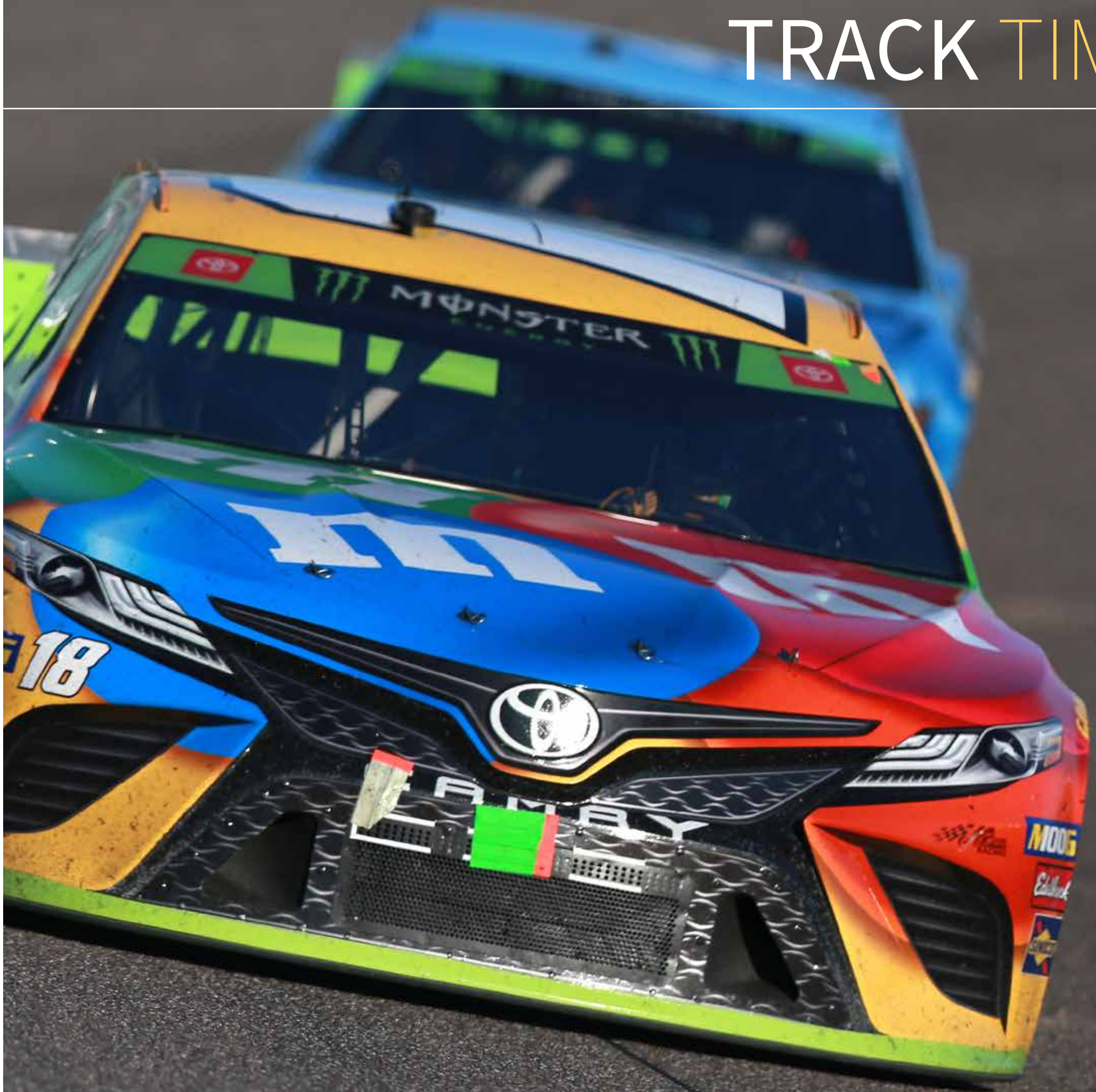


# TRACK TIME







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# 2020 NASCAR Rule Updates

The year 2019 included NASCAR rule changes that were created to enhance the competition on the track.

