

# RACING THIS WEEK

**XFINITY BURNOUT ALERT!** Kyle Larson celebrates after winning Saturday's SciAps 300 at Bristol Motor Speedway. **S. Gardner/Getty**



## XFINITY RECAP

• **Saturday's** SCIAPS 300, Bristol Motor Speedway



**WINNER: KYLE LARSON**

BRISTOL, Tenn. – Pole winner Kyle Larson brought a bazooka to Saturday's shootout at Bristol Motor Speedway.

His 37 opponents brought pea shooters to the "Last Great Colosseum" — or so it seemed, given the degree of domination Larson exhibited in winning the SciAps 300 Xfinity race.

The driver of the No. 17 Hendrick Motorsports Chevrolet led 277 of 300 laps in securing his first victory in two series starts this season, his second at Bristol and 16th of his career. At the finish, there were only 12 cars on the lead lap.

Larson finished 2.054 seconds ahead of Carson Kvapil, who passed series leader Justin Allgaier for second place in traffic on Lap 298. Allgaier held third and collected his record seventh \$100,000 Xfinity Dash 4 Cash bonus as highest finisher among eligible drivers.

Kvapil matched his career-best finish, having run second at Dover last year. Sammy Smith ran fourth, as JR Motorsports drivers took the three positions behind Larson and locked into Dash 4 Cash eligibility for Saturday's race at Rockingham, along with fifth-place finisher Brandon Jones of Joe Gibbs Racing.

The final Dash 4 Cash race will take place Saturday at Rockingham Speedway in the North Carolina Education Lottery 250 pres. by Black's Tire (4 p.m. ET, CW). Kvapil, Allgaier, Smith and Jones are eligible for the last bonus of the 2025 season.

## TRUCKS RECAP

• **Friday's** WEATHER GUARD TRUCK RACE, Bristol Motor Speedway



**WINNER: CHANDLER SMITH**

After charging into the lead in Friday night's Weather Guard Truck Race at Bristol Motor Speedway, Chandler Smith's work was far from over.

The driver of the No. 38 Front Row Motorsports Ford then had to hold off Cup Series moonlighter Kyle Larson over a seven-lap dash to the finish to claim his first Trucks victory of the season, his second at the 0.533-mile short track and the sixth of his career.

Smith also won the \$50,000 Triple Truck Challenge bonus that goes to the highest-finishing Craftsman Truck Series regular.

Smith's victory by 0.934 seconds over Larson ended the latter's quest for a weekend sweep of NASCAR's three national series races. Even though Larson had 27-lap fresher tires than the race winner for a restart on Lap 244 of 250, he could do no better than second.

Smith grabbed the lead from eventual third-place finisher Corey Heim just before a caution flag flew on Lap 237 for Andres Perez's spin on the backstretch. That gave Smith control of the race for the final restart, and he asserted himself from the top lane.

Tyler Ankrum ran fourth, followed by Ben Rhodes. Bayley Currey picked up the first stage win of his career in Stage 2 before engine trouble.

## FOOD CITY 500

Kyle Larson won at Bristol in overwhelming fashion, leading 411 of 500 laps and sweeping both stages. The victory was Larson's second of the season and second straight at the 0.533-mile high-banked short track and the 31st of his career.



**Kyle Larson, driver of the #5 HendrickCars.com Chevrolet, crosses the finish line to win the Cup Series Food City 500 at Bristol Motor Speedway on Sunday.**

(Sean Gardner/Getty Images)

# Larson has big appetite for victories at Bristol

BRISTOL, Tenn. — He did it for Jon. For the second straight day at Bristol Motor Speedway, Kyle Larson dominated a NASCAR race and dedicated the victory to friend and PR representative Jon Edwards, who passed away suddenly during the week leading up to the race weekend at Bristol Motor Speedway.

On Sunday, Larson won the Food City 500 Cup Series race in overwhelming fashion, leading 411 of 500 laps and sweeping both stages.

The victory was Larson's second of the season, his second straight at the 0.533-mile high-banked short track and the 31st of his career, and it came one day after the driver of the No. 5 Hendrick Motorsports Chevrolet ran away with the Xfinity Series race at Thunder Valley.

