

RACING THIS WEEK

TRUCKS FINISH: Corey Heim takes the checkered flag to win Friday's North Carolina Education Lottery 200 at Charlotte Motor Speedway. L. Riely/Getty



XFINITY RECAP

• **Saturday's** BETMGM 300, Charlotte Motor Speedway



WINNER: WILLIAM BYRON

William Byron's rally from a speeding penalty put the driver of the No. 17 Hendrick Motorsports Chevrolet in Victory Lane, leaving reigning Xfinity champ Justin Allgaier heartbroken.

Byron passed Allgaier for the lead through Turn 4 of the first lap of overtime at Charlotte and stayed out front until a wreck involving Jeb Burton and Brennan Poole brought out the 11th caution of the race and froze the field.

By then, Connor Zilisch had taken second and Nick Sanchez third, as Allgaier faded to fourth.

But the crux of the race had occurred much earlier, when Allgaier, leading under caution on Lap 180 of 205, chose to stay on the track instead of coming to pit road for new tires.

Byron got fresh rubber under the caution. That and a spate of cautions that allowed him to move closer to the front of the field for a succession of restarts gave Byron the track position he needed to salvage the victory.

Allgaier led 103 laps, the most coming after Byron led 69 of his 71 laps in sweeping the first two stages. Allgaier maintains a 72-point lead over Austin Hill in the series standings.

Sammy Smith finished fifth, followed by Dean Thompson, Josh Williams, Hill, Ryan Ellis and Christian Eckes. In his 144th start, Ellis posted the first top 10 of his Xfinity Series career.

TRUCKS RECAP

• **Friday's** NORTH CAROLINA EDUCATION LOTTERY 200, Charlotte



WINNER: COREY HEIM

This time, Corey Heim didn't just slam the door on his Truck Series competition—he nailed it shut.

Heim's three previous 2025 wins notwithstanding, the driver of the No. 11 TRICON Garage Toyota has had difficulty closing out races with a dominant truck this season.

That was not the case Friday, when Heim led 98 of 134 laps and beat runner-up Ross Chastain to the finish by 6.229 seconds in the North Carolina Education Lottery 200 at Charlotte.

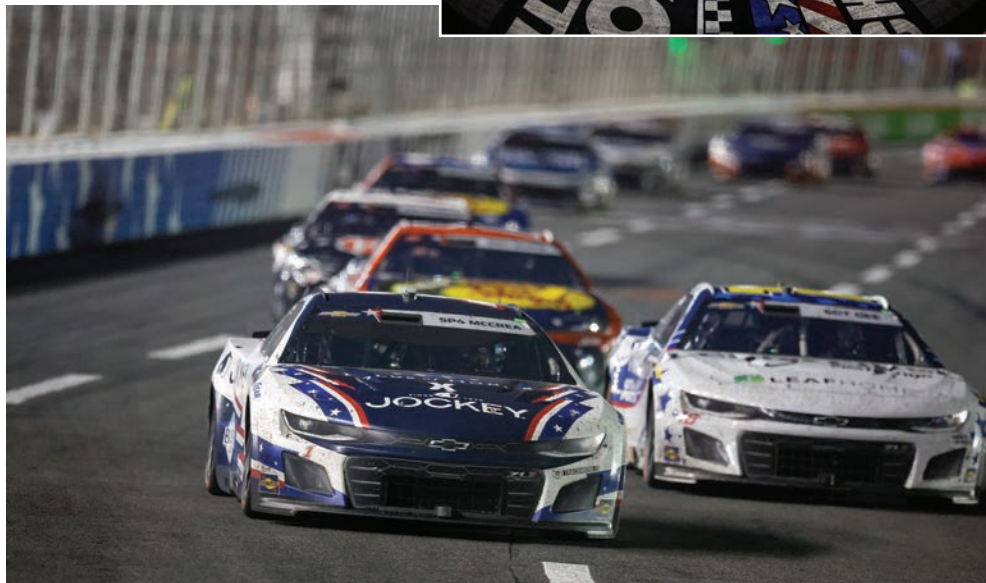
Heim's first victory at Charlotte and fourth of the season was the 15th of his career, tying him with Matt Crafton for 10th on the career list. At age 22, he is youngest to reach the 15-win milestone.

