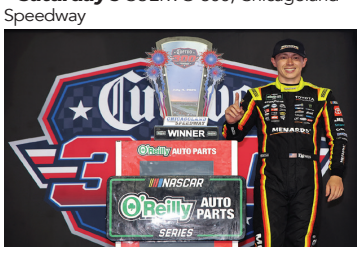
RACING THIS WEEK

O'REILLY BURNOUT ALERT! Brandon Jones celebrates after winning Saturday's Cuervo 300 at Chicagoland Speedway. **J. Bachman/Getty**

O'REILLY RECAP

• **Saturday's** CUERVO 300, Chicagoland Speedway



WINNER: BRANDON JONES

Stealing the lead from Chase Elliott on the final restart, Brandon Jones celebrated NASCAR's return to Chicagoland Speedway with a dramatic victory in Saturday night's rain-delayed Cuervo 300.

In the first O'Reilly Auto Parts Series race to require overtime this season, Jones' No. 20 Joe Gibbs Racing Toyota stayed side-by-side with Elliott's No. 88 JR Motorsports Chevrolet through the first two corners on the decisive Lap 200 restart.

Jones took control in Turn 3 on the white-flag lap. Elliott made a determined run at the top of the track on the final circuit, but Jones blocked the lane and crossed the finish line 0.171 seconds ahead of the 2020 NASCAR Cup Series champion.

"It's been an up-and-down year," Jones said after climbing from his car. "We had some success early on. We've been in a little rut the last couple weeks, so it's just nice to do it like we did today. We had to earn that one."

The victory was Jones' first at Chicagoland (which hosted its first race since 2019), his first of the season and the eighth of his career, and he achieved it by outrunning an elite Cup Series driver.

"I think it says a lot about how resilient we are and how hard we're working out there," Jones said. "Chase made it really difficult on me. He's one of the best in the sport. We were on old tires, and that was a blast, sliding around and dueling it out like that."

Elliott chose the top lane for the final restart and didn't get the push he needed from third-place finisher Jesse Love, the culprit being well-worn tires.

Austin Hill finished fifth behind Love and rookie Brent Crews.

For JGR teammates Crews and Taylor Gray, the race was productive in the battle for positions in the postseason. Gray led 55 laps and ended seventh in the race and 11th in the standings with a 52-point cushion above the current Chase cut line.

Crews is 12th, the final Chase-eligible position, with a 44-point margin over teammate William Sawalich, the first driver below the current cutoff.

But Sawalich was seething after contact from Crews' front bumper sent him spinning through the infield on Lap 165 of a planned 200 to cause the fifth of seven cautions. Sawalich finished 29th and faces a battle with only four races left before the Chase field is set.

Connor Zilisch started on the pole on metrics after a rain delay of more than four hours and led the first stage wire-to-wire, finishing 4.935 seconds ahead of second-place Love.

Under caution, however, Zilisch's No. 1 JR Motorsports Chevrolet ran out of fuel and had to be pushed to pit road. Zilisch restarted Stage 2 in 26th place and climbed to ninth by the end of the stage on Lap 90.

Zilisch's rotten luck continued after the break. He cut a tire after contact with the outside wall and started from the back once again, only to spin on Lap 156 and repeat the process. For a third time, he climbed through the field to finish 10th.

eero 400

In the closing laps of the 19th Cup Series race of the season, Chase Briscoe stayed off the charge of his determined Joe Gibbs Racing teammate, Christopher Bell, to win for the first time this season, the first time at Chicagoland and the sixth time in his career.

Chase Briscoe, driver of the #19 Bass Pro Shops Toyota, takes the checkered flag to win the Cup Series eero 400 at Chicagoland Speedway on Sunday. (Jonathan Bachman/Getty)

Briscoe earns Chicagoland win with determined run

JOLIET, Ill. — It was astute strategy that gave Chase Briscoe the lead in the final stage of Sunday's eero 400 at Chicagoland Speedway.

It was determination that kept him there in a triumphant return to the 1.5-mile speedway after a seven-year hiatus.

In the closing laps of the 19th Cup Series race of the season, Briscoe stayed off the charge of his equally determined Joe Gibbs Racing teammate, Christopher Bell, to win for the first time this season, the first time at Chicagoland and the sixth time in his career.

Bell's pursuit of Briscoe fell short when his No. 20 Toyota tightened up in dirty air on the final lap, allowing Briscoe to power his No. 19 Toyota across the finish line 0.276 seconds ahead of his teammate.

With pole winner Denny Hamlin running third, Joe Gibbs Racing fashioned a 1-2-3 finish for the eighth time in organization history, most recently this season at Nashville Superspeedway. Seven Toyotas finished in the top 10—a high-water mark for the manufacturer in a Cup Series race.

"I feel so American winning in the Bass Pro Shop's Red, White, and Blue car, 4th of July weekend, 250 years," an elated Briscoe said after climbing from his car. "Man, just what an unbelievable race car. (Crew chief) James (Small) did a great job. Team did a (great) job. Honestly did not see this coming.

