



Kyle Larson steals Xfinity win at Watkins Glen



By **Michael Manny**

Aug 20, 2022



Photo courtesy of Sean Gardner | Getty Images

William Byron and Ty Gibbs dueled all day, and looked like they had the best cars in the field. But after the two made contact and spun with five to go, Kyle Larson took advantage and held off AJ Allmendinger to win the Sunoco Go Rewards 200 at Watkins Glen International.

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Ty Gibbs loses it and takes William Byron with him!

The leaders are out of it as Kyle Larson takes the lead.
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It's Larson's first road course win in the NASCAR Xfinity Series and 13th overall.

And he did it in a car he said he didn't think was capable of winning.

"I think my only shot really, was, the 54 and 17, William and Ty got racing," Larson said to NBC Sports' Parker Kligerman after the race. "I just wanted to help William down the frontstretch as much as I could, and they got battling up the esses. I tried to help him get clear to the bus stop and they raced side-by-side into there and got together, and the seas parted and I was able to get through."

Up to their spin, Byron and Gibbs had been able to avoid calamity all afternoon in a race that featured eight cautions, tied for the most ever in an Xfinity race at Watkins Glen.

Byron, driving Hendrick Motorsports' No. 17 car, started the race on pole, thanks to a qualifying lap that set a track record. He went on the lead 36 of 82 laps, with Gibbs leading the second-most with 25.

Byron went on to lead the first eight laps, with him and Gibbs trading the lead back and forth for the next several times around.

It did not take long for said calamity to unfold. Just five laps into the race, JR Motorsports No. 7 driver Justin Allgaier spun and hit the wall in the esses, prematurely ending his day.

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Justin Allgaier crashes EARLY!

The driver of the JR Motorsports No. 7 car loses it in the esses and his day is done. [#NASCAR](#)

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The wreck comes with substantial regular season title implications for Allgaier, who was sitting second in the points standings coming into the race. The result dropped Allgaier behind Gibbs into third.

Soon after the race restarted, Snider and Jeb Burton spun, though the race remained green. It was the beginning of a tough day for both drivers.

On Lap 15, another caution came out, this time for Patrick Gallagher stalling out. Several drivers pitted, but Allmendinger stayed out, looking to earn stage points.

Instead, 18-year-old Sammy Smith beat out the veteran to win Stage 1. The Joe Gibbs Racing driver finished third in only his fourth-career Xfinity start.

Smith and Byron led the field into Turn 1 on the Stage 2 restart, which stayed as eventful as the first 20 laps.

Larson took the lead from Smith on lap 24. It was the first of just seven laps led by Larson the entire race. Byron quickly seized it back, leading all but one of the next 27 laps.

Though the amount of cautions tied a record, multiple drivers spun out and were able to continue without the yellow flag coming out. Near the end of Stage 2, both SS Green Light's Cole Custer and JGR's Brandon Jones spun out in near succession.

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The aggression is ramping up at @WGI. #NASCAR

Both Cole Custer and Brandon Jones went for a spin near the end of Stage 2.

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Custer was one of four full-time Cup drivers in the field.

Byron held onto the top spot to win Stage 2.

As green flag pit stops were taking place in Stage 3, Byron and Gibbs continued to battle. Though their battle was for 14th place at the time, they quickly cycled back up to the lead.

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WHAT A BATTLE!

@TyGibbs_ holds off @WilliamByron for now! #NASCAR

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Gibbs held the lead for the first time since early in the race starting Lap 60, but much of the 18 laps spent up front were run under the yellow flag.

Late in the final stage, the race was under caution for over 20 minutes after defending series champion Daniel Hemric slammed into the tire barrier. The restart was then delayed further due to the No. 31 car of Myatt Snider leaking fluid around the track.


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Big trouble for Daniel Hemric.

The defending NASCAR Xfinity Series champion stuffs it right into the tire barrier. [#NASCAR](#)

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With eight to go, Chastain spun into the gravel and got stuck, setting up a final restart.

Byron and Gibbs drove into Turn 1 on the final restart side-by-side, racing two-wide in the carousel before Gibbs got loose and spun, taking Byron with him.

The accident opened the door to Larson, who held off Allmendinger for the win.

