



RACING THIS WEEK

O'REILLY BURNOUT ALERT! Sammy Smith celebrates after winning Saturday's The Progress Group 250 at Talladega. Getty



O'REILLY RECAP

• **Saturday's** THE PROGRESS GROUP 250, Talladega Superspeedway



WINNER: SAMMY SMITH

As Sammy Smith walked away from the interviews and Victory Lane celebrations following an overtime win in Friday's truck race at Talladega, he smiled and promised there would be no post-race party because he had a race to win Saturday. And he did just that.

The JR Motorsports driver snapped a 53-race winless streak in the O'Reilly Series Saturday afternoon with a dramatic last-lap pass in his No. 8 JR Motorsports Chevrolet to claim a 0.084-second win over the day's dominant driver, his teammate Carson Kvapil, in The Progress Group 250.

The checkered flag lap was the only one Smith led all day as he became the first driver to win multiple series races at the famous 2.66-mile high banks since his team owner Dale Earnhardt Jr. did it back in April 2003.

And Smith becomes the first non-Cup Series driver to sweep both the Truck Series and O'Reilly Series races at the same track since the late Greg Biffle at Phoenix Raceway in 2001.

Significant to the championship standings, Kvapil outpaced Jesse Love, who rallied to a third-place showing after a challenging afternoon that cut his lead atop the standings. With only a pair of races now remaining in the championship battle, Love's gap to second-place Justin Allgaier closed from 36 points before the green flag to only 19 points after the checkered flag.

Allgaier finished fourth. Sheldon Creed rounded out the top five.

TRUCKS RECAP

• **Friday's** LOVE'S RV STOP 225, Talladega Superspeedway



WINNER: SAMMY SMITH

Only a few hours after announcing he'll be competing full time in the Truck Series next year, Sammy Smith went out and delivered a strong message, leading the final lap of overtime to claim the win in Friday's Love's RV Stop 225 at Talladega.

Smith's No. 7 Spire Motorsports Chevrolet crossed the finish line 0.091 seconds ahead of a four-wide battle for second place which went to Tyler Ankrum ahead of Austin Green, who turned in a tremendous day in his only start of the year. Ty Majeski and championship leader Kaden Honeycutt joined the rush to the checkered flag.

It marks Smith's first career win in the series in his 11th start.

The two championship leaders, Honeycutt and Layne Riggs, both survived the unpredictable action. Riggs, who lined up alongside Smith on the front row for the overtime restart, finished eighth and now trails Honeycutt by 43 points with two races remaining to settle the championship. It's likely a two-man race to the title now, with third-place Ty Majeski now 141 points behind Honeycutt.

Landen Lewis, Brenden Queen, Riggs, Spencer Boyd, and 2025 series champion Corey Heim rounded out the top 10.

YELLAWOOD 500

Sunday at Talladega, Kyle Larson celebrated with his three children on the victory lap, with Audrey, 8, waving to the crowd out the passenger window, Cooper, 3, sitting inside and Owen, 11, waving the checkered flag.



Kyle Larson, driver of the #5 HendrickCars.com Chevrolet, takes the checkered flag to win the Cup Series YellaWood 500 at Talladega Superspeedway on Sunday.

(Sean Gardner/Getty)

Larson gives Talladega rivals his late lap best

TALLADEGA, Ala. – Kyle Larson turned in one of the most dramatic victories of his two-time Cup Series championship career going from 11th place to Victory Lane on the final lap of overtime to win Sunday's YellaWood 500 at Talladega (Ala.) Superspeedway.

Larson maneuvered his No. 5 Hendrick Motorsports Chevrolet low and passed seven cars in just the final quarter-mile of Talladega's famed 2.66-mile high banks to claim his first ever win in 59 races on a big drafting-style track.

He celebrated the "statement win" with his three children who climbed into the car for the Victory Lap celebration – daughter Audrey, 8, waving to the crowd out of the passenger side window, his youngest son Cooper, 3, sitting inside too and 11-year old son Owen perched from the roof hatch waving the checkered flag to a thrilled crowd who clearly appreciated one of Larson's most amazing – and overdue – Victory Laps.

The reigning series champion fell from the lead to 11th place with a lap to go and then negotiated his way forward once again, dropping to the bottom lane and roaring to the win by a photo finish .041-second over his Hendrick teammate William Byron, HYAK Motorsports Ricky Stenhouse Jr. and Trackhouse Racing's Ross Chastain who crossed the line door-to-door directly behind.

