

O'REILLY RECAP

• **Friday's** WINN-DIXIE 250 Powered by Coca-Cola, Daytona International Speedway



WINNER: RYAN SIEG

After 424 O'Reilly Auto Parts Series starts – earning five runner-up finishes – Georgia owner-driver Ryan Sieg hoisted his first career trophy Friday at Daytona International Speedway in a dramatic overtime victory in the Winn Dixie 250 Powered by Coca-Cola.

A favorite in the garage and the grandstands, the 39-year-old from Tucker, Ga., benefitted from a two-tire late race pit stop to get inside the top-five and was running fourth when a caution flew with a single lap of regulation remaining.

Restarting the two-lap overtime period from the outside lane on the second row, Sieg was able to get around front-row starting JR Motorsports teammates Carson Kvapil and Justin Allgaier immediately and then drove away. His No. 38 Ryan Sieg Racing Chevrolet ultimately took the checkered flag by .149-second over Richard Childress Racing's Austin Hill.

For so much of the race it looked like Kvapil may earn his third consecutive win – that last lap caution flag cutting short his bid to become the first driver in series history to claim his first three career wins consecutively. His 50 laps out front in the No. 1 JR Motorsports Chevrolet were most on the night.

Viking Motorsports driver Anthony Alfredo and newly re-signed Joe Gibbs Racing driver Brandon Jones rounded out the top-five. Allgaier rallied to a sixth-place finish in the typically frenzied final laps.

The extra time – a two-lap overtime period was necessary after Allgaier and another of his JR Motorsports teammates touched with a lap remaining – the contact from behind sending pole-winner Rajah Caruth's No. 88 Chevrolet spinning.

Caruth put himself inside the 12-driver Chase field and will now go on to challenge for the 2026 title.

Caruth finished 32nd but the greater misfortune of two other competitors, put the 24-year-old into the Chase in his first fulltime season in the series. Similarly, Joe Gibbs Racing driver Taylor Gray moved from outside Chase contention to the 12th and final eligible position, his 26th-place finish at Daytona good enough to move him forward after two of his teammates suffered a heart-breaking night.

The Chase standings took a dramatic turn mid-race with a pair of accidents – both near the front of the field – ending JGR teammates Brent Crews' and William Sawalich's hopes of contending for a title. Both had been running top-10 when separate incidents derailed their quests.

After the points reset for this Chase run, the season's most dominant driver, six-race winner Allgaier, will take a 25-point lead into the 10-race trophy run that begins Saturday. His teammate Kvapil is seeded second, followed by Haas Factory Team's Sheldon Creed, defending champion RCR's Jesse Love and his teammate Hill, Jones, Hendrick Motorsports' rookie Corey Day, and JR Motorsports' Sammy Smith.

Viking Motorsports' Parker Retzlaff will make his Chase debut, with Haas driver Sam Mayer, Gray and Caruth rounding out the Chase field.

COKE ZERO SUGAR 400

In winning his first Cup Series points race, Ryan Preece recovered from a three-car wreck at the end of the first stage in Saturday night's overtime Coke Zero Sugar 400 at Daytona International Speedway.



Ryan Preece, driver of the #60 Kroger/OIKOS Ford, crosses the finish line under caution ahead of Daniel Suarez, driver of the #7 Coke Zero Sugar Chevrolet, to win the Cup Series Coke Zero Sugar 400 at Daytona International Speedway on Saturday. (Chris Graythen/Getty)

First Cup win, first trip to Playoffs for Ryan Preece

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. — Short on fuel in the late going, but with no dearth of tenacity, Ryan Preece won Saturday night's Coke Zero Sugar 400 at Daytona International Speedway in overtime to force his way into the Cup Series Chase.

"I'm just speechless right now," said Preece, who claimed the final berth in The Chase by 17 points over Shane van Gisbergen. The three-time Australian Supercars champion had led Preece by 31 points entering the regular-season finale.

"But those guys, that 60 group, we're fighters," Preece continued. "When you put our back against the wall, we swing hard... Last year there were a lot of keyboard warriors saying I was nothing. Well, we just kicked their butts tonight."

In winning his first Cup Series points race, Preece recovered from a three-car wreck at the end of the first stage that damaged his left front fender, but after repairs, he was able to power his No. 60 Roush Fenway Keselowski Racing Ford back to the front.