Byron and Gibbs went on to finish 25th and 27th respectively.

With four races now left in the regular season, Allmendinger is now 61 points ahead of Gibbs in the regular season title race. Allgaier has dropped to third, 70 points behind.

The Xfinity Series next heads to Daytona International Speedway for the Wawa 250 Powered by Coca-Cola, Friday, Aug. 26 at 7:30 p.m. ET. Coverage will be on USA Network, Motor Racing Network and SiriusXM NASCAR Radio.

NOTE: Post-race inspection in the Xfinity Series garage is complete. There were no issues, confirming Kyle Larson as the winner. The No. 16 had one lug nut not safe and secure.

Results:

NASCAR Xfinity Series Race Number 22
 Race Results for the Sunoco Go Rewards 200 - Saturday, August 20, 2022
 Watkins Glen International - Watkins Glen, NY - 2.43 - Mile Road
 Total Race Length - 82 Laps - 200 Miles



Fin.	Stn.	Car	Driver	Team	Laps	Stage 1 Pos.	Stage 2 Pos.	Qts.	Status	Time	Laps	Playoff Pos.
1	1	14	Kyle Larson	HendrickCars.com Chevrolet	82	5	5	3	Running	1:17.7	1	1
2	3	14	A.J. Allmendinger	Nation Auto Services Chevrolet	82	2	1	10	Running	1:18.2	2	2
3	15	14	Justin Allgaier	Ford/Toyota Toyota	82	1	1	4	Running	1:18.3	3	3
4	16	9	Noah Gragson	Race Pro Sports/Toyota Engines/BIGC Chevrolet	82	3	3	10	Running	1:18.4	4	4
5	11	48	Josh Berry	Roadstar/Goodyear/Big Machine Chevrolet	82	4	4	1	Running	1:18.5	5	5
6	7	1	Sam Mayer	Academy/Goodyear/Toyota Chevrolet	82	6	6	2	Running	1:18.6	6	6
7	8	98	Riley Herbst	Marlin Energy Ford	82	7	7	2	Running	1:18.7	7	7
8	13	2	Sheldon Creed #	Marlin Chevrolet	82	8	8	2	Running	1:18.8	8	8
9	12	9	Josh Berry	The Pro Summer-to-Winter Chevrolet	82	9	9	2	Running	1:18.9	9	9
10	22	37	Jeffrey Cohen	Race Motors Chevrolet Chevrolet	82	4	4	2	Running	1:19.0	10	10
11	3	37	Cole Custer	Rocked Up Energy/Goodyear Ford	82	10	10	1	Running	1:19.1	11	11
12	25	44	Stefan Parsons	Rally Motors Chevrolet	82	11	11	1	Running	1:19.2	12	12
13	14	38	Ryan Sieg	A-Camp Ford	82	12	12	1	Running	1:19.3	13	13
14	26	88	Ty Gibbs	K/Toolbox/Goodyear Chevrolet	82	13	13	1	Running	1:19.4	14	14
15	13	28	Connor Owens	Red Bull Sports	82	14	14	1	Running	1:19.5	15	15
16	20	18	Landon Cassill	Comcast Chevrolet	82	15	15	2	Running	1:19.6	16	16
17	21	45	Justin Haley	Signature/Goodyear	82	16	16	1	Running	1:19.7	17	17
18	23	21	Anthony Alfredo	South West Toyota Chevrolet	82	17	17	1	Running	1:19.8	18	18
19	24	33	Bradley Jones	Palms Ford	82	18	18	1	Running	1:19.9	19	19
20	27	25	Brad Keselowski	PFSA Toyota	82	19	19	1	Running	1:20.0	20	20
21	27	91	Freddie Kowz	Goodyear/Goodyear/Goodyear Chevrolet	82	20	20	1	Running	1:20.1	21	21
22	28	78	Scott McLaughlin	Marlin/Goodyear Chevrolet	82	21	21	1	Running	1:20.2	22	22
23	15	18	Brandon Jones	Marlin/Goodyear/Goodyear Toyota	82	22	22	1	Running	1:20.3	23	23
24	1	17	William Byron	HendrickCars.com Chevrolet	82	1	1	1	Running	1:20.4	24	24
25	22	4	Ryder Zetter	Hydra Chevrolet	82	23	23	1	Running	1:20.5	25	25
26	2	35	Ty Gibbs	Cole Custer Sports	82	24	24	1	Running	1:20.6	26	26
27	16	50	Ross Chastain	Proton Race Motors Chevrolet	82	25	25	1	Running	1:20.7	27	27
28	18	87	Blaine Perkins	Goodyear Ford Chevrolet	82	26	26	1	Running	1:20.8	28	28
29	8	27	Austin Hill #	Red Bull/Toyota/Goodyear/Goodyear Chevrolet	73	1	1	1	Running	1:20.9	29	29
30	6	31	Daniel Hemric	RFK - Adkins/Goodyear Chevrolet	82	27	27	1	Running	1:21.0	30	30
31	36	5	Brandon Brown	B.J. McLeod/Motorsports Chevrolet	71	1	1	1	Retired	1:21.1	31	31
32	29	31	Matt Snider	Signature/Signature/Goodyear Chevrolet	80	1	1	1	Running	1:21.2	32	32
33	24	88	Ty Gibbs	Fluoroblenk/Goodyear Chevrolet	80	1	1	1	Running	1:21.3	33	33
34	19	38	Alex Labbe	Lava/Infrared/Goodyear Chevrolet	80	1	1	1	Running	1:21.4	34	34
35	24	18	Patrick Donohue	Goodyear Ford	14	1	1	1	Running	1:21.5	35	35
36	38	27	Jeb Burton	Signature/Toyota/Goodyear Chevrolet	8	1	1	1	Running	1:21.6	36	36
37	30	7	Justin Hightower	RAMCO Chevrolet	8	1	1	1	Running	1:21.7	37	37

