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RACING THIS WEEK

TRUCKS BURNOUT ALERT! Jake Garcia celebrates after winning Thursday's UNOH 250 Bristol Motor Speedway.
J. Bachman/Getty

O'REILLY RECAP

• **Friday's** FOOD CITY 300, Bristol Motor Speedway

WINNER: SHELDON CREED

Thanks to an astute call from crew chief Jonathan Toney, Sheldon Creed had new tires for an OT restart on Lap 304, and he used them to full advantage in winning Friday night's Food City 300 at Bristol Motor Speedway.

The victory, Creed's second in three Chase races, left the driver of the No. 00 Haas Factory Team Chevrolet on top of the O'Reilly Auto Parts Series postseason standings, 11 points ahead of top-seeded Justin Allgaier in second.

Creed has finished first, second and first in the three Chase races, as the O'Reilly Series faces a week off before resuming in the Focused Health 302 at Las Vegas Motor Speedway on Oct. 3.

Allgaier was the leader for the Lap 286 restart, but in a bid for the lead, Love ran the No. 7 JR Motorsports Chevrolet into the outside wall shortly after the race went green. As soon as the race ended, with Allgaier in fourth and Love a disappointing 17th, Allgaier strode to Love's No. 2 Richard Childress Racing Chevrolet to express his dissatisfaction.

Love, the defending series champion, was contrite and upset over a decision that cost both him and Allgaier the chance for a victory.

Rookie Brent Crews ran third, with Corey Day securing the fifth spot. Taylor Gray, Sam Mayer, Parker Retzlaff, Dean Thompson and Sammy Smith completed the top 10.

TRUCKS RECAP

• **Thursday's** UNOH 250, Bristol Motor Speedway

WINNER: JAKE GARCIA

For Jake Garcia, it was a case of stealing thunder. For the Trucks Chase drivers, it was blunder after blunder.

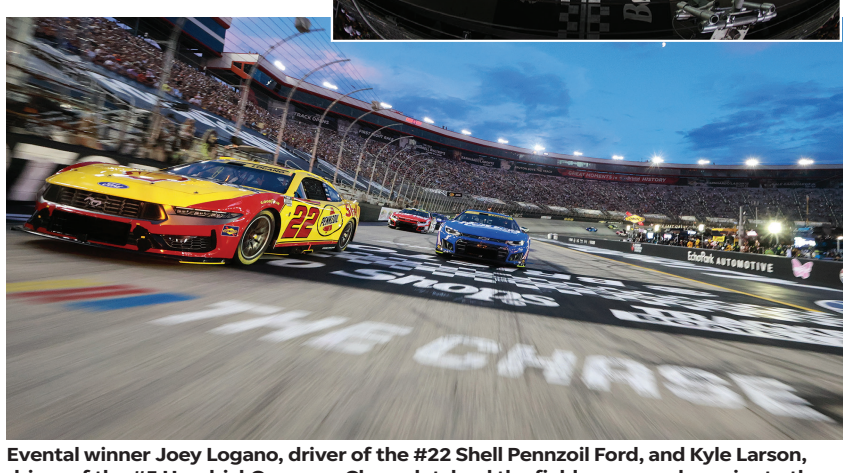
Driving the No. 98 ThorSport Racing Ford, Garcia took control in the third stage of Thursday night's UNOH 250 at Bristol and went on to win for the first time in his 94th start.

In the Chase opener, Garcia led three times for 104 laps. On Lap 230 of 250, he wrested the lead from Stewart Friesen with an inside pass and held it the rest of the way. Garcia took the flag 1.305 seconds ahead of Bayley Currey, who passed Friesen for runner-up.

Garcia ended a drought for ThorSport dating to Ty Majeski's victory in the 2024 Championship, but it was hardly clear sailing to the finish. Garcia lost the lead to Friesen on a Lap 220 restart and spent the next 10 laps trying to regain it.

Currey finished second in his first Truck Series start of the season. With Friesen third, Justin Haley fourth and Tristan McKee fifth (at age 16 the youngest driver in series history to score a top five). No Chase driver finished better than sixth (Gio Ruggiero). In fact, the top four seeds in the Chase all experienced difficulty.