Regulations including aerodynamic enhancements and engine modifications allowed drivers to maintain better control of their vehicles, resulting in more side-by-side action.

However, the rule updates for 2020 focus on a separate area for racers and their teams — cutting costs.

Don't be disappointed about the lack of performance allowances for this year's circuit. Next year, the

Daytona 500 is expected to be the debut race for Next-Gen NASCAR racers. While OEMs are still working on the physical appearance of these unprecedented vehicles, Car and Driver suggests they will feature larger hood vents, beefier wheels and higher performing brakes.

Time will tell how the new rides will change the racing world but while you wait, check out these upcoming rule changes for 2020.

## CHASSIS REGULATIONS

Previously, NASCAR teams had no limitations to the number of active chassis allowed per car number. However, this year, regulations

demand that only 12 certified units are designated as active. Also, teams are held to only 10 unique designs per organization.

Active equipment can only be deemed decertified or retired after it has been used in three races or suffers a crash leaving it irreparable.

## LIMITS FOR WIND TUNNEL TESTING

Stock car teams use wind testing to study their vehicles for aerodynamic qualities. Scientists study hot rods by blasting air at a stationary car rather than driving them at ultra-high speeds.

Practicing these simulations allows

teams to adjust their automobiles to adjust spoiler angles, car shapes and determine the placement of air inlets.

This year, NASCAR is holding teams to only 150 hours of testing. In previous seasons, the study of wind tunnel performance was unlimited.

## ROSTER UPDATES

Another new 2020 rule cuts at-track rosters from 12 to 10. Teams must adjust their staff of engineers, mechanics, crew chiefs and spotters.

Additionally, each organization with at least two cars is capped at three members at the organizational level. Before this year, four were allowed.



# Potential Racer Milestones

The 2020 Cup Series will kick off on February 17 with the 62nd annual Daytona 500. This season will introduce many possible milestones for some of the sport's most famous racers.

When viewing the 36-race circuit, cheer on your favorite drivers as they set out to complete impressive racing accomplishments.

## KYLE BUSCH

The defending champion will look to obtain milestones in all three of NASCAR's national series. He's four Cup wins from 60, four Xfinity Series wins from 100 and four Truck Series wins from 60.

NBC Sports reports Busch plans to step away from the Xfinity Series after his 100th win unless car owner Joe Gibbs requires a backup driver.

The accomplished driver is ranked seventh on the all-time win lists, and by coming in first once this year, he will achieve 16 consecutive seasons with a first-place finish.

## DENNY HAMLIN

Hamlin aims to be the first racer with consecutive Daytona 500 wins since Sterling Marlin completed it during the 1994 and 1995 seasons. The number 11 driver grabbed six wins in 2019 and only needs three



Kyle Busch

© NASCAR

more to achieve an impressive 40 Cup Series wins.

## KURT BUSCH

Barring any unforeseen circumstances, Kurt Busch is slated to start his 700th Cup Series starts on June 14 at Sonoma Raceway. The racer began his illustrious career in 2000 and

became the champion of the Cup in 2004.

## MARTIN TRUEX JR.

The champion of the 2017 Cup Series can potentially achieve 30 career wins this year. As of now, he holds 26. The significance of 30 wins may be the prelude to featuring

Truex in an upcoming Hall of Fame class, as all eligible retired racers of the same stature have been inducted.

## KEVIN HARVICK

Harvick is only one win away from his 50th career first-place finish. The 2014 Cup champion is tied for 11th on the all-time

win list and he's tied with team owner Tony Stewart. His impressive career has led to 1,151 career starts across the NASCAR three national series.

He needs 34 starts this season to tie with Richard Petty for the place of second-all time. Joe Nemechek holds the top spot with 1,188.



