Firecracker

NASCAR made sure legend Richard Petty won the 1984 Pepsi 400 at Daytona, his 200th career victory, with President Ronald Reagan in attendance.

Heading into that year’s Pepsi 400 at Daytona, Petty, known simply as The King, needed just one more victory to reach No. 200 in his legendary career. It just so happened that Ronald Reagan was at the race, the first sitting president ever to attend a NASCAR race, and Petty had done some campaigning for Reagan in North Carolina. Pretty good storyline, right? And the way it ended — fellow legend Cale Yarbrough pulled into pit road too early, reportedly thinking the race was over, which let Petty grab the lead and the win — just fueled the conspiracy talk. All parties involved had denied anything untoward happened, but that rarely has stopped a rumor mill from spinning (especially when it comes to NASCAR).