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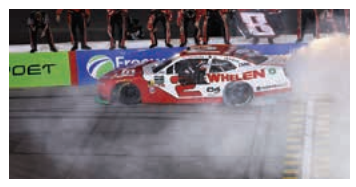
RACING THIS WEEK



O'REILLY BURNOUT ALERT! Jesse Love celebrates after winning Saturday's Timberland PRO 200 at Phoenix. **C. Graythen/Getty**

O'REILLY RECAP

• **Saturday's** TIMBERLAND PRO 200, Phoenix Raceway

WINNER: JESSE LOVE

Last November at Phoenix Raceway, Jesse Love won the O'Reilly Series championship.

On Saturday at the same one-mile track, he may have done it again with a victory in the Timberland PRO 200.

Unlike last year, however, there are three races left in the O'Reilly Series Chase, run under a new nine-race format this season. But with his second win at Phoenix, his second this season and the fifth of his career, Love established himself as the convincing frontrunner for the series title.

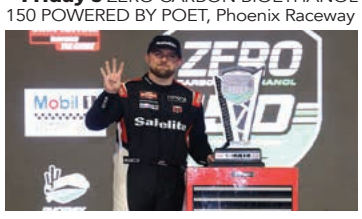
In a race that spelled disaster for former Chase leader Sheldon Creed, Love opened a 36-point lead over second-place Justin Allgaier, who finished third. Fourth-place finisher Corey Day is 39 points behind in third, with Creed falling to fourth in the standings, 59 points back, after finishing 32nd, two laps down.

The 21-year-old from Clovis, California, swept the first and second stages and led 156 of 200 laps, scoring 75 points for his efforts—one short of the maximum. The statistics, however, don't tell the story. Over the final 35-lap green-flag run, race runner-up Sam Mayer hounded the No. 2 Richard Childress Racing Chevrolet all the way to the finish line.

Sammy Smith finished fifth, followed by Brandon Jones. Dean Thompson, William Sawalich, Rajah Caruth and Carson Kvapil finished seventh through 10th, respectively.

TRUCKS RECAP

• **Friday's** ZERO CARBON BIOETHANOL 150 POWERED BY POET, Phoenix Raceway



WINNER: KADEN HONEYCUTT

At the track where Corey Heim secured the Truck Series title in the No. 11 TRICON Garage Toyota last year, Kaden Honeycutt took a giant step toward this season's championship in the same ride.

Taking control of the race in the third stage at Phoenix Raceway, thanks in no small part to a flawless effort from his pit crew, Honeycutt cruised to victory in Friday's Zero Carbon Bioethanol 150 Powered by POET and expanded his Chase lead to 39 points over second-place Layne Riggs, who finished third.

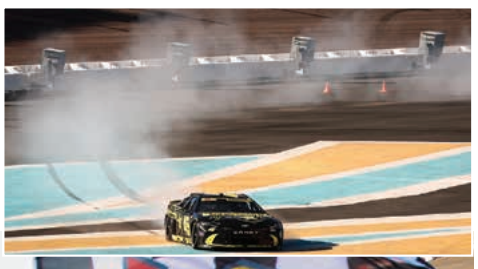
Honeycutt led a race-high 53 laps—all during the final green-flag run—and beat a frustrated Christian Eckes to the finish line by 1.556 seconds to record his first win at Phoenix and the fourth of his career, all this season.

Riggs passed Majeski for the third position on Lap 104 of 150 but that was as far as he could advance.

Seeking his first victory of the season, Eckes couldn't get close enough to Honeycutt to make a move during the final run.

Eckes climbed to third in the standings with the runner-up finish. Jake Garcia finished fifth, followed by William Sawalich, Daniel Hemric, Gio Ruggiero, Grant Enfinger and Brent Crews.

FREEWAY INSURANCE 500
Tyler Reddick's sixth win of the season and first at Phoenix Raceway, combined with Kyle Larson's 34th-place result, brought seven drivers into the mix for the series championship with three races left.



Tyler Reddick, driver of the #45 Rockstar Energy Drink Toyota, takes the checkered flag to win the Cup Series Freeway Insurance 500 at Phoenix Raceway on Sunday. (Chris Graythen/Getty)

Reddick puts the Chase field on notice at Phoenix

AVONDALE, Ariz. — After a phenomenal start to the 2026 season, followed by an agonizing dry spell, Tyler Reddick returned to Victory Lane on Sunday, and simultaneously did Cup Series leader Kyle Larson a significant favor.