"This one's definitely for Jon," said Larson, who finished second in Friday night's Truck Series race, one spot short of sweeping the weekend. "He's just a great guy. Successful weekend here. Wish he was going to be here with us to celebrate, but I know he's celebrating with us in spirit."

"Just a flawless race once again here at Bristol for the 5 team. Really, really good car. That was a lot of fun."

Larson, who brushed the outside wall at the apex of Turns 1 and 2 with five laps left — without consequence — finished 2.250 seconds in front of Joe Gibbs Racing driver Denny Hamlin, who fell one spot short of a third straight Cup victory. Hamlin's teammate, Ty Gibbs, was 6.679 seconds back in third in a race that ran without caution for the final 235 laps.

"However many laps of green we ran there was a lot of fun," Larson said. "I was pretty comfortable with things, and then Denny came on really strong there before the pit cycle and kind of kept the pressure on from there."

After the final pit stops, Hamlin could close within a second of Larson in traffic but never threatened to take the lead.

"You have to give that team their due — just a dominant performance," Hamlin

said. "It looked like a pretty flawless day for them. It looked pretty easy. It was all I had to try to keep up there. I'm glad we were able to give him a little bit of a run with our Progressive Toyota."

"But this weekend, we are all thinking about Jon Edwards' family, (racing journalist) Al Pearce, (team owner) Shige Hattori (all of whom passed away within the last eight days). We've lost a lot of great people in our sport over the last week, so our thoughts are with them."

"Wish we could have got one more spot, but I just wanted to keep him honest there at the end. That was all I was trying to do, but he was a little too much to handle."

Hamlin and Larson have finished 1-2 on seven occasions. Sunday's race was the first of the seven times Larson has come out on top.

Contrary to strong indications from Saturday's practice, Bristol's concrete surface rubbered in, and tire wear was not the factor that most teams and drivers anticipated. Ryan Blaney, for instance, ran 175 laps on one set of tires before pitting on Lap 440.

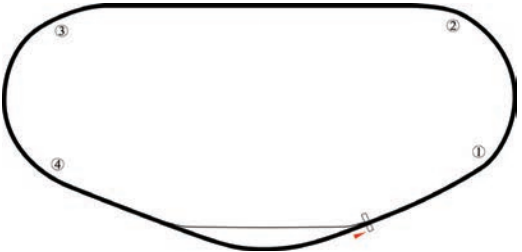
Chase Briscoe came home fourth, as JGR claimed the three positions behind Larson. Blaney ran long during the final green-flag run, led 48 laps after Larson pitted on Lap 390 for tires and fuel and worked his way back to fifth at the end.

Pole winner Alex Bowman led the first 39 laps before Larson grabbed the top spot for the first time. Larson went to win the first stage over Hamlin and the second over Bowman, who later fell out of the race when his engine expired.

The Stage 2 victory was the 66th of Larson's career, tying him with Martin Truex Jr. for the most since stage racing was introduced in 2017.

William Byron charged forward to a sixth-place finish after starting 26th. Ross Chastain ran seventh, followed by Christopher Bell and AJ Allmendinger, the last driver on the lead lap. Austin Dillon was 10th, the first driver one lap down.

## NEXT: JACK LINK'S 500



## Talladega Superspeedway

3 p.m. ET Sunday, FOX

Talladega Superspeedway, nicknamed "Dega," and formerly named Alabama International Motor Speedway, is a motorsports complex located north of Talladega, Alabama. It is located on the former Anniston Air Force Base in the small city of Lincoln.

**Capacity:** 80,000–175,000

**Length:** 2.66 mi (4.281 km)

**Surface:** Asphalt

**Banking:** Turns 1 & 2: 33°; Turn 3: 32.4°; Turn 4: 32.5°; Tri-oval: 16.5°; Back straight: 3°

**DYK ...**

- Alabama International Motor Speedway (AIMS) opened Sept. 14, 1969 with its first race, the Talladega 500, named in honor of the local people who helped bring the track from vision to reality. Richard Brickhouse wins the inaugural event.

- Talladega is the longest NASCAR oval, with a length of 2.66 miles (4.281 km), compared to the Daytona International Speedway, which is 2.5 miles (4.0 km) long. The total peak capacity of Talladega is around 175,000 spectators, with the main grandstand capacity 80,000.