BASS PRO NIGHT RACE
Thanks to a dramatic pass through a gaggle of traffic on Lap 494 of 500, Joey Logano stole a victory Saturday at Bristol Motor Speedway and moved close to the lead in the Cup Series Chase.



Evental winner Joey Logano, driver of the #22 Shell Pennzoil Ford, and Kyle Larson, driver of the #5 HendrickCars.com Chevrolet, lead the field on a pace lap prior to the Cup Series Bass Pro Shops Night Race at Bristol Motor Speedway on Saturday.
(Chris Graythen/Getty)

Logano captures Bristol magic with late night run

BRISTOL, Tenn.—When Ty Gibbs finally ran out of magic, Joey Logano took full advantage.

Thanks to a dramatic pass through a gaggle of traffic on Lap 494 of 500, Logano stole a victory in Saturday's Bass Pro Shops Night Race at Bristol Motor Speedway and moved close to the lead in the Cup Series Chase Presented by Mobil 1.

As Logano celebrated on the frontstretch, his Team Penske teammate, Ryan Blaney, traded punches with Carson Hocevar on pit road. Moments after taking second place from the Spire Motorsports driver, Blaney wrecked off Hocevar's front bumper on Lap 458, leading to a confrontation after the race.

The victory was Logano's third at the 0.533-mile concrete track, his third of the season and the 40th of his career, tying him with Hall of Famer Mark Martin for 20th.

The three-time Cup Series champion climbed four positions to third in the Chase standings, 16 points behind race runner-up Kyle Larson, who took over the series lead by one point over top-seeded Denny Hamlin, Saturday night's eighth-place finisher.

As Hocevar and Gibbs raced side-by-side for the lead after the final restart—with Larson behind Hocevar in the top lane—Logano rolled the bottom past the trio of cars and moved up track with the lead. As Gibbs faded to fifth, Larson moved into second.

After climbing from his No. 22 Ford on the frontstretch, Logano was greeted with a chorus of boos by the same partisans who had waved yellow M&M's hand towels honoring Busch (distributed by the track) when Gibbs was out front.

"I've got a great team," said Logano, who led twice for 93 laps. "We've got a team that knows how to win championships. I thought there for a minute, I was like, 'OK, I might just finish third or fourth here tonight,' but (we) kind of worked our way up, and I was like, 'Well, Merry Christmas to me. I got a gift there.'

"There is nothing like the Bristol Night Race, man. This is just the coolest experience as a race car driver, being in front of all you fans down here, hearing everyone screaming, cheering, sometimes booing. That's all right. It's pretty awesome."

In arguably the fastest car, Gibbs ran an exceptional race in a Toyota featuring a throwback M&M's point scheme honoring the late Kyle Busch. Gibbs led 120 laps and appeared victory-bound until he succumbed to relentless pressure from Hocevar (who finished third) and Logano, who came from fourth on the final restart to win the race.

Channeling some of Busch's prowess and good fortune at a track where the driver nicknamed "Rowdy" won eight Cup races, Gibbs survived a three-wide accident at the start/finish line immediately after passing Hocevar for the lead on Lap 432.

Gibbs tried to split the middle between Alex Bowman and Cole Custer, but Bowman moved up the track, sandwiching Gibbs' Toyota between the two cars. Miraculously, despite contact from both sides—enough to put Bowman out of the race—Gibbs was able to continue and maintain the speed he showed before the wreck.

Blaney led a race-high 202 laps and regained track position after a commitment line penalty caused by a caution on Laps 397 near the end of a cycle of green-flag pits.

After passing Hocevar for the second on Lap 457, he moved down the track to block Hocevar's line. Hocevar didn't lift and knocked Blaney into the outside wall in Turn 1. Blaney's Ford was damaged too extensively, and he exited race in 33rd place, dropping three positions to sixth in the Chase standings, 52 points out of the lead.

On pit road after the race, Blaney approached Hocevar aggressively with a hand to Hocevar's shoulder. The Spire driver landed two punches in return. After the second blow, Blaney lost his balance and fell backwards. He got to his feet and landed a left hand to Hocevar's face before officials and crew members pulled them apart.

