest of the way to claim the coveted guitar trophy that goes to Nashville winners.

Driving the No. 71 Spire Motorsports Chevrolet, Caruth led twice for 61 of 150 laps, including the last 51.

Daniel Hemric came home fourth, followed by Corey Day, a dirt-track phenom who posted his first top five in his ninth start in Trucks. Heim widened his series lead to 122 points over Hemric.

CRACKER BARREL 400

2023 Cup champion Ryan Blaney claimed his first victory of the season Sunday night at Nashville, leading a race-best 139 of the 300 laps to secure an all-important Playoff position.



Ryan Blaney, driver of the #12 Menards/Cardell Cabinetry Ford, takes the checkered flag to win the Cup Series Cracker Barrel 400 at Nashville Superspeedway on Sunday.

(James Gilbert/Getty Images)

Blaney's commanding run secures 2025 Playoff spot

Ryan Blaney claimed his first victory of the 2025 season Sunday night in the Cracker Barrel 400 at Nashville Superspeedway. The 2023 Cup Series champion led a commanding, race-best 139 of the 300 laps to finally secure that all-important Playoff position.

Blaney has come so close this season to hoisting a trophy only to have random racing bad luck break his heart and challenge his resolve. But Sunday, the sport's popular 31-year-old, third-generation racer ultimately drove his No. 12 Team Penske Ford to a 2.830-second win over 22-year-old Spire Motorsports' Carson Hocevar in a 103-lap green flag run that closed out the race.

Blaney was so thrilled to take the win, he climbed on top of his Ford, raised his arms in triumph and then jumped off the car and ran up and into the track's front grandstands to claim the checkered flag before handing it off to an excited young fan.

"I never gave up hope that's for sure," said Blaney, whose victory puts all three drivers of the reigning champion Penske team into the 2025 Playoffs.

"We've had adversity, and this hasn't really been a good year for us in terms of good fortune, but the 12-boys are awesome. They stick with it no matter how it goes."

Hocevar's runner-up finish ties a career-best effort turned in at Atlanta in February.

"It just proves how strong this group is to go from the disappointment last week," said Hocevar, who looked strong and led laps at Charlotte Motor Speedway last Sunday only to retire early with mechanical problems. "Sticking to it and having a shot, just proud of this group."

"We were one spot short again, but hopefully this is a step in the right direction," he added.

Joe Gibbs Racing's Denny Hamlin, who won the opening stage and led 79 laps, finished third despite his helmet hose and hydration system issues. Blaney's Penske teammate Joey Logano finished fourth with current Cup Series championship leader, Hendrick Motorsports' William Byron rounding out the top-five.

"Just couldn't run with the 12 there in the super long run, after 40 laps I could maintain with him, but after that he'd just pull away and stretch it on us," said Hamlin, whose fiancé Jordan is expecting to deliver the couple's third child at any time.



Logano, the defending race winner also led laps but ultimately wasn't able to challenge at the end giving up positions to Hocevar and Hamlin.

"The 12 was just lights out which gave them a huge lead and we just weren't able to hold onto second, the 11 [Hamlin] got by me," Logano said, adding, "Good execution and proud of Team Penske. All our cars have a win now and that's pretty impressive to have everybody with a win. All the teams are really strong."

23XI Racing's Bubba Wallace, Legacy Motor Club's Erik Jones, Hendrick Motorsports' Kyle Larson, 23XI Racing's Tyler Reddick and JGR's Christopher Bell rounded out the top-10. The effort marked a particularly significant comeback for Larson, who started 28th on the grid and was involved in an incident on lap 115.

There were 18 lead changes in all among nine drivers with Hamlin (stage one) and Blaney (stage two) claiming the stage wins.

New this year, the Nashville race sets the 32-car field for the inaugural NASCAR In-Season Challenge – a bracket-style tournament taking place during the TNT broadcast's five-race stretch this summer. The tournament starts June 28 at Atlanta followed by the races at Chicago, Sonoma, Dover, and Indianapolis with the winner receiving a \$1 million prize.

Now, the next three races – Michigan, Mexico City's Autodromo Hermanos Rodriguez and Pocono – will determine the bracket seeding based on a driver's best finish out of those races.

Former series champion Brad Keselowski claimed the 32nd position for the competition by only 21 points over Trackhouse Racing's Shane Van Gisbergen.

Byron continues to lead the Cup Series championship standings, now 48 points up on Hendrick Motorsports teammate Larson with 12 regular season races remaining to set the 16-driver Playoff field. Their teammate Chase Elliott, who finished 15th Sunday, is the highest-ranked driver (fifth) without a win.

The Cup Series returns to action Sunday afternoon in the Firekeeper's Casino 400 at Michigan International Speedway (2 p.m. ET, Amazon Prime, MRN, SiriusXM NASCAR Radio). Reddick is the defending winner at the two-mile speedway – traditionally one of the drivers' favorite venues on the schedule.