- How fast do NASCAR's go at Talladega?

The Talladega record is 212 mph and has stood for over 30 years.

- Talladega has seen a wide amount of winners, but Brad Keselowski has the most wins there among active drivers with five.

- Talladega is known for first-time winners, including Bubba Wallace mor recently.

- Talladega Superspeedway is the most competitive racetrack on the NASCAR schedule (record 88 lead changes in 188 laps).

- Three- and four-wide racing at 200 mph are a norm at Talladega, along with nail-biting photo finishes.



Tyler Reddick celebrated the win with wife Alexa and son Beau last April at Talladega. (Getty)

## 2025 CUP SERIES STANDINGS

*Top 30 as of April 13*

Rank/Driver	Points	Rank/Driver	Points
1 William Byron #24	346	16 AJ Allmendinger #16	198
2 Denny Hamlin #11	316	17 Josh Berry #21	179
3 Christopher Bell #20	305	18 Ricky Stenhouse #47	176
4 Kyle Larson #5	304	19 Michael McDowell #71	174
5 Chase Elliott #9	278	20 Ty Gibbs #54	171
6 Ryan Blaney #12	275	21 J.H. Nemechek #42	171
7 Tyler Reddick #45	274	22 Austin Cindric #2	171
8 Bubba Wallace #23	251	23 Justin Haley #7	164
9 Joey Logano #22	245	24 Zane Smith #38	161
10 Alex Bowman #48	244	25 Carson Hocevar #77	157
11 Ross Chastain #1	229	26 Austin Dillon #3	155
12 Chris Buescher #17	227	27 Daniel Suárez #99	151
13 Chase Briscoe #19	213	28 Todd Gilliland #34	150
14 Ryan Preece #60	201	29 Ty Dillon #10	146
15 Kyle Busch #8	200	30 Erik Jones #43	139

## 2025 XFINITY SERIES STANDINGS

*Top 20 as of April 12*

Rank/Driver	Points	Rank/Driver	Points
1 Justin Allgaier #7	395	11 Daniel Dye #10	212
2 Sam Mayer #41	312	12 Harrison Burton #25	209
3 Sammy Smith #8	291	13 Jeb Burton #27	207
4 Jesse Love #2	286	14 Christian Eckes #16	204
5 Austin Hill #21	280	15 Nicholas Sanchez #48	202
6 Connor Zilisch #88	260	16 Taylor Gray #54	189
7 Carson Kvapil #1	257	17 Aric Almirola #19	186
8 Brandon Jones #20	253	18 Dean Thompson #26	184
9 Sheldon Creed #00	252	19 Brennan Poole #44	167
10 Ryan Sieg #39	249	20 Josh Williams #11	163

**NEXT RACE:** NOR. CAR. EDU. LOTTERY 250, Rockingham Speedway, 4 p.m. ET Saturday, CW

## 2025 TRUCK SERIES STANDINGS

*Top 20 as of April 11*

Rank/Driver	Points	Rank/Driver	Points
1 Corey Heim #11	270	11 Kaden Honeycutt #45	167
2 Chandler Smith #38	252	12 Tanner Gray #15	148
3 Ty Majeski #98	213	13 Giovanni Ruggiero #17	146
4 Tyler Ankrum #18	210	14 Rajah Caruth #71	126
5 Daniel Hemric #19	205	15 Matt Crafton #88	126
6 Layne Riggs #34	186	16 Jack Wood #91	117
7 Grant Enfinger #9	182	17 A. Perez De Lara #77	115
8 Stewart Friesen #52	177	18 Matt Mills #42	115
9 Ben Rhodes #99	174	19 Dawson Sutton #26	105
10 Jake Garcia #13	172	20 Connor Mosack #81	103

**NEXT RACE:** BLACK'S TIRE 200, Rockingham Speedway, 5 p.m. ET Friday, FS1

## BRISTOL WINNER QUOTE

"Just a flawless race once again here at Bristol for the 5 team. Really, really good car. That was a lot of fun."

- Kyle Larson, who grabbed his second Cup win of the season in Sunday's Food City 500



Kyle Larson in Victory Lane Sunday at Bristol.

JARED C. TILTON/GETTY IMAGES

# 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 of Origin