

RACING THIS WEEK

BURNOUT ALERT! Kyle Busch celebrates after winning Saturday's Fr8 Racing 208 at EchoPark Atlanta. J. Bachman/Getty



O'REILLY RECAP

• **Saturday's** BENNETT TRANSPORT. & LOGISTICS 250, EchoPark Atlanta



WINNER: SHELDON CREED

Incredible. That's how Sheldon Creed described his first career victory in the O'Reilly Auto Parts Series and that's likely how anyone who watched the Bennett Transportation and Logistics 250 would describe the final dramatic run to the checkered flag Saturday at EchoPark Atlanta.

While racing hard for the win on the final lap, the Chevrolets of five-time Atlanta race winner Austin Hill and Cup full-timer Ross Chastain collided while running first and second clearing the way for the 28-year-old Californian Creed to emerge from his third place position. Taking advantage of the opportunity Creed raced his No. 00 Haas Factory Team Chevrolet through the incident coming out of the last turn in front to earn his first career trophy in the series after setting a series record with 15 runner-up finishes.

It was a fitting ending to a race that featured 11 leaders and 24 lead changes on the 1.5-mile high banks, with Creed ultimately besting Viking Motorsports' Parker Retzlaff by .309-second. Former Atlanta winner, AM Racing's Nick Sanchez, finished third, his third top-five finish in as many starts at the track. Hendrick Motorsports' Corey Day was fourth with Hill's Richard Childress Racing teammate Jesse Love rounding out the top-five.

Chastain finished sixth. A two-time defending winner of this race, Hill, finished 12th.

TRUCKS RECAP

• **Saturday's** FR8 RACING 208, EchoPark Atlanta



WINNER: KYLE BUSCH

Kyle Busch took his third consecutive and record ninth win of his career in the Fr8 208 at EchoPark Speedway Saturday, capping a dramatic push to the checkered flag to collect his record 68th series victory.

In the closing laps, Busch, 40, exchanged the lead with series veteran Stewart Friesen in a flashback from the 2025 race on the 1.5-mile Atlanta high banks when Friesen finished runner-up to him. Ultimately Busch's No. 7 Spire Motorsports Chevrolet was again able to get the best of the duel, benefiting from a timely push from his teammate Carson Hocevar to reclaim the lead for good in the final seven laps.

The race went to an "Adverse Conditions" rule and ended on a pre-determined deadline only 10 laps short of the original 135 laps scheduled.

Busch held off the field by .114-second - several trucks trying unsuccessfully to line up and make a final lap run in the closing laps. Hocevar was runner-up in the No. 77 Spire Motorsports Chevrolet followed by TRICON Garage's Giovanni Ruggiero, ThorSport Racing's Ben Rhodes and 2025 series champ Corey Heim in the running order. Daytona winner Chandler Smith finished sixth.

AUTOTRADER 400

With the win Sunday at EchoPark Atlanta, Dayton 500 winner Tyler Reddick became only the sixth driver in NASCAR history to win the opening two races of the year. Hall of Famer Matt Kenseth was the last to do so in 2009.



Tyler Reddick, driver of the #45 Pinnacle Toyota, takes the checkered flag to win the Cup Series Autotrader 400 at EchoPark Speedway on Sunday. (Jonathan Bachman/Getty)

Reddick is double trouble all around at EchoPark

HAMPTON, Ga. - Tyler Reddick answered his Daytona 500 victory a week ago with a dramatic double overtime comeback win Sunday in the Autotrader 400 at EchoPark Speedway, marking the first time in nearly two decades a driver has won the first two races of the Cup season.

Even though Reddick's No. 45 23XI Racing Toyota's right front fender was damaged in an earlier incident, he was able to persevere, zigging-and-zagging and making a strong move to the front on the very last lap. He finished a mere .164-second ahead of fellow Toyota driver, Joe Gibbs Racing's Chase Briscoe who gave Reddick the crucial winning push to get ahead of his 23XI teammate Bubba Wallace and the Chevrolets of Carson Hocevar and Ross Chastain.