XFINITY BURNOUT

ALERT! Justin Allgaier celebrates winning Saturday's Tennessee Lottery 250 at Nashville Superspeedway. **S. Gardner/Getty**



NEXT: FIREKEEPERS CASINO 400



Michigan International Speedway
2 p.m. ET Sunday, Prime

ABOUT

• Michigan International Speedway is a two-mile moderate-banked D-shaped speedway located off U.S. Highway 12 on more than 1,400 acres approximately four miles south of the village of Brooklyn, in the Irish Hills area of southeastern Michigan.

• Capacity: 56,000–137,243 (max.)

• Length: 2.0 mi (3.2 km)

• Banking: Turns: 18°; Start/Finish: 12°; Backstretch: 5°

TRACK FACTS

• Groundbreaking took place Sept. 28, 1967. Some 2.5 million yards of dirt were moved to form the D-shaped oval designed by Charles Money Penny, who previously designed the 2.5-mile Daytona International Speedway. The original layout included infield and exterior roads, which could be combined to form a single 3.1-mile interior/exterior road course, or divided into separate 1.9-mile interior/exterior road courses. The road courses were designed by Formula One great Stirling Moss and are still used for passenger car testing by law enforcement. The last interior road course race was in 1984, and the last time the exterior road course was used was in 1973.

• The prime mover in the venture was Lawrence H. LoPatin, a Detroit-area land developer who built the speedway at an estimated cost of \$4–6 million. The saucer-shaped, 18-degree banking provided exciting racing right from the start. The Inaugural Race took place Oct. 13, 1968. The 250-mile Indy-style event posted a purse second at the time only to the Indianapolis 500. Ronnie Bucknum collected \$20,088 as the first driver to take the checkered flag.

• Cale Yarborough won the first NASCAR race at the speedway on June 15, 1969, in a thrilling duel with LeeRoy Yarbrough. The two drivers battled door-to-door for most of the final 150 laps. On their final circuit, they touched twice-entering turn one, with Yarbrough brushing the outside wall. Coming out of the final turn Yarbrough crashed just 300 yards from the finish line, handing victory to Yarborough.



Tyler Reddick and crew in Victory Lane last summer at Michigan. (Getty)

2025 CUP SERIES STANDINGS

Top 30 as of June 1

Rank/Driver	Points	Rank/Driver	Points
1 William Byron #24	547	16 Ryan Preece #60	289
2 Kyle Larson #5	499	17 Carson Hocevar #77	287
3 Christopher Bell #20	459	18 R. Stenhouse Jr #47	285
4 Denny Hamlin #11	443	19 AJ Allmendinger #16	284
5 Chase Elliott #9	442	20 Josh Berry #21	278
6 Tyler Reddick #45	429	21 Michael McDowell #71	278
7 Ryan Blaney #12	417	22 J. H. Nemecek #42	267
8 Joey Logano #22	380	23 Todd Gilliland #34	261
9 Ross Chastain #1	377	24 Erik Jones #43	259
10 Bubba Wallace #23	343	25 Zane Smith #38	255
11 Chase Briscoe #19	342	26 Austin Dillon #3	252
12 Alex Bowman #48	334	27 Ty Gibbs #54	236
13 Austin Cindric #2	303	28 Daniel Suárez #99	231
14 Chris Buescher #17	297	29 Justin Haley #7	218
15 Kyle Busch #8	291	30 Ty Dillon #10	217

2025 XFINITY SERIES STANDINGS

Top 20 as of May 31

Rank/Driver	Points	Rank/Driver	Points
1 Justin Allgaier #7	583	11 Harrison Burton #25	348
2 Austin Hill #21	491	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, June 14, CW

2025 TRUCK SERIES STANDINGS

Top 20 as of May 30

Rank/Driver	Points	Rank/Driver	Points
1 Corey Heim #11	566	11 Gio Ruggiero #17	308
2 Daniel Hemric #19	444	12 Stewart Friesen #52	307
3 Chandler Smith #38	441	13 Ben Rhodes #99	305
4 Tyler Ankrum #18	406	14 Tanner Gray #15	274
5 Grant Enfinger #9	406	15 Matt Crafton #88	250
6 Layne Riggs #34	395	16 Jack Wood #91	232
7 Kaden Hickeycutt #45	378	17 Matt Mills #42	231
8 Jake Garcia #13	359	18 A. Perez De Lara #77	218
9 Ty Majeski #98	356	19 Dawson Sutton #26	217
10 Rajah Caruth #71	330	20 Connor Mosack #81	215

NEXT RACE: DQS SOLUTIONS & STAFFING 250, Michigan International, 12 p.m. ET Saturday, FOX

NASHVILLE WINNER QUOTE

"I never gave up hope that's for sure. We've had adversity, and this hasn't really been a good year for us in terms of good fortune, but the 12-boys are awesome. They stick with it no matter how it goes."

- Ryan Blaney, who grabbed his first Cup win of the year Sunday at Nashville Superspeedway



Ryan Blaney in Victory Lane Sunday at Nashville.

SEAN GARDNER/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.