Haas Factory Team's Cole Custer and Spire Motorsports' Carson Hocevar helped Chevrolet to a top-six sweep.

"I don't know, I got really lucky with kinda how everything worked out there," the 34-year old Californian Larson said with a smile, trying to describe the phenomenal winning move.

"I was so edgy in turns one and two with the 33 [Richard Childress Racing driver Austin Hill] pushing me, he was helping me."

Now with only two races remaining Larson has exponentially expanded his championship lead over his closest challengers: three Joe Gibbs Racing Toyota teammates. He now holds a 73-point advantage on regular season champ Denny Hamlin, is 74 points up on JGR's Christopher Bell and 77 points up on JGR's Chase Briscoe.

"Really gotta thank all my Chevy GM partners for working with me all day," Larson continued. "I really felt it and definitely the best speedway race I've ever had because of it, so thanks to all them."

"I was pissed at myself off [turn] two, my hands off the wheel, just mad. And then

all of a sudden everything just opened up and I was able to keep my momentum up," he said of the last lap. "Unbelievable way to get my first superspeedway win."

The ending was an exclamation point for a race that had all the typical Talladega trademarks – a photo finish, close-quarter sparring all afternoon, a 13-minute red flag and a pair of massive multi-car accidents that have greatly impacted the Chase with only a pair of races left to settle the 2026 championship.

The 98-lap opening stage of the 189-lap race set the stage for the drama. The three Roush Fenway Keselowski Ford Mustangs seemed to stun the competition – lining up bumper-to-bumper-bumper they roared off to a lead of more than 30-seconds on the entire fuel-saving field en route to RFK's Chris Buescher's easy Stage 1 win. He led a race high 53 laps on the day, but was collected in the late race accident.

The second massive crash – with only five laps remaining – brought out the red flag and eliminated many strong cars. As with an earlier multi-car accident, it happened toward the front of the field. This one – involving 15 cars – appeared to be triggered by spring Talladega winner Hocevar who hit the rear bumper of three-time series champion Joey Logano in tight-quarter drafting.

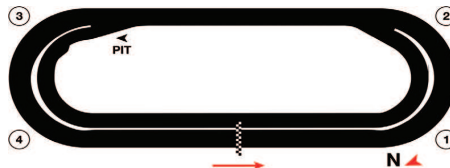
Logano's No. 22 Team Penske Ford led 23 laps on the day and was battling for the top position when Hocevar's Chevy made contact. It spun Logano's car into traffic behind and flipped it upside down. It slid down the track and came to rest that way in the tri-oval. After safety crews flipped the car back on its tires, Logano climbed out.

An earlier incident involving 12 cars eliminated another Penske championship contender, 2023 series champion Ryan Blaney, among others. The two Penske drivers are still in the title hunt but lost significant ground after looking so strong.

Logano is now fifth in the standings, 100 points off Larson's total and Blaney is sixth, 107 points back. 23XI Racing's Tyler Reddick, is the only other driver still technically in the title chase, but he trails Larson by 126 points.

Bell, who went into the race ranked second, spun and hit the wall coming to pit road on the opening pit stop of the race, his No. 20 JGR Toyota suffering significant damage and finishing 35th in the 40-car field. Briscoe, whose Toyota Camry started from pole position, was eliminated in the late race accident and finished 33rd.

CUP PLAYOFFS: 9TH RACE XFINITY 500



Martinsville Speedway
2 p.m. ET Sunday, NBC

• Nicknamed "The Paperclip," Martinsville Speedway is an oval short track in Ridgeway, Va., a community of Martinsville, Va.

• Originally a dirt oval, Martinsville opened in September 1947 with a construction cost of \$60,000. The facility hosted its first Cup Series races in 1949 and half interest of the track was purchased by the France family the year after. In 1955, the track was paved with asphalt. After 21 years of repaving, the lower lanes of the track's corners were paved with concrete.