# Rookie of the Year Candidates

The stage is set for the hottest upcoming racers in NASCAR to compete in the league's major Cup Series.

Potential candidates for the 2020 Rookie of the Year are coming off impressive showcases during the circuit's Xfinity Series. Here are some of the biggest names to keep an eye on once the Cup races begin.

## TYLER REDDICK

Reddick can be seen commanding the No. 8 car, Richard Childress Racing Chevrolet. He is coming off back-to-back Xfinity Series championships. This significant accomplishment is more impressive as he took first place for JR Motorsports in 2018, making him the first racer to win the series with two different teams.

During his time in the Xfinity Series, Reddick took the checkered flag with nine career wins and won first place when racing in the Gander RV & Outdoors Truck Series. The rookie racer will replace Daniel Hemric, who will not be returning in 2020.

## CHRISTOPHER BELL

The No. 95 Toyota driver for Leavine Family Racing was a Sunoco Rookie of the Year Contender. Christopher Bell spent the last two years competing in the Xfinity Series



Bell

© NASCAR



Nemechek

© NASCAR

and achieved 16 total wins with Joe Gibbs Racing. During his time in the Truck Series, Bell obtained an impressive seven wins.

Bell will be bringing his Xfinity Series crew chief, Jason Ratliff, along for his jump to the major circuit. The familiarity with Ratliff should help the rookie adjust to the

new competition level in the Cup Series and push for a winning season.

## JOHN HUNTER NEMECHEK

John Hunter is the son of former Xfinity Series champion Joe Nemechek. He drove the No. 23 Chevrolet for GMS Racing in 2019. During his



Custer

© NASCAR



Reddick

© NASCAR

2018 series, he gained one victory while achieving 11, top-10 finishes in his 18 starts.

Nemechek also had six career wins during the Gander RV & Outdoors Trucks Series and qualified for the playoffs twice. This year, he will drive the No. 38 Ford for Front Row Motorsports for

the 2020 Cup Series.

## COLE CUSTER

Cole Custer is coming off nine Xfinity Series wins and placed in the Championship Four twice. He also earned two victories in the Truck Series. For his 2020 rookie year, he will be driving the No. 41 Ford for Stewart-Haas Racing.



# 2020 Schedule Shakeup

As race fans prepare for a season of high-speed pursuits and side-by-side action, the 2020 schedule is loaded with changes. For the first time since 2002, the premier series finale will be hosted by a new track — the 1-mile ISM Raceway in Phoenix.

It's an exciting year for the raceway as it recently completed a \$178 million renovation to improve the fan experience.

Cup Series contenders will face a 10-race postseason before running the track during the finale in Arizona. Check out the other notable changes for this year, as reported by NASCAR.

- The regular-season finale will be held at the famous Daytona International Speedway. It will be interesting to see how the track, known for its dramatic finishes and close-quarter racing, will impact driver statistics going into the playoffs.

- During a first for the modern era of NASCAR, June 27 and June 28 will hold back-to-back Cup Series races at the Pocono Raceway. The double-header will allow the season to end one week earlier on November 8.



© NASCAR

- Former host of the regular-season finale, Homestead-Miami Speedway will hold a race earlier in the season, on March 22.

- The four final races for the regular season were hand-selected to test the skills of NASCAR'S top talent. The last tracks for a playoff push will

be held in Michigan, Watkins Glen and Dover before the finale at Daytona.

- The west coast will invite NASCAR enthusiasts earlier for the 2020 season. The three-race tour will begin immediately after the opener at Daytona. The tour will consist of races at the Last Vegas

Speedway and Auto Club Speedway, and wrap up at the ISM Raceway.

- Father's Day weekend, which is normally an off week, will host a Cup Series race at the Chicagoland Speedway. Mother's Day weekend will feature the Round of Eight finale at

Martinsville Speedway, where newly installed lights will be on display.

- The opening round of the playoffs will end at the Bristol Motor Speedway on September 19. Races held on this track are highly anticipated and have typically been held in August.