Heim swept the first two stages of the race and set the fastest lap, scoring a maximum 61 points to widen his series lead to a massive 100 points over second-place Chandler Smith. His margin of victory was the largest ever in the series at Charlotte.

Chastain was the best of three Neice Motorsports Chevrolet drivers in the top seven. Kaden Honeycutt ran third, and Matt Mills was seventh. Layne Riggs and Kyle Busch came home fourth and fifth, respectively, followed by Grant Enfinger, Mills, Daniel Hemric, Rajah Caruth and Brandon Jones.

COCA-COLA 600

Ross Chastain crossed the finish line 0.673 seconds ahead of William Byron Sunday to win for the first time this season, the first time at Charlotte and the sixth time in his career.



Ross Chastain, driver of the #1 Jockey x Folds of Honor Chevrolet, drives during the Cup Series Coca-Cola 600 at Charlotte Motor Speedway on Sunday. (Logan Riely/Getty Images)

Late-charging Chastain drinks in win at Charlotte

CONCORD, N.C.—Welcome to the party, Ross Chastain—and to the Cup Series Playoffs, for that matter.

Starting from the rear of the field in a backup car his team needed all night to prepare, Chastain ran down the dominant car of William Byron to win Sunday night's Coca-Cola 600 at Charlotte Motor Speedway.

Byron led 283 of 400 laps and swept the first three stages. Chastain led the final six after diving below Byron's Chevrolet entering Turn 1 on Lap 395 and sliding up in Turn 2 to clear Byron off the corner.

Chastain crossed the finish line 0.673 seconds ahead of the Hendrick Motorsports driver to win for the first time this season, the first time at Charlotte and the sixth time in his career.

It was a far cry from Saturday's practice, when Chastain blew a tire on his No. 1 Chevrolet and crashed into the outside wall between Turns 3 and 4, forcing his Trackhouse team to build a backup car.

Unable to make a qualifying run, Chastain took the green flag in 40th and spent the rest of the race methodically working his way toward the front.

Chastain had nothing but admiration for his Trackhouse organization.

"When I left the shop last night, I went over and sat in this car for the first time," Chastain said. "It was about 10 o'clock when I left. They worked until 2:30. They were back at 5:30 this morning.

"I don't even know if they slept. Back there at 5:30. They get this thing ready, and that's the dedication it takes from Trackhouse.

"To drive on that final run in the (Coke) 600 and pass two cars that had been way better all night ... (Crew chief) Phil Surgen wanted me to pit two laps earlier (in the final stage). I went two laps longer (to Lap 350) just out of a little bit of confusion. Man, that paid off at the end. These Goodyear Eagles held on longer because they were a little bit fresher. Holy cow, we just won the 600!"

Winner of Saturday's Xfinity race at Charlotte, Byron was disappointed at his failure to complete the sweep.

"He was catching me, and I was trying to just defend," Byron said of the decisive final run. "I was getting a little bit tight. Then the scenario there with the cars we were around (Hamlin after his unscheduled stop and Joey Logano), it was tough.

"So, yeah, he got a run on me and was able to get to the bottom and clear me off of (Turn) 2. Disappointing just to lead that

many laps and such a great effort by our whole team."

Chastain, however, wasn't a factor for the lead as Byron and Denny Hamlin battled for the top spot in a thrilling third stage that saw them swap the lead nine times.

After the halfway break, when the cars stopped on pit road to honor America's fallen heroes with a moment of silence, Byron was not as dominant as he had been in the first two stages. Hamlin hounded him mercilessly until Zane Smith spun off Turn 2 to cause the fifth caution on Lap 237.