"I kind of felt like I was struggling in practice, in qualifying, but James and the group did a great job. Man, just so cool to get this paint scheme back in Victory Lane."

In the fight for the win, lapped traffic helped Briscoe maintain his edge over Bell.

"I kind of got lucky having lapped cars," Briscoe said. "I was struggling pretty bad. Christopher was certainly coming. Out of all the people to race against, I knew Christopher was going to be clean with me.

"I thought that was about as good a race as you could get. The cat-and-mouse game, and we were slipping and sliding around. So excited to be back in Chicagoland. Hopefully we can be back."

Bell has led 417 laps this season but has posted four runner-up finishes. "Yeah, it was a great day," Bell said despite the obvious disappointment of finishing second. "First race with (sponsor) Saia. Yeah, Toyotas are fast. It seems like a monkey can drive them, so it's just disappointing when you get beat by another monkey...

"I'm just a second-place driver. That's what I am."

Fourth-place finisher William Byron held the lead, with Briscoe running second, when Briscoe steered his car to pit road for his final stop on Lap 215 of 267. Byron followed suit a lap later, but the driver of the No. 24 Chevrolet lost the lead in the exchange.

Briscoe held the top spot for the final 46 laps, as both Bell and Hamlin passed Byron for position in the closing laps.

The final stage ran caution-free from a restart on Lap 173—a far cry from the chaos of the first two stages.

The race was barely two corners old when a chain-reaction wreck sidelined star-crossed rookie Connor Zilisch. John Hunter Nemechek's Toyota forced the Chevrolet of Ricky Stenhouse Jr. into the outside wall as the cars gained speed through Turn 2 after taking the initial green flag.

Collected were the Ford of Ryan Preece and the Chevrolet of Zilisch, which nosed hard into the inside wall, damaging the Camaro beyond repair. For the fourth time in the last seven races, Zilisch was eliminated from an event in last place, in this case 38th.

Preece lost four laps as his car was towed for new tires, but he returned to action and eventually to the lead lap under a succession of cautions. He finished 32nd.

Kyle Larson's fast car suffered its own version of rotten luck. Running third on Lap 93, Larson's No. 5 Chevrolet spun sideways in Turn 4 behind Hendrick teammate William Byron. Larson's car slid into the infield grass and required a tow truck with a tether to pull it back to the pavement.

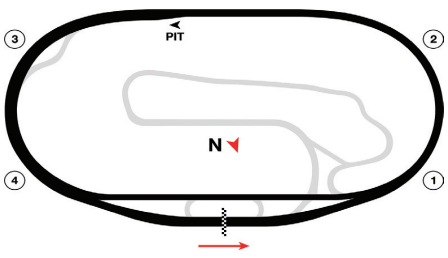
Larson lost two laps, dooming his chances to end a 42-race drought. The spin also made Larson, who finished 34th, the loser in his In-Season Challenge matchup against Byron, who led a race-high 94 laps before fading in the late going.

Tyler Reddick soon joined the parade of the unfortunate when an errant splitter stay from another car punched a hole in the radiator of the No. 45 Toyota, forcing a caution for fluid on the track on Lap 134. Reddick drove the car to the garage for a radiator change.

Having surrendered the series lead to 23XI Racing co-owner Hamlin last Sunday, Reddick lost 29 laps under repairs and fell 44 points behind Hamlin.

Alex Bowman ran fifth, his first top five result since finishing third at Texas in May. Bubba Wallace, Ryan Blaney, Ty Gibbs, Corey Heim and Riley Herbst completed the top 10.

NEXT: QUAKER STATE 400



EchoPark Speedway Atlanta
7 p.m. ET Sunday, TNT

• **Location:** Hampton, Georgia
• **Former names:** Atlanta International Raceway (1960-1990); Atlanta Motor Speedway (1990-2025)
• **Owner:** Speedway Motorsports (since 1990)
• **Opened:** July 1960
• **Capacity:** 71,000
• **Course:** Quad-oval
• **Length:** 1.540 mi (2.478 km)
• **Banking:** Turns, 28°; Straights, 5°
• **Cup race lap record:** 0:29.361, Josh Berry, Ford Mustang GT, 2024
• **Movie star:** The facility has been used for numerous films. It was first used for 1962's "Thundering Wheels," with driver Jack Smith featured. Since, it has been used for 1980's "Smokey and the Bandit," 1982's "Six Pack," and 1983's "Stroker Ace." The 2017 film "Logan Lucky" used the facility as a stand-in for Charlotte Motor Speedway.