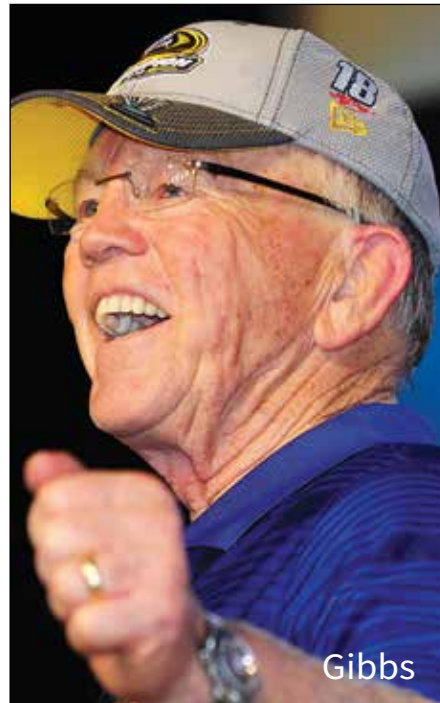
# 2020 Hall of Fame Inductees

This year, the famous facility in Charlotte, North Carolina, will welcome top talent into the NASCAR Hall of Fame. The Class of 2020 will join the ranks with impressive racers like Darrell Waltrip, Terry Labonte and Jeff Gordon.



Baker

© NASCAR



Gibbs

© NASCAR



Labonte

© NASCAR



Stewart

© NASCAR

For the 11th class since the inception of the Hall of Fame in 2010, five inductees obtain a coveted spot in racing history. Get to know the racers.

## BUDDY BAKER

Wholesomely known as the Gentle Giant or Leadfoot, Buddy Baker became the first driver to exceed 200 mph on a closed course, at Talladega Superspeedway. Baker famously won the Daytona 500 in 1980, where he set the track record for reaching a race speed of 177.602 mph, an accomplishment that still stands.

After his retirement in 1992, he entered the studio booth, where he became a successful commentator. Baker, who died in 2015, will be honored posthumously.

## JOE GIBBS

While Gibbs may be more well-known for his time on



Wilson

TED VAN PELT/CREATIVE COMMONS



JAMES WILLAMOR/CREATIVE COMMONS

the gridiron, the three-time Super Bowl champion coach turned his attention to racing in 1992. Drivers under Joe Gibbs Racing have obtained over 160 premier series wins, which ranks them third of all time.

His racers have included Tony Stewart, Kyle Busch and

Bobby Labonte.

Joe Gibbs is no stranger to the Hall of Fame, as he earned a spot in Canton, Ohio, as an inductee for the NFL in 1996.

## BOBBY LABONTE

The hard work of Bobby Labonte paid off in 1993

when he became a full-time premier driver. The Texas native obtained 21 victories in his career, including a 2000 premier series title. He beat Dale Earnhardt by a whopping 255 points for the crown.

Labonte was also the first of four drivers to win a Cup Series championship as well

as a title in the Xfinity Series.

## TONY STEWART

The “People’s Champ” shocked the world during his Rookie of the Year campaign after earning three victories in 1996. In 2002, he won his first Cup title while driving for Joe Gibbs Racing and followed with another championship in 2005.

During his 17-year career, Stewart tallied 49 wins in Cup Series races.

## WADDELL WILSON

While Wilson never spent time behind the wheel professionally, he engineered impressive engines that led to premiere series titles. His claim to fame came in 1963 when his motor was under the hood of Fireball Roberts’ winning run in the Southern 500.

He also served as a crew chief who directed his drivers to 22 wins and 32 poles.



# Best NASCAR Fan Experiences

The race is only part of the NASCAR experience.

Enthusiasts flock to the racetrack to experience a weekend full of fun, music and speed-themed entertainment.

If you haven't visited an event, make 2020 the year you check out what you've been missing.