A five-car wreck in Turn 4 nine laps later eliminated the Ford of Ryan Blaney and the Chevrolets of Kyle Larson and Daniel Suarez. Hamlin ran down Byron after the subsequent restart and passed him for the lead on Lap 262.

Stronger on the long run, however, Byron reclaimed the top spot on Lap 291 and held off Hamlin and Carson Hocevar to complete a sweep of the first three stages. Hocevar was a contender for at least a top-five finish until an engine failure ended his race after 307 laps.

Hamlin continued to challenge in the final 100 laps, until a mistake on pit road foiled his winning chances. During the final green-flag pit stop on Lap 348 Hamlin's crew failed to get the second can of fuel in the car, and Hamlin bowed out of contention with an unplanned pit stop on Lap 388.

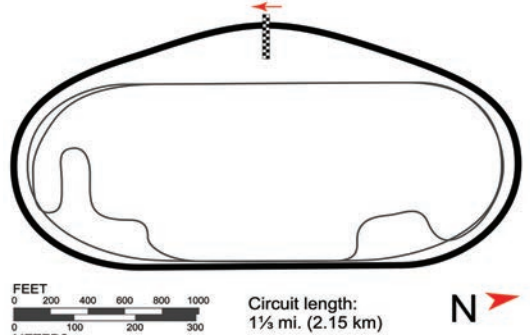
Pole winner Chase Briscoe overcame a tire violation on his first pit stop to finish third. AJ Allmendinger ran fourth and Brad Keselowski came home fifth, posting his first top-10 result of the season.

Chase Elliott, Michael McDowell, Christopher Bell, Ryan Preece and Noah Gragson completed the top 10.

Sunday was a day to forget for Kyle Larson, driver of the No. 5 Hendrick Motorsports Chevrolet. After spinning in Takuma Sato's wake on Lap 92 of the Indianapolis 500 and falling out of the race, Larson flew to Charlotte to start on the front row for the Coke 600.

For awhile, Larson's fortunes improved. He passed Byron for the lead on Lap 9 and stayed out front for 33 circuits. During that run, however, Larson slapped the outside wall. On Lap 42, he spun off Turn 4 and slid sideways through the turf in the tri-oval. Larson's forgettable day ended in the five-car accident on Lap 246 when the spinning car of Daniel Suarez applied the coup de grace to the suspension of Larson's Chevrolet.

NEXT: CRACKER BARREL 400



Nashville Superspeedway
7 p.m. ET Sunday, Prime

• Nashville Superspeedway is located in Gladeville, Tenn. (although the track has a Lebanon, Tenn., postal address), about 30 miles southeast of Nashville. The track was built in 2001 and is the longest concrete oval in NASCAR. Current permanent seating capacity is approximately 25,000, but will reach up to 38,000 for the Cup Series. Additional portable seats are brought in for some events, and seating capacity can be expanded to 150,000.

• Surface: Concrete
• Length: 1.333 miles (2.145 km) D-shaped oval
• Turns: 4
• Banking: 14°

• A year-round family friendly destination in one of the fastest growing cities in the country, Nashville Superspeedway is a staple on the regional sports, entertainment and festival scene.

• Nashville Superspeedway hosted its first NASCAR events in 2001, in Xfinity and Trucks; Cup racing started in 2021. Cup winners: 2021 - Kyle Larson; 2022 - Chase Elliott; 2023 - Ross Chastain; 2024 - Joey Logano.

• The largest concrete-only track in NASCAR, Nashville Superspeedway is owned by Speedway Motorsports, LLC.