Snookering the top contenders in the Chase presented by Mobil 1 after a restart on Lap 294, Reddick surged past Chase Briscoe into the lead a lap later and pulled away to beat runner-up Ryan Blaney by 0.801 seconds in the Freeway Insurance 500, as Briscoe faded to eighth on older tires.

Reddick's sixth win of the season and first at Phoenix Raceway, combined with Larson's catastrophic 34th-place result, brought seven drivers into the mix for the series championship with three races left.

The driver of the No. 45 23XI Racing Toyota won five of the first nine races this season, including the first three, but since then had a winless streak of 23 points races.

"That's way too long," a relieved Reddick said after performing a massive celebratory burnout in front of the main grandstand. "Man, the way we worked there, I mean, thinking of Phoenix, we wanted to be a lot better when we came back here (after the March race). I think we checked that box.

"For us, this group never lost motivation, never lost the drive to keep searching and keep trying to find ways to make ourselves better, just be an all-around better team... Just something about today, I had a really good feeling. Practice was amazing. Yeah, we're back to Victory Lane."

Before Sunday's race at the one-mile speedway, Larson led second-place Denny Hamlin by 49 points with four races left in the postseason. After Reddick won for the 14th time in his career, there are now six drivers within 56 points of the Chase leader.

Fourth-place finisher Christopher Bell climbed one spot in the standings and trails Larson by five points, having trimmed 46 points from his previous deficit to the driver of the No. 5 Hendrick Motorsports Chevrolet.

"We're right there in it," said Bell, who led a race-high 85 laps and finished third in each of the first two stages. "Really proud of our team. They've been doing a really good job of bringing fast race cars, executing races. We've been able to qualify well and run up front in stages.

"I felt like our performance probably tapered off a little bit as the day went on. We had the strategy to put tires there at the end, had good restarts to get some track position. We're in the hunt."

Briscoe is 24 points back in third place, followed by Hamlin, who fell from second to fourth but gained 18 points to 31 back, despite a blown tire that relegated him to 28th at the finish.

"The beginning was not great, and once we got back in traffic, I thought the second half of the race we were really strong," said Hamlin, who was trapped a lap down after pitting with a shredded tire on Lap 221 and incurring a speeding penalty.

Blaney, the pole winner, is 40 points in arrears, followed by Team Penske teammate Joey Logano, who swept the first two stages of Sunday's race and is 44 points behind Larson after a sixth-place run.

"It was good and bad, I guess," said Logano, who led 84 laps but lost track position on pit road. "The good part is that we were fast and led a bunch of laps and won two stages. The bad part is we gave away a win."

After qualifying 22nd Larson struggled from the outset in a car that lacked speed. Despite a two-tire call that vaulted him temporarily to fifth, Larson remained 22nd at the end of Stage 1. From that point, his race went from bad to worse.

On Lap 283 Larson blew a tire in Turn 1, slammed the outside wall and retired from the event, scoring just three points for his efforts, compared with Reddick, who notched 61.

"We never found the improvements we needed, so that was a bummer," Larson said. "I didn't expect to be good, but I didn't expect to be that bad either. It wasn't a lot of fun today, but we were just trying to salvage what we could of the day.

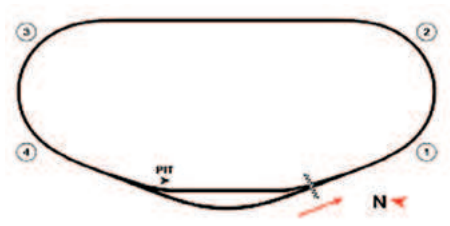
"We'll go to Talladega and try to forget about today and get back after it. We've done well at the superspeedways, so hopefully we can execute, get some points and keep ourselves in the hunt."

The saving grace for Larson was that Reddick's win kept him in the series lead. Either Bell, Briscoe or Hamlin could have taken the top spot with a victory.

Larson's teammate, Chase Elliott finished third but remains 149 points out of the Chase lead. Reddick's teammate, Bubba Wallace, led 52 laps and had control of the race in the final stage before a pit road speeding penalty under caution for Larson's accident knocked him back to 17th at the finish.

Corey Heim came home fifth, followed by Logano, Daniel Suarez, Briscoe, Ross Chastain and Ty Gibbs.

CUP PLAYOFFS: 8TH RACE
YELLAWOOD 500



Talladega Superspeedway
2 p.m. ET Sunday, NBC

• Talladega Superspeedway is on Speedway Boulevard in Talladega, Ala., parallel to I-20. The track is 40 miles east of Birmingham, Ala. at Exit 168, and 95 miles west of Atlanta, at Exit 173.

• Built in 1969, Talladega's property now covers about 3,000 acres, including the track site and parking areas. The infield area is 247 acres.