Stretching fuel mileage over the final 65-lap stage, Preece surged into the lead past Tyler Reddick and Zane Smith in overtime moments before Smith turned into the outside wall to ignite a series of collisions that forced NASCAR to call the fourth yellow of the evening — with Preece ahead at the moment of caution.

"It's a testament of how prepared these race cars are, man. I'm a racer," Preece said. "I know what it takes to build speed. So, to every man and woman at RFK, thank you for giving me a rocket ship so I could go to the moon tonight. This is redemption."

In a race that went six laps beyond its scheduled distance of 160 laps, Preece led three times for a total of five laps. Eschewing a pit stop in the final stage, he was running second when Carson Hocevar made an aggressive move to the inside entering Turn 3 to cause the Lap 155 wreck that forced overtime.

Hocevar steered his Spire Motorsports Chevrolet toward the bottom lane, but the rear of the car snapped loose, propelling the No. 77 Camaro into the outside wall. Erik Jones' Toyota plowed violently into Hocevar's car along the outside wall, as Ty Gibbs' Camry spun down the track.

"Yeah, I was always super tight behind people, it seemed," said Hocevar, who picked up his first career win at Talladega in April. "And so, I just changed from top to bottom

there, and that was the first time I really got a ton of air on my nose into three and I just lost it. It just kept going. I had the wheel straight, man. Overall, I thought we did a pretty good job here tonight."

Hocevar's accident set up the overtime restart with Smith in the lead. After pushing Smith on the white-flag lap, Reddick made a move to the outside, but he and Smith tangled on the final circuit to start the race-ending melee on the backstretch.

Daniel Suárez avoided the chaos and finished second, followed by Reddick, Michael McDowell and Ricky Stenhouse Jr. Austin Cindric came home sixth and clinched the 15th seed in The Chase by nine points over Preece, who will start the postseason as the 16th seed.

"We were so close, two years in a row with a second-place finish," Suárez said of his run in the No. 7 Spire Chevrolet. "Super happy and proud to make it to The Chase with this team. This team deserves it."

"We are a Chase team. There are so many people and partners that have helped us get here and put this together."

Austin Dillon, Alex Bowman, Josh Berry and Cole Custer completed the top 10. Berry posted his fifth straight top-10 result in the No. 21 Wood Brothers Racing Ford.

Bubba Wallace finished 20th after clinching the 14th seed in The Chase with a seventh-place result in the first stage.

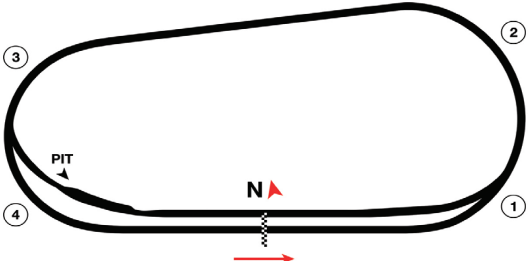
van Gisbergen worked his way into a strong position with a win in Stage 1, as Preece, RFK teammate Chris Buescher and Kyle Larson spun into the infield grass approaching the finish line to end the stage.

Late in the race, however, van Gisbergen came to pit road for fuel on Lap 157 and opted for four new tires. That put him 27th for the overtime restart, and from that position he was unable to avoid the multicar wreck on the final lap. The New Zealander finished 28th and out of The Chase.

Denny Hamlin had clinched top seeding in The Chase, along with a 25-point advantage, last Sunday at New Hampshire Motor Speedway. He'll start The Chase with 2,100 points. Despite wrecking on the final lap and finishing 33rd, Ryan Blaney picked up the Stage 2 win and held the second seed to start The Chase with 2,075 points.

The remaining seeds in order are: Reddick, Gibbs, Chase Briscoe, Christopher Bell, Larson, Chase Elliott, Joey Logano, Buescher, Suárez, Hocevar, William Byron, Wallace, Cindric and Preece.

PLAYOFF 1: COOK OUT SOUTHERN 500



Darlington Raceway 5 p.m. ET Sunday, USA

- **Location:** 1301 Harry Byrd Hwy, Darlington, South Carolina
- **Nicknames:** The Lady in Black; The Track Too Tough To Tame
- **Capacity:** 47,000
- **Owner:** NASCAR (2019-present)
- **Opened:** August 19, 1950
- **Course:** 4 turn egg-shaped oval
- **Surface:** Asphalt
- **Length:** 1.366 mi (2.198 km)
- **Banking:** Turns 1, 2: 25°; Turns 3, 4: 23°; Frontstretch, Backstretch: 6°
- **Fastest Cup lap:** 0:28.332, Denny Hamlin, Toyota Camry, 2018
- **In 2004,** the venue added permanent lighting to host night racing at the track.