Length: 0.526 miles

Turns: 4

Surface: Asphalt (straights and higher lanes of turns); concrete (lower lanes of turns)

Banking: Turns, 12°; straights, 0°

Capacity: Exact unknown; less than 44,000

Owner: NASCAR (2019–present); International Speedway Corporation (2004–2019); Henry Clay Earles (1947–1999)

Operator: Clay Campbell

Cup race lap record: 0:18.845, Ross Chastain, Chevrolet Camaro ZL1, 2022



William Byron clocked his spot in the Chase Championship 4 in last year's Xfinity 500 at Martinsville. GETTY IMAGES

2026 CUP SERIES STANDINGS

Top 30 w/ Playoff 16 as of Oct. 25

Rank/Driver	Points	Rank/Driver	Points
1 Kyle Larson #5	2441	16 Chris Buescher #17	2186
2 Denny Hamlin #11	2368	17 Shane v Gisbergen #97	739
3 Christopher Bell #20	2367	18 Ross Chastain #1	706
4 Chase Briscoe #19	2362	19 Brad Keselowski #6	704
5 Joey Logano #22	2341	20 Michael McDowell #71	643
6 Ryan Blaney #12	2334	21 Erik Jones #43	618
7 Tyler Reddick #45	2315	22 Todd Gilliland #34	612
8 Ty Gibbs #54	2258	23 Josh Berry #21	609
9 Austin Cindric #2	2258	24 AJ Allmendinger #16	580
10 Carson Hocevar #77	2243	25 Austin Dillon #3	566
11 William Byron #24	2227	26 Zane Smith #38	541
12 Chase Elliott #9	2223	27 Alex Bowman #48	540
13 Bubba Wallace #23	2223	28 Ricky Stenhouse Jr #47	515
14 Daniel Suárez #7	2201	29 John H. Nemechek #42	504
15 Ryan Preece #60	2192	30 Riley Herbst #35	486

2026 O'REILLY AUTO PARTS STANDINGS

Top 20 w/ Playoff 12 as of Oct. 24

Rank/Driver	Points	Rank/Driver	Points
1 Jesse Love #2	2401	11 Parker Retzlaff #99	2200
2 Justin Allgaier #7	2382	12 Rajah Caruth #88	2183
3 Corey Day #17	2372	13 Brent Crews #19	798
4 Sheldon Creed #00	2351	14 William Savalich #18	775
5 Carson Kvapil #1	2342	15 Ryan Sieg #39	707
6 Sam Mayer #41	2305	16 Anthony Alfredo #96	684
7 Sammy Smith #8	2293	17 Dean Thompson #26	611
8 Taylor Gray #54	2246	18 Brennan Poole #44	576
9 Austin Hill #21	2233	19 Jeremy Clements #51	550
10 Brandon Jones #20	2212	20 Harrison Burton #24	532

NEXT RACE: NATIONAL DEBT RELIEF 250, Martinsville Speedway, 4 p.m. ET Saturday, CW

2026 CRAFTSMAN TRUCK STANDINGS

Top 20 w/ Playoff 10 as of Oct. 23

Rank/Driver	Points	Rank/Driver	Points
1 Kad. Honeycutt #11	2371	11 Jake Garcia #98	559
2 Layne Riggs #34	2328	12 Stewart Friesen #52	492
3 Ty Majeski #88	2230	13 Tanner Gray #15	480
4 Chandler Smith #38	2229	14 Justin Haley #16	475
5 Christian Eckes #91	2227	15 Brenden Queen #12	472
6 Gio Ruggiero #17	2194	16 A.Perez De Lara #44	448
7 Daniel Hemric #19	2177	17 Corey Heim #1	380
8 Ben Rhodes #99	2168	18 Dawson Sutton #27	366
9 Tyler Ankrum #18	2157	19 Cole Butcher #13	348
10 Grant Enfinger #9	2152	20 Landen Lewis #45	334

NEXT RACE: BLACK'S TIRE 200, Martinsville Speedway, 6 p.m. ET Friday, FS1

BONUS TRUCKS PIC



Tony Stewart, driver of the #25 Ram RAM, waves to fans as he walks onstage during driver intros prior to Friday's Love's RV Stop 225 at Talladega Superspeedway. The HoFer would go on to finish 34th after getting collected in a wreck after 16 laps. J. Bachman/Getty

TALLADEGA WINNER QUOTE

"I don't know, I got really lucky with kinda how everything worked out there. I was so edgy in turns one and two with the 33 [Richard Childress Racing driver Austin Hill] pushing me, he was helping me. Really gotta thank all my Chevy GM partners for working with me all day."