Before planning a trip, check-in with a travel agent in your area. An expert can help save money on a flight, a hotel and transportation once you arrive. Look for opportunities to bundle accommodations for package pricing that may be more inexpensive than booking items separately.

Check out some of the most popular fan experiences surrounding the NASCAR Cup Series.



© NASCAR

## **CUP SERIES CHAMPIONSHIP Sunday, Nov. 8 Phoenix Raceway**

The ISM racetrack in Avondale, Arizona, welcomes spectators to view its \$178 million renovation project. Previously, this track was considered a headache by NASCAR enthusiasts because of grandstand seating's location in direct sunlight.

Today, the renovation team changed the spectator seats

and adjusted the track's start and finish line to make it more appealing to spectate.

Once you're there, check out the Curve Club, which sets the precedent for luxury in the racing world. The VIP seating sits six stories above the track giving viewers a panoramic view of the action among a backdrop of the glorious Estrella Mountains.

While the raceway is an epic way to spend a weekend, it

will provide a fantastic fan experience as it hosts the conclusion to the Cup Series. One of the most exciting updates to the track is the debuting "INfield." Here's what you should expect.

- Watch NASCAR crews tweak their team's cars from inside one of the five on-site garages.

- Access the Gatorade Victory Lane to become a part of the celebration.

- Visit the area between the pit road and track to view your favorite drivers from an all-new perspective.

## **DAYTONA 500 Sunday, Feb. 13 Daytona International Speedway**

This year's Daytona celebration is sure to be a fan-friendly and hands-on experience. Spectators are welcomed into the University of Northwestern

Ohio Fanzone to rub shoulders with current racers, former legends and of course, fast cars.

Access to incredible events like garage visits, driver appearances and autograph sessions are available with some packages. Celebrate one of the most famous races in the NASCAR circuit by getting up close and personal with iconic drivers during the live introduction event.



# The Camaro ZL1 1LE

Last year, Ford introduced its Mustang to the NASCAR Cup Series for the first time in the automaker's history. Toyota also made changes when replacing its Camry with the Supra sports car in the Xfinity Series.

For 2020, it's Chevrolet's turn to shake up the track by welcoming a new model to the competition.

The Camaro ZL1 1LE will take the place of its predecessor, which debuted in 2018, the Camaro ZL1. The upgraded model is considered to be the most track-capable and fastest production vehicle in Chevrolet's lineup.

Enthusiasts can see it in action when it tears up the asphalt in February when the season opens with Daytona Speedweeks.

## SAYING GOODBYE TO THE ZL1

The ZL1 Camaro certainly made its presence known on the NASCAR circuit. It first impressed viewers by immediately winning pole position prior to the season-opening Daytona 500. A week later, during the actual race, Austin Dillon piloted the road



A production model of the Camaro ZL1 1LE.

© CHEVROLET

machine into a first-place victory.

In 2019, the previously featured Camaro would produce seven wins and propel five Chevy drivers into the NASCAR playoffs.

The manufacturer hopes the upgraded vehicle will end the losing slump it began in 2016, after winning consecutive championships between 2002 and 2015.

## WHAT'S NEW

While the two vehicles are incredibly similar both in appearance and performance, the Camaro ZL1 1LE does feature a few significant upgrades.

Perhaps the most essential difference is that the newer inception weighs in around 50 pounds less due to lighter wheels and dampers, thinner rear glass and a fixed-rear

back seat. It will be Chevy's last inception before NASCAR's Next-Gen racers make their debut next year.

## CHEVROLET'S WINNING HISTORY

While the last few years haven't been kind to Chevy in NASCAR, the automaker is historically the most winning manufacturer in the sport. In today's racing, there are only

three-vehicle representatives since Dodge departed the track in 2012.

Here's how the auto manufacturer teams stack up against one another in the NASCAR Cup Series.

- **Chevrolet:** 786 race wins and 39 championships.
- **Ford:** 686 race wins and 16 championships.
- **Toyota:** 143 race wins and three championships.