Reddick's work makes him only the sixth driver in NASCAR history to win the opening two races of the year. Hall of Famer Matt Kenseth was the last to do so in 2009.

Reddick, who actually led a race best 53 of the 271 laps, jumped out of his damaged Toyota Camry to retrieve the checkered flag, pausing to take a long look at the right front damage - and missing fender - then smiling and wondering aloud how he pulled that victory off as well after being collected in a nine-car accident only 40 laps from the end of the scheduled distance.

"That's crazy, how about that EchoPark Speedway?" the 30-year old Californian yelled to the packed grandstands. "This place over the years it just puts on some amazing racing. Handling matters here, but I don't know, I guess determination outweighs handling."

His team co-owner, NBA legend Michael Jordan was equally as jubilant with Reddick's rebound.

"Tyler did an unbelievable job, both teams did an unbelievable job" Jordan said, also referring to Wallace, who led 46 laps but finished eighth in the final all-out push to the checkers.

"I wanted one of them to win, I feel bad for Bubba because he had an unbelievable day, but Tyler drove his ass off," Jordan continued. "I'm very happy for Tyler and very happy for 23XI."

"The guys worked hard all summer and they never gave up. This is the fruit of their

labor and for us to come out and win the first two races says a lot about our team."

Reddick's crew chief Billy Scott revealed post-race that the temperatures were so cold - 39 degrees at the checkered flag - that it was difficult to fully repair the car after the accident and had to resort to heavy tape on the front end of Reddick's damaged Camry. Team co-owner, Joe Gibbs Racing driver Denny Hamlin said of Reddick's car, "It looked like carnage city."

The Chevrolets of Trackhouse Racing Ross Chastain and Spire Motorsports teammates Hocevar and Daniel Suarez rounded out the top-five behind Reddick and Briscoe.

In another phenomenal comeback story, Chastain's Trackhouse Racing teammate Shane van Gisbergen finished sixth his best oval finish in his two years in the series - even after the former Australian Supercars Series champion was caught up in three of the yellow flag incidents on the day.

Front Row Motorsports' Zane Smith, Wallace, Roush-Fenway-Keselowski's Ryan Preece and Team Penske's Ryan Blaney rounded out the top-10 in a race where the top 12 cars finished within a second of the race winner. Nine of the race's 14 leaders led double-digit laps.

It was all indicative of the competitive nature now expected and delivered by this high-banked 1.5-miler that races like the famed Daytona and Talladega, Ala. speedways.

Drafting partners are important and the young driver Hocevar said he just couldn't entice anyone to draft with him late. So, he took off by himself passing three cars in one daring move in the final lap of regulation to position himself up front. However, he made contact with 2025 race winner, Christopher Bell, on the first overtime restart drawing the final caution.

It put Hocevar alongside Wallace on the front row for the final green flag. Wallace got the jump on the start and held the point until making a move high on the track, that allowed Reddick to come from below and blow past them both.

With his Atlanta win, Reddick now leads his teammate Wallace by 40 points atop the championship standings.

"It's really fun to be a part of 23XI right now," Jordan said grinning.

NEXT RACE: DURAMAX GRAND PRIX



Circuit of the Americas, Austin, Texas
3:30 p.m. ET Sunday, FOX

• NASCAR at COTA takes it up a notch this year with the new 2.4-mile, 17-turn National Course. This layout replaces the 3.41-mile, 20-turn Full Course.

• The DuraMax Grand Prix Powered by ReliaDyne Cup Series race now features 95 laps and 228 miles with stages at 20, 40 and 95 laps. (Saturday's Focused Health 250 O'Reilly race increases to 65 laps and 156 miles with stages at 20, 40 and 65 laps.)