— Kyle Larson, who expaned his Chase lead Sunday at Talladega



Kyle Larson in Victory Lane Sunday at Talladega. JONATHAN BACHMAN/GETTY

2026 CUP SCHEDULE & WINNERS

FEB. 4, 3 PM, FOX: Cook Out Clash at Bowman Gray (R. Preece)

FEB. 12, 7 PM, FS1: America 250 Florida Duel 1 at DAYTONA (J. Logano)

FEB. 12, 8:45 PM, FS1: America 250 Florida Duel 2 at DAYTONA (C. Elliott)

FEB. 15, 2:30 PM, FOX: DAYTONA 500 (T. Reddick)

FEB. 22, 3 PM FOX: AutoTrader 400 at Echopark Atlanta (T. Reddick)

MARCH 1, 3:30 PM, FOX: DuraMax Grand Prix at COTA (TX) (T. Reddick)

MARCH 8, 3:30 PM, FS1: Straight Talk Wireless 500 at PHOENIX (R. Blaney)

MARCH 15, 4 PM, FS1: Pennzoil 400 at LAS VEGAS (D. Hamlin)

MARCH 22, 3 PM, FS1: Goodyear 400 at DARLINGTON (T. Reddick)

MARCH 29, 3:30 PM, FS1: Cook Out 400 at MARTINSVILLE (C. Elliott)

APRIL 12, 3 PM, FS1: Food City 500 at BRISTOL (T. Gibbs)

APRIL 19, 2 PM, FOX: AdventHealth 400 at KANSAS (T. Reddick)

APRIL 26, 3 PM, FOX: Jack Link's 500 at TALLADEGA (C. Hocevar)

MAY 3, 3:30 PM, FS1: Würth 400 at TEXAS (C. Elliott)

MAY 10, 3 PM, FS1: Go Bowling at the Glen at WATKINS GLEN (S. v. Gisbergen)

MAY 17, 3 PM, FS1: NASCAR All-Star Race at DOVER (D. Hamlin)

MAY 24, 6 PM, PRIME: Coca-Cola 600 at CHARLOTTE (D. Suarez)

MAY 31, 7 PM, PRIME: Cracker Barrel 400 at NASHVILLE (D. Hamlin)

JUNE 7, 3 PM, PRIME: FireKeepers Casino 400 at MICHIGAN (D. Hamlin)

JUNE 14, 3 PM, PRIME: Great American Getaway 400 at POCONO (D. Hamlin)

JUNE 21, 4 PM, PRIME: Anduril 250 at NAVAL BASE CORONADO (C. Heim)

JUNE 28, 3:30 PM, TNT: Toyota/Save Mart 350 at SONOMA (S. v. Gisbergen)

JULY 5, 6 PM, TNT: eero 400 at CHICAGOLAND SPEEDWAY (C. Briscoe)

JULY 12, 7 PM, TNT: Quaker State 400 at ECHOPARK ATLANTA (R. Blaney)

JULY 19, 7 PM, TNT: Window World 400 at NORTH WILKESBORO (J. Logano)

JULY 26, 2 PM, TNT: Brickyard 400 at INDIANAPOLIS (C. Heim)

AUG. 9, 3:30 PM, USA: Iowa Corn 350 at IOWA (T. Gibbs)

AUG. 15, 7 PM, USA: Cook Out 400 at RICHMOND (J. Logano)

AUG. 23, 3 PM, USA: Dollar Tree 301 at NEW HAMPSHIRE (R. Blaney)

AUG. 29, 4 PM, NBC: Coke Zero Sugar 400 at DAYTONA (R. Preece)

PLAYOFFS ROUND OF 16

SEPT. 6, 5 PM, USA: Southern 500 at DARLINGTON (C. Bell)

SEPT. 13, 3 PM, USA: Enjoy Illinois 300 at WORLD WIDE TECH (K. Larson)

SEPT. 19, 7:30 PM, USA: Bass Pro Shops Night Race at BRISTOL (J. Logano)

PLAYOFFS ROUND OF 12

SEPT. 27, 3 PM, USA: Hollywood Casino 400 at KANSAS (K. Larson)

OCT. 4, 5:30 PM, USA: South Point 400 at LAS VEGAS (C. Briscoe)

OCT. 11, 3 PM, USA: BofA ROVAL 400 at CHARLOTTE (C. Briscoe)

PLAYOFFS ROUND OF 8

OCT. 18, 3 PM, USA: Freeway Insurance 500 at PHOENIX (T. Reddick)

OCT. 25, 2 PM, NBC: YellaWood 500 at TALLADEGA (K. Larson)

NOV. 1, 2 PM, NBC: Xfinity 500 at MARTINSVILLE (W. Byron)

PLAYOFFS CHAMPIONSHIP 4

NOV. 8, 3 PM, NBC: Championship at MIAMI (K. Larson title; R. Blaney race)

2025 winners in parenthesis; 2026 winners in bold as the schedule unfolds; times ET



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