• CUP SERIES, Fastest Race (400 Miles): Ross Chastain, Chevrolet, 132.914 mph (3:00:07), June 25, 2023

• XFINITY SERIES, Fastest Race (300 Miles): Scott Wimmer, Chevrolet, 134.095 mph (2:14:12), March 22, 2008

• TRUCK SERIES, Fastest Race (200 Miles): Kyle Busch, Toyota, 136.459 mph (1:27:55), April 2, 2010



Joey Logano won in five OTs last year at Nashville. (Getty)

2025 CUP SERIES STANDINGS

Top 30 as of May 25

Rank/Driver	Points	Rank/Driver	Points
1 W. Byron Chevrolet	499	16 J. Berry Ford	269
2 K. Larson Chevrolet	470	17 A. J. Allmendinger Ch.	267
3 C. Bell Toyota	425	18 Ky. Busch Chevrolet	266
4 C. Elliott Chevrolet	415	19 M. McDowell Chevy	259
5 T. Reddick Toyota	392	20 J. Nemechek Toyota	257
6 D. Hamlin Toyota	390	21 C. Hocevar Chevrolet	248
7 R. Blaney Ford	363	22 T. Gilliland Ford	246
8 R. Chastain Chevrolet	350	23 C. Buescher Ford	244
9 J. Logano Ford	338	24 A. Dillon Chevrolet	244
10 A. Bowman Chevrolet	333	25 T. Gibbs Toyota	230
11 C. Briscoe Toyota	314	26 Z. Smith Ford	228
12 D. Wallace Jr. Toyota	312	27 E. Jones Toyota	223
13 R. Stenhouse Chevy	284	28 N. Gragson Ford	213
14 R. Preece Ford	280	29 J. Haley Chevrolet	213
15 A. Cindric Ford	279	30 D. Suárez Chevrolet	210

2025 XFINITY SERIES STANDINGS

Top 20 as of May 24

Rank/Driver	Points	Rank/Driver	Points
1 Justin Allgaier #7	522	11 Harrison Burton #25	323
2 Austin Hill #21	450	12 Nicholas Sanchez #48	320
3 Sam Mayer #41	429	13 Sammy Smith #8	313
4 Jesse Love #2	403	14 Taylor Gray #54	303
5 Brandon Jones #20	352	15 Daniel Dye #10	299
6 Connor Zilisch #88	351	16 Dean Thompson #26	281
7 Ryan Sieg #39	349	17 Christian Eckes #16	266
8 Carson Kvapil #1	345	18 Brennan Poole #44	253
9 Jeb Burton #27	343	19 Josh Williams #11	238
10 Sheldon Creed #00	333	20 Jeremy Clements #51	236

NEXT RACE: TENNESSEE LOTTERY 250, Nashville Superspeedway, 7:30 p.m. ET Saturday, CW

2025 TRUCK SERIES STANDINGS

Top 20 as of May 23

Rank/Driver	Points	Rank/Driver	Points
1 Corey Heim #11	511	11 Gio Ruggiero #17	284
2 Chandler Smith #38	411	12 Ben Rhodes #99	281
3 Daniel Hemric #19	401	13 Rajah Caruth #71	274
4 Tyler Ankrum #18	382	14 Tanner Gray #15	253
5 Grant Enfinger #9	371	15 Matt Crafton #88	238
6 Layne Riggs #34	342	16 Matt Mills #42	216
7 Kaden Honeycutt #45	335	17 Jack Wood #91	215
8 Jake Garcia #13	332	18 Connor Mosack #81	201
9 Ty Majeski #98	327	19 A. Perez De Lara #77	200
10 Stewart Friesen #52	291	20 Dawson Sutton #26	190

NEXT RACE: RACKLEY ROOFING 200, Nashville Superspeedway, 8 p.m. ET Friday, FS1

CHARLOTTE WINNER QUOTE

"To drive on that final run in the (Coke) 600 and pass two cars that had been way better all night ... (Crew chief) Phil Surgen wanted me to pit two laps earlier (in the final stage). I went two laps longer (to Lap 350) just out of a little bit of confusion. Man, that paid off at the end. ... Holy cow, we just won the 600!"
- Ross Chastain, who grabbed his first Cup win of the year Sunday at Charlotte Motor Speedway



Ross Chastain in Victory Lane Sunday at Charlotte.

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