Chase Elliott, driver of the #9 NAPA/Children's Chevrolet, celebrated in Victory Lane last year after winning at EchoPark Speedway. **(Getty)**

2026 CUP SERIES STANDINGS

Top 30 as of July 5

Rank/Driver	Points	Rank/Driver	Points
1 Denny Hamlin #11	764	16 Erik Jones #43	411
2 Tyler Reddick #45	720	17 Ryan Preece #60	407
3 Ryan Blaney #12	651	18 Joey Logano #22	395
4 Ty Gibbs #54	627	19 AJ Allmendinger #16	395
5 Chase Elliott #9	584	20 Brad Keselowski #6	392
6 Kyle Larson #5	583	21 Michael McDowell #71	377
7 Chris Buescher #17	541	22 Ross Chastain #1	375
8 Chase Briscoe #19	538	23 Zane Smith #38	349
9 Carson Hocevar #77	524	24 Riley Herbst #35	348
10 Christopher Bell #20	512	25 Todd Gilliland #34	335
11 Daniel Suárez #7	507	26 Ricky Stenhouse Jr #47	330
12 William Byron #24	499	27 John H. Nemechek #42	325
13 Bubba Wallace #23	484	28 Austin Dillon #3	293
14 Shane v Gisbergen #97	437	29 Alex Bowman #48	266
15 Austin Cindric #2	434	30 Noah Gragson #4	231

2026 O'REILLY AUTO PARTS STANDINGS

Top 20 as of July 4

Rank/Driver	Points	Rank/Driver	Points
1 Justin Allgaier #7	898	11 Taylor Gray #54	535
2 Jesse Love #2	703	12 Brent Crews #19	527
3 Corey Day #17	674	13 William Sawalich #18	483
4 Sheldon Creed #00	673	14 Rajah Caruth #32	479
5 Austin Hill #21	643	15 Ryan Sieg #39	452
6 Brandon Jones #20	633	16 Anthony Alfredo #96	391
7 Carson Kvapil #91	630	17 Brennan Poole #44	366
8 Sammy Smith #8	602	18 Dean Thompson #26	344
9 Parker Retzlaff #99	556	19 Jeremy Clements #51	325
10 Sam Mayer #41	549	20 Harrison Burton #24	316

NEXT RACE: FOCUSED HEALTH 250, EchoPark Speedway Atlanta, 7 p.m. ET Saturday, CW

2026 CRAFTSMAN TRUCK STANDINGS

Top 20 as of June 19

Rank/Driver	Points	Rank/Driver	Points
1 Layne Riggs #34	562	11 Grant Enfinger #9	278
2 Kaden Honeycutt #11	497	12 Corey Heim #1	274
3 Chandler Smith #38	434	13 Stewart Friesen #52	273
4 Gio Ruggiero #17	410	14 Brenden Queen #12	272
5 Christian Eckes #91	408	15 Justin Haley #16	261
6 Ty Majeski #88	353	16 A. Perez De Lara #44	250
7 Ben Rhodes #99	349	17 Tanner Gray #15	246
8 Daniel Hemric #19	313	18 Mini Tyrrell #14	201
9 Tyler Ankrum #18	301	19 Dawson Sutton #26	197
10 Jake Garcia #98	283	20 Cole Butcher #13	177

NEXT RACE: LiUNA 150, Lime Rock Park, Lakeville, CT, 1 p.m. ET Saturday, FS1

eero 400 WINNER QUOTE

"I feel so American winning in the Bass Pro Shop's Red, White, and Blue car, 4th of July weekend, 250 years. Man, just what an unbelievable race car. (Crew chief) James (Small) did a great job. Team did a (great) job. Honestly did not see this coming."
— Chase Briscoe, who grabbed his first win of the season Sunday at Chicagoland Speedway

Chase Briscoe and crew in Victory Lane Sunday at Chicagoland Speedway. 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 (C. Elliott)
JULY 19, 7 PM, TNT: Window World 400 at NORTH WILKESBORO (New)
JULY 26, 2 PM, TNT: Brickyard 400 at INDIANAPOLIS (B. Wallace)
AUG. 9, 3:30 PM, USA: Iowa Corn 350 at IOWA (W. Byron)
AUG. 15, 7 PM, USA: Cook Out 400 at RICHMOND (A. Dillon)
AUG. 23, 3 PM, USA: Cup Race at NEW HAMPSHIRE (R. Blaney-Playoffs)
AUG. 29, 7:30 PM, NBC: Coke Zero Sugar 400 at DAYTONA (R. Blaney)

PLAYOFFS ROUND OF 16
SEPT. 6, 5 PM, USA: Southern 500 at DARLINGTON (C. Briscoe)
SEPT. 13, 3 PM, USA: Enjoy Illinois 300 at WORLD WIDE TECH (D. Hamlin)
SEPT. 19, 7:30 PM, USA: Bass Pro Shops Night Race at BRISTOL (C. Bell)

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*

O'REILLY BONUS PIC

Brandon Jones, driver of the #20 Menards/MD Building Products Toyota, takes a bow in tribute to the late Kyle Busch after winning Saturday's Cuervo 300 at Chicagoland Speedway. **J. Gilbert/Getty**

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