Tyler Reddick delivered a convincing victory for team owner Michael Jordan earlier this season at at Darlington Raceway. (Getty)



2026 CUP SERIES STANDINGS			
Top 30 w/ Playoff 16 as of August 29			
Rank/Driver	Points	Rank/Driver	Points
1 Denny Hamlin #11	2100	16 Ryan Preece #60	2000
2 Ryan Blaney #12	2075	17 Shane v Gisbergen #97	605
3 Tyler Reddick #45	2065	18 Brad Keselowski #6	543
4 Ty Gibbs #54	2060	19 Ross Chastain #1	518
5 Chase Briscoe #19	2055	20 Michael McDowell #71	517
6 Chris Bell #20	2050	21 Erik Jones #43	498
7 Kyle Larson #5	2045	22 Todd Gilliland #34	468
8 Chase Elliott #9	2040	23 AJ Allmendinger #16	463
9 Joey Logano #22	2035	24 Zane Smith #38	455
10 Chris Buescher #17	2030	25 Austin Dillon #3	435
11 Daniel Suárez #7	2025	26 Ricky Stenhouse #47	430
12 Carson Hocevar #77	2020	27 John H. Nemechek #42	418
13 William Byron #24	2015	28 Josh Berry #21	414
14 Bubba Wallace #23	2010	29 Riley Herbst #35	402
15 Austin Cindric #2	2005	30 Alex Bowman #48	391

2026 O'REILLY AUTO PARTS STANDINGS			
Top 20 w/ Playoff 12 as of August 28			
Rank/Driver	Points	Rank/Driver	Points
1 Justin Allgaier #7	2100	11 Taylor Gray #54	2025
2 Carson Kvapil #1	2075	12 Rajah Caruth #88	2020
3 Sheldon Creed #00	2065	13 William Sawalich #18	601
4 Jesse Love #2	2060	14 Brent Crews #19	600
5 Austin Hill #21	2055	15 Ryan Sieg #39	569
6 Brandon Jones #20	2050	16 Anthony Alfredo #96	513
7 Corey Day #17	2045	17 Brennan Poole #44	451
8 Sammy Smith #8	2040	18 Dean Thompson #26	428
9 Parker Retzlaff #99	2035	19 Harrison Burton #24	400
10 Sam Mayer #41	2030	20 Jeremy Clements #51	384

NEXT RACE: FLEETIQ 200, Darlington Raceway, 8:30 p.m. ET Saturday, CW

2026 CRAFTSMAN TRUCK STANDINGS			
Top 20 w/ Playoff 10 as of August 22			
Rank/Driver	Points	Rank/Driver	Points
1 Layne Riggs #34	2100	11 Stewart Friesen #52	408
2 Kade Honeycutt #112075	2075	12 Jake Garcia #98	404
3 Chandler Smith #382065	2065	13 Brenden Queen #12	364
4 Christian Eckes #912060	2060	14 A. Perez De Lara #44	355
5 Gio Ruggiero #17	2055	15 Justin Haley #16	352
6 Ty Majeski #88	2050	16 Tanner Gray #15	351
7 Grant Enfinger #9	2045	17 Corey Heim #5	346
8 Daniel Hemric #19	2040	18 Dawson Sutton #27	283
9 Ben Rhodes #99	2035	19 Cole Butcher #13	268
10 Tyler Ankrum #18	2030	20 Mini Tyrrell #14	255

NEXT RACE: UNOH 250, Bristol Motor Speedway, 8 p.m. ET Thursday, Sept. 17, FS1

ZERO SUGAR WINNER QUOTE

"I'm just speechless right now. But those guys, that 60 group, we're fighters. When you put our back against the wall, we swing hard... Last year there were a lot of keyboard warriors saying I was nothing. Well, we just kicked their butts tonight."

— Ryan Preece, who grabbed his first Cup win and the final spot in the Playoffs Saturday at Daytona



Ryan Preece in Victory Lane Saturday at Daytona.
SEAN GARDNER/GETTY

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