

Sports

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SECTION B

NASCAR CUP SERIES

MORE CHAOS



BUTCH DILL, ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ricky Stenhouse Jr. celebrates in victory lane after winning a NASCAR Cup Series auto race at Talladega Superspeedway on Sunday in Talladega, Ala.

Stenhouse snaps 65-race winless streak after late crash at Talladega

JENNA FRYER
Associated Press

TALLADEGA, Ala. — A 27-car crash that involved eight of the NASCAR Cup Series' 12 title contenders. A chaotic cleanup that infuriated competitors. And a surprise winner.

Just a regular race at Talladega Superspeedway.

Ricky Stenhouse Jr. snapped a 65-race winless streak by winning in overtime at Talladega on Sunday after a late crash collected more than half the field. Stenhouse is not in the playoffs and his victory marked the second consecutive week a driver not competing for the Cup Series title has won.

"It's so tough to win these races. It's so tough to miss the wrecks," Stenhouse said. "These races are just chaos when it comes down to the end."

The victory was the first for Stenhouse and his JTG Daugherty Racing team since he won the season-opening Daytona 500 to

start 2023. He's the 18th different Cup Series winner this year.

"It felt really good. This team has put a lot of hard work in. Obviously, we haven't won since the 500 in '23. It's been an up-and-down season," Stenhouse said. "We knew that this track is one of ours to come get."

Stenhouse's first career victory came at Talladega in 2017 and his four career Cup Series victories have come at either the Alabama superspeedway or Daytona International Speedway.

Stenhouse won in a three-wide finish between Brad Keselowski and William Byron, who with his third-place finish became the only driver locked into the third round of the playoffs.

Four drivers will be eliminated from the playoffs next Sunday on the hybrid road course/oval at Charlotte Motor Speedway.

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ACC BASKETBALL

N. Carolina relocates intrasquad scrimmage

AARON BEARD
Associated Press

CHAPEL HILL — North Carolina has relocated its planned intrasquad scrimmage in western North Carolina due to damage from Hurricane Helene in that region and will instead hold it at home.

The school had scheduled its Blue-White scrimmage for Oct. 13 at the Harrah's Resort in Cherokee, located in the state's westernmost county. The Tar Heels were then set to travel to Memphis to play an exhibition game two days later, benefitting St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. But the region has been devastated after the Category 4 storm, which flooded out roads and whole communities as it rolled north through the Carolinas, Georgia and eastern Tennessee. Officials reported 200 dead from the storm as of Thursday.

UNC said Friday the decision was mutual between the school and organizers. The scrimmage is now Oct. 12, with ticket proceeds going to hurricane relief to join a list of aid efforts from college and professional sports organizations.

"Our No. 1 concern is the safety and wellbeing of the thousands of people who are affected by the storm and we didn't want to add to their challenges by trying to play a basketball game in Cherokee at this time," UNC coach Hubert Davis said in a statement.

"We had some discussions about keeping the date to help restore some normalcy, but there is nothing normal about the tragic circumstances people in the area are facing every day. We plan to bring our team to Harrah's and Cherokee another time when the conditions are right."

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

AP Top 25 shaken up after upsets

JOSH DUBOW
Associated Press

Vanderbilt's stunning upset of No. 1 Alabama that led to crazed fans marching the goal posts through the streets of Nashville was just the appetizer.

Saturday proved to be one of the wildest days in the Associated Press college football poll in years.

Four teams ranked in the top 11 in the latest poll were upset by unranked teams, the first time that happened on a single day since Nov. 12, 2016, when five teams did it, according to Sportradar.

What looked on paper to be a calm day — with only one matchup between ranked teams — turned out to be anything but predictable, with No. 1 Alabama, No. 4 Tennessee, No. 10 Michigan and No. 11 Southern California all losing to unranked teams. One other top-10 team lost Saturday, with No. 9 Missouri getting blown out 41-10 at No. 25 Texas A&M.

No. 8 Miami rallied to avoid falling, too, escaping with a 39-38 victory at unranked California. The Hurricanes overcame a 25-point deficit in the second half, taking the lead with 35 seconds left in the game that ended near midnight on the West Coast.

This marked the first time that two SEC teams ranked in the top five lost to unranked conference opponents on the same day and was the fifth time in the past 20 years that at least five teams ranked in the top 11 lost on the same day.

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NFL

Williams, Moore lead way in Bears' rout of Panthers

ANDREW SELIGMAN
Associated Press

CHICAGO — Caleb Williams found D.J. Moore wide open on a crossing pattern early in the game for a 34-yard touchdown. From there, just about everything else looked easy, too.

Williams threw for 304 yards and two touchdowns in his best performance to date, Moore caught both scoring passes and had 105 yards receiving against his former team, and the Chicago Bears beat the Carolina Panthers 36-10 on Sunday.

The Bears won their second straight after dropping two in a row, with the two key pieces they acquired as a result of a blockbuster trade with Carolina in 2023 leading the way.

Chicago also got a big performance for the second straight week from D'Andre Swift. He had 120 yards from scrimmage and a TD.

"That's definitely how we want to play," Williams said.



NAM Y. HUH, ASSOCIATED PRESS

Carolina Panthers quarterback Andy Dalton (14) is sacked by the Chicago Bears during the first half of an NFL football game on Sunday in Chicago.

"Definitely what we envisioned as an offense and as a team. We've got to keep doing it."

Williams picked apart a banged-up defense that ranks among the NFL's worst. The No. 1 overall draft pick com-

pleted 20 of 29 passes with no interceptions and a 126.2 rating that was his best.

"He's just learning and growing and you can see that in these games that we've had," coach Matt Eberflus said. "He knows that. So, he's just got to

level up, keep leveling up and every time we've challenged him, he's done that ever since the summer."

Panthers coach Dave Canales was impressed.

"I just thought he did a fantastic job extending plays," he said. "We had him dead to rights a couple times. He wiggled out of great rushes, great pressure on him. We had things covered, live looking at it, and he extended the play and found completions."

Williams might have been playing for the Panthers if not for that trade in 2023. Carolina sent Moore and the No. 9 overall pick to Chicago for the top selection in the draft that year. The Bears also got the Panthers' 2024 first-rounder that wound up being the first overall pick as part of that deal, and they took the 2022 Heisman Trophy winner out of Southern California.

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