View of Race: 2 Hrs, 30 Min, 11 Sec. Average Speed: 113.07 MPH. Margin of Victory: 0.171 Seconds
 Race 1 Time 1:55:16.44 (1:54:45.11, 1:54:04.00)
 Race 2 Time 1:11:04.15 (1:10:33.0, 1:10:02.0)

Driver points report:

Points Report
 Watkins Glen International
 Sunoco Go Rewards 200

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Rank	Driver	Car	Starts	CL	Points	Lea	Net	Race Wins	Stage Wins	Playoff Pos
1.	A.J. Allmendinger	14	22	0	687	0	0	3	2	17
2.	Ty Gibbs	54	22	1	626	-81	81	5	3	28
3.	Justin Allgaier	7	22	-1	617	-70	0	3	6	21
4.	Noah Gragson	9	22	0	588	-89	29	3	10	28
5.	Josh Berry	8	22	0	585	-118	19	2	6	18
6.	Austin Hill #	21	22	0	671	-218	88	2	1	11
7.	Brandon Jones	19	22	0	641	-240	34	1	1	8
8.	Riley Herbst	98	22	0	673	-274	34	0	0	8
9.	Sam Mayer	1	22	0	638	-275	4	0	2	2
10.	Daniel Hemric	11	22	0	551	-326	58	0	2	2
11.	Landon Cassill	10	22	0	524	-353	17	0	0	8
12.	Ryan Sieg	38	22	0	523	-384	11	0	1	1
13.	Sheldon Creed #	2	22	0	484	-483	20	0	0	8
14.	Anthony Alfredo	22	22	0	443	-444	41	0	0	8
15.	Brandon Brown	5	22	0	417	-470	26	0	0	8
16.	Bevil Maritz		20	0	383	-484	34	0	0	8
17.	Jeremie Clements	54	22	2	383	-524	20	0	0	8
18.	Matt Snider	31	22	0	347	-540	10	0	1	1
19.	Jeb Burton	27	22	-2	338	-543	2	0	0	8
20.	Alex Labbe	38	20	0	327	-580	15	0	0	8
21.	Benley Cutler	4	22	0	279	-605	45	0	0	8
22.	Trevor Bayne		8	0	241	-638	38	0	2	8
23.	J. Yelley		19	0	241	-638	0	0	0	8
24.	Kyle Weatherman	34	18	1	238	-649	3	0	0	8
25.	Drew Herring		10	-1	221	-665	17	0	0	8

Author



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