Capacity: 80,000

Owner: NASCAR (2019-present); International Speedway Corporation (1969-2019)

Length: 2.66 miles

Surface: Asphalt

Track type: Tri-oval

Banking: Turns, 33°; Tri-oval, 16.5°; Straights, 2°

Cup race lap record: 0:46.530 (Parker Kligerman, Toyota Camry, 2019)

Chase Briscoe chased down a Championship 4 spot in last year's Yellawood 500 Chase race at Talladega. GETTY IMAGES

2026 CUP SERIES STANDINGS

*Top 30 w/ **Playoff 16** as of Oct. 18*

Rank/Driver	Points	Rank/Driver	Points
1 Kyle Larson #5	2370	16 Ryan Preece #60	2159
2 Christopher Bell #20	2365	17 Shane v Gisbergen #97	729
3 Chase Briscoe #19	2346	18 Brad Keselowski #6	683
4 Denny Hamlin #11	2339	19 Ross Chastain #1	673
5 Ryan Blaney #12	2330	20 Michael McDowell #71	616
6 Joey Logano #22	2326	21 Erik Jones #43	607
7 Tyler Reddick #45	2314	22 Josh Berry #21	584
8 Austin Cindric #2	2240	23 Todd Gilliland #34	582
9 Ty Gibbs #54	2238	24 AJ Allmendinger #16	574
10 Chase Elliott #9	2221	25 Austin Dillon #3	540
11 Carson Hocevar #77	2212	26 Zane Smith #38	523
12 Bubba Wallace #23	2208	27 Alex Bowman #48	512
13 Daniel Suárez #7	2182	28 J. H. Nemechek #42	503
14 William Byron #24	2180	29 Ricky Stenhouse Jr #47	481
15 Chris Buescher #17	2166	30 Riley Herbst #35	470

2026 O'REILLY AUTO PARTS STANDINGS

*Top 20 w/ **Playoff 12** as of Oct. 17*

Rank/Driver	Points	Rank/Driver	Points
1 Jesse Love #2	2367	11 Brandon Jones #20	2184
2 Justin Allgaier #7	2331	12 Rajah Caruth #88	2154
3 Corey Day #17	2328	13 Brent Crews #19	792
4 Sheldon Creed #00	2308	14 William Sawalich #18	766
5 Carson Kvapil #1	2288	15 Ryan Sieg #39	684
6 Sam Mayer #41	2281	16 Anthony Alfredo #96	655
7 Sammy Smith #8	2230	17 Dean Thompson #26	582
8 Taylor Gray #54	2226	18 Brennan Poole #44	564
9 Austin Hill #21	2224	19 Jeremy Clements #51	529
10 Parker Retzlaff #99	2194	20 Harrison Burton #24	515

NEXT RACE: THE PROGRESS GROUP 250, Talladega Superspeedway, 3:30 p.m. ET Saturday, CW

2026 CRAFTSMAN TRUCK STANDINGS

*Top 20 w/ **Playoff 10** as of Oct. 16*

Rank/Driver	Points	Rank/Driver	Points
1 Kad. Honeycutt #11	2323	11 Jake Garcia #98	548
2 Layne Riggs #34	2284	12 Stewart Friesen #52	485
3 Christian Eckes #91	2211	13 Justin Haley #16	456
4 Chandler Smith #38	2206	14 A. Perez De Lara #44	442
5 Ty Majeski #88	2188	15 Brenden Queen #12	441
6 Daniel Hemric #19	2175	16 Tanner Gray #15	440
7 Gio Ruggiero #17	2172	17 Corey Heim #5	346
8 Grant Enfinger #9	2139	18 Dawson Sutton #27	343
9 Ben Rhodes #99	2135	19 Cole Butcher #13	340
10 Tyler Ankrum #18	2122	20 Corey LaJoie #10	315

NEXT RACE: LOVE'S RV STOP 225, Talladega Superspeedway, 4 p.m. ET Friday, FS1

PHOENIX WINNER QUOTE

"For us, this group never lost motivation, never lost the drive to keep searching and keep trying to find ways to make ourselves better, just be an all-around better team… Just something about today, I had a really good feeling. Practice was amazing. Yeah, we're back to Victory Lane."
— Tyler Reddick, who grabbed a big Chase win Sunday at Phoenix

Tyler Reddick in Victory Lane Sunday at Phoenix Raceway.
MEG OLIPHANT/ GETTY

BONUS O'REILLY PIC

Jesse Love, driver of the #2 Whelen Chevrolet, celebrates topside after winning Saturday's Timberland PRO 200 at Phoenix Raceway.
M. Oliphant/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 (**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 (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*

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