• This reconfigured track brings exciting challenges - with tighter turns and faster speeds - that will likely push drivers to their limits, providing strategic racing and the kind of unpredictability that makes this the type of race you won't want to miss.



2026 CUP SERIES STANDINGS

Top 30 as of February 22

Rank/Driver	Points	Rank/Driver	Points
1 Tyler Reddick #45	125	16 Shane v Gisbergen #97	45
2 Bubba Wallace #23	85	17 Ty Dillon #10	44
3 Chase Elliott #9	81	18 AJ Allmendinger #16	43
4 Carson Hocevar #77	74	19 John H. Nemecek #42	43
5 Zane Smith #38	71	20 Michael McDowell #71	43
6 Joey Logano #22	68	21 Kyle Larson #5	42
7 Daniel Suarez #7	67	22 Ricky Stenhouse Jr #47	40
8 Ryan Blaney #12	67	23 Riley Herbst #35	39
9 Brad Keselowski #6	61	24 Kyle Busch #8	36
10 Chris Buescher #17	61	25 Josh Berry #21	34
11 Ross Chastain #1	51	26 Austin Cindric #2	34
12 Noah Gragson #4	50	27 Denny Hamlin #11	32
13 William Byron #24	50	28 Cody Ware #51	30
14 Ryan Preece #60	49	29 Erik Jones #43	29
15 Chase Briscoe #19	45	30 Cole Custer #41	29

2026 O'REILLY AUTO PARTS STANDINGS

Top 20 as of February 21

Rank/Driver	Points	Rank/Driver	Points
1 Austin Hill #21	104	11 Taylor Gray #54	44
2 Rajah Caruth #88	82	12 Brennan Poole #44	43
3 Sheldon Creed #00	80	13 Patrick Staropoli #48	43
4 Jesse Love #2	80	14 Josh Billicki #07	42
5 Parker Retzlaff #99	74	15 Nicholas Sanchez #25	41
6 Justin Allgaier #7	69	16 Brandon Jones #20	41
7 Carson Kvapil #1	64	17 Anthony Alfredo #96	38
8 Corey Day #17	50	18 Blaine Perkins #31	37
9 Sammy Smith #8	48	19 Sam Mayer #41	36
10 Ryan Ellis #02	46	20 Job Burton #27	36

NEXT RACE: FOCUSED HEALTH 250, Circuit of the Americas, Austin, TX, 3 p.m. ET Saturday, CW

2026 CRAFTSMAN TRUCK STANDINGS

Top 20 as of February 21

Rank/Driver	Points	Rank/Driver	Points
1 Chandler Smith #38	103	11 Corey Heim #1	44
2 Giovanni Ruggiero #17	75	12 Daniel Dye #10	44
3 Ben Rhodes #99	68	13 Justin Haley #16	42
4 Ty Majeski #88	60	14 Jake Garcia #98	39
5 Stewart Friesen #52	59	15 Mini Tyrell #14	36
6 Brenden Queen #12	53	16 Frankie Muniz #33	33
7 Kaden Honeycutt #11	53	17 Nick Leitz #5	31
8 A. Perez De Lara #44	53	18 Kris Wright #81	31
9 Tyler Ankrum #18	51	19 Tanner Gray #15	31
10 Christian Eckes #91	47	20 Josh Reaume #22	30

NEXT RACE: ONLYBULLS GREEN FLAG 150, Grand Prix St. Petersburg, 12 p.m. ET Saturday, FOX

ATLANTA WINNER QUOTE

"That's crazy, how about that EchoPark Speedway? This place over the years it just puts on some amazing racing. Handling matters here, but I don't know, I guess determination outweighs handling."

— Tyler Reddick, who used a zig-zagging last-lap push to take the Autotrader 400 in double overtime on Sunday



Tyler Reddick and crew celebrate in Victory Lane Sunday. In the background, on his way to join them, is Michael Jordan, NBA legend and co-owner of 23XI Racing.

JONATHAN BACHMAN/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