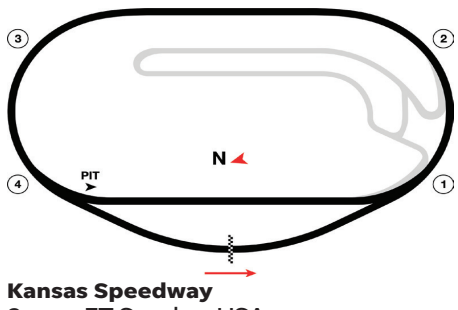
"I just felt like he didn't lift," Blaney said of the wreck. "I left him plenty of room for a lap before that. I didn't chop him. I didn't run him into the fence or nothing like I easily could have. I protected the bottom, and he just decided he wanted to be there and didn't lift and wrecked me."

Hocevar seemed all but nonchalant after the fight. "There wasn't a whole lot of talking," he said. "He just kind of said one thing and then went after me, and I wasn't going to take it.

"I mean, that was fun with the 54 (Gibbs). I got ran into a lot for the win. I mean, that was for second and he wants to come fight... They got an old-school Bristol show here."

Christopher Bell finished fourth and is fourth in the standings, 17 points behind Larson. Josh Berry finished sixth, the only non-Chase driver in the top 11. Bubba Wallace, Hamlin, William Byron and Ryan Preece completed the top 10.

PLAYOFF 4: HOLLYWOOD CASINO 400



Kansas Speedway
3 p.m. ET Sunday, USA

- **Location:** 400 Speedway Boulevard, Kansas City, Kansas
- **Capacity:** 48,000
- **Owner:** NASCAR (2019–present)
- **Inaugural Cup race winner:** Jeff Gordon, September 30, 2001
- **Course:** Tri-oval
- **Surface:** Asphalt
- **Length:** 1.5 miles
- **Turns:** 4
- **Banking:** Turns, 17-20 degree variable banking; Frontstretch, 9-11 degrees variable banking; Backstretch: 5 degrees
- **Fastest Cup lap:** 0:28.857 Kyle Larson, SpongeBob SquarePants 400, 2015

Tyler Reddick and crew partied in Victory Lane earlier this season at Kansas Speedway.
DAVID JENSEN/GETTY

2026 CUP SERIES STANDINGS

*Top 30 w/ **Playoff 16** as of Sept. 19*

Rank/Driver	Points	Rank/Driver	Points
1 Kyle Larson #5	2206	16 Daniel Suárez #7	2072
2 Denny Hamlin #11	2205	17 Shane v Gisbergen #97	647
3 Joey Logano #22	2190	18 Brad Keselowski #6	615
4 Chris Bell #20	2189	19 Ross Chastain #1	592
5 Ty Gibbs #54	2164	20 Michael McDowell #71	570
6 Ryan Blaney #12	2154	21 Erik Jones #43	549
7 Tyler Reddick #45	2145	22 Todd Gilliland #34	520
8 Carson Hocevar #77	2121	23 AJ Allmendinger #16	514
9 Chase Briscoe #19	2119	24 Josh Berry #21	501
10 Bubba Wallace #23	2114	25 Austin Dillon #3	494
11 Austin Cindric #2	2090	26 Zane Smith #38	477
12 Chase Elliott #9	2089	27 John H. Nemechek #42	465
13 William Byron #24	2085	28 Alex Bowman #48	456
14 Ryan Preece #60	2082	29 Ricky Stenhouse #47	450
15 Chris Buescher #17	2082	30 Riley Herbst #35	415

2026 O'REILLY AUTO PARTS STANDINGS

*Top 20 w/ **Playoff 12** as of Sept. 18*

Rank/Driver	Points	Rank/Driver	Points
1 Sheldon Creed #00	2235	11 Brandon Jones #20	2121
2 Justin Allgaier #7	2224	12 Rajah Caruth #88	2071
3 Carson Kvapil #1	2198	13 Brent Crews #19	715
4 Jesse Love #2	2194	14 William Sawalich #18	676
5 Sam Mayer #41	2157	15 Ryan Sieg #39	619
6 Corey Day #17	214	16 Anthony Alfredo #96	579
7 Sammy Smith #8	2143	17 Brennan Poole #44	515
8 Taylor Gray #54	2131	18 Dean Thompson #26	507
9 Austin Hill #21	2129	19 Jeremy Clements #51	445
10 Parker Retzlaff #99	2124	20 Harrison Burton #24	444

NEXT RACE: FOCUSED HEALTH 302, Las Vegas Motor Speedway, 7:30 p.m. ET Saturday, Oct. 3, CW

2026 CRAFTSMAN TRUCK STANDINGS

*Top 20 w/ **Playoff 10** as of Sept. 17*

Rank/Driver	Points	Rank/Driver	Points
1 Layne Riggs #34	2125	11 Jake Garcia #98	473
2 K. Honeycutt #11	2122	12 Stewart Friesen #52	449
3 Chandler Smith #38	2095	13 Justin Haley #16	386
4 Ty Majeski #88	2090	14 Brenden Queen #12	380
5 Gio Ruggiero #17	2086	15 A. Perez De Lara #44	375
6 Grant Enfinger #9	2072	16 Tanner Gray #15	375
7 Daniel Hemric #19	2069	17 Corey Heim #5	346
8 Christian Eckes #91	2067	18 Dawson Sutton #27	305
9 Ben Rhodes #99	2064	19 Cole Butcher #13	277
10 Tyler Ankrum #18	2054	20 Mini Tyrrell #14	266

NEXT RACE: RACE TO STOP SUICIDE 200, Kansas Speedway, 1 p.m. ET Saturday, FS1

BASS PRO WINNER QUOTE

"I've got a great team. We've got a team that knows how to win championships. I thought there for a minute, I was like, 'OK, I might just finish third or fourth here tonight,' but (we) kind of worked our way up, and I was like, 'Well, Merry Christmas to me. I got a gift there.' "
— Joey Logano, who grabbed his third Cup win of the season in Saturday night's Playoff race at Bristol

Joey Logano in Victory Lane Saturday night at Bristol.
CHRIS GRAYTHEN/ GETTY

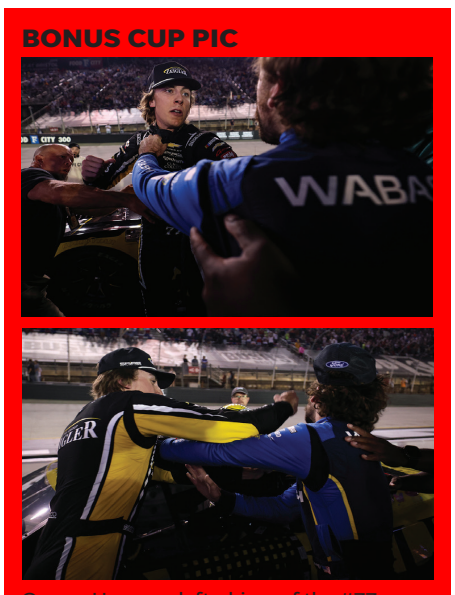
2026 CUP SCHEDULE & WINNERS

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. Saurez**)
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, 7:30 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 (C. Elliott)
OCT. 4, 5:30 PM, USA: South Point 400 at LAS VEGAS (D. Hamlin)
OCT. 11, 3 PM, USA: BofA ROVAL 400 at CHARLOTTE (S. v. Gisbergen)
PLAYOFFS ROUND OF 8
OCT. 18, 3 PM, USA: Freeway Insurance 500 at PHOENIX (New)
OCT. 25, 2 PM, NBC: YellaWood 500 at TALLADEGA (C. Briscoe)
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*

BONUS CUP PIC



Carson Hocevar, left, driver of the #77 Zeigler Auto Group Chevrolet, and Ryan Blaney, driver of the #12 WABASH Ford, get into an altercation after Saturday's Bass Pro Shops Night Race at Bristol Motor Speedway.
C. Graythen/Getty

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