Brayden's Breakdown:

A retrospective of Justin Verlander's career with the Tigers and Astros

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On Feb. 10, ESPN's Jeff Passan reported that longtime Tiger Justin Verlander is returning to Detroit on a one-year contract.

At the end of his tweet, he stated that the 43-year-old Verlander will go into the Hall of Fame wearing a Tigers hat. Is that true?

Verlander spent the first 13 seasons of his career with Detroit, but he won two World Series titles with the Houston Astros. Most signs point to the righty going into Cooperstown wearing a Tigers cap, but his Astros tenure should not be scoffed at.

In parts of seven seasons with Houston, Verlander posted a 2.71 ERA and won two Cy Young awards. In 130 starts, he struck out 962 batters and tallied 72 wins. Twenty-one of those wins came in his 2019 campaign, he led the league in both wins and innings pitched with 223. The highlight of his 2019 season came in September when he no-hit the Blue Jays. Verlander struck out 14 batters on his way to becoming just the sixth pitcher ever with three no-hitters.

In the Astros' postseason runs, Verlander is a career 10-7 including a complete game against the Yankees in 2017, where he struck out 13 and only allowed one run. He had two solid outings in the World Series that year as well, not allowing more than three runs in either of his starts.

That same 2017 season in which Verlander was acquired by the Astros in August, he went 5-0 in five starts, posting a 1.06 ERA in 34 innings. Verlander hit the ground running in Houston and never let his foot off the gas.

His other accolades with Houston include being named to three all-star teams and finishing inside the top 11 for MVP voting three times.

The younger generation may view Verlander as an Astro, but Passan's generation and beyond always remember the city where he started.

Debuting in 2005 and winning Rookie of the Year in 2006, Verlander threw two no-hitters and reached the World Series twice with Detroit.

His 2011 season is one of the best by a pitcher in recent MLB history. Verlander won both the Cy Young award and AL MVP. He went 24-5 with a 2.40 ERA while striking out 250 hitters to lead the league that year.

Verlander parlayed his 2011 season into 2012 where he went 17-8, had a league leading six complete games, 239 strikeouts and finished second in Cy Young voting. The righty lost his second consecutive Cy Young by a mere four points to David Price. This is the smallest margin of victory for a Cy Young in MLB history, besides the times pitchers have tied for the award. This happened to Verlander once again in 2016 when he lost to Rick Porcello by just five votes. Despite having more first place votes than Porcello, Verlander fell short yet again.

Comparing the two teams from statistical categories, Verlander is better as an Astro in almost every numerical category. These numbers must be taken with a grain of salt as Verlander spent nearly double the time in Detroit than he did in Houston, throwing 1,700 more innings for the Tigers.

However, his statistics in Detroit are ridiculous for a modern-day pitcher. Verlander won 183 games for the Motor City, an amount of wins that most pitchers do not even reach in their careers these days. His 56.6 WAR is second most all-time for a Tigers pitcher and he could easily slide into the number one spot with a decent 2026.

At the end of the day, Verlander will be in Cooperstown soon after his career ends. Whether it be in a Tigers or an Astros hat, his career will be remembered as one of the best pitchers of his generation with both squads.



Justin Verlander, a famous MLB pitcher. He has had quite the seasoned career, playing for a few teams.

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LOGO BY SAMANTHA HASS, ARTIST EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

TYLER REDDICK KICKS OFF 2026 NASCAR SEASON WITH A STELLAR START

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Tyler Reddick and Sheldon Creed won electric races this past weekend, in an exciting race weekend at EchoPark Speedway.

Reddick won the Autotrader 400 at EchoPark Speedway on Sunday again in dramatic fashion and won the opening race of the season, the Daytona 500. This makes Reddick the sixth driver in Cup Series history to win the first two races of a given season.

He joins Marvin Panch in 1957, Bob Welborn in 1959, David Pearson in 1976, Jeff Gordon in 1997 and Matt Kenseth in 2009.

Only one of the five other drivers became champion the year they achieved the feat, Gordon in 1997.

Kenseth in 2009 finished No. 14 in the standings after missing the cutoff for "The Chase."

Pearson finished ninth in the standings in 1976 but only raced in 22 out of the 30 races, winning 10 of them that season.

Welborn finished No. 17 in the 1959 standings, winning three races while only participating in 29 out of the 44 races.

Finally, Panch finished second in 1957 after achieving six wins in 42 races.

The odds to win a championship aren't fully on Reddick's side, but it is good to note that Welborn and Pearson did not run a full season's worth of races which contributed to them finishing well below the champion in the standings.

The good thing for Reddick is that the 23XI Racing Toyota he drives has elite speed. His teammate, Bubba Wallace, was in the front for almost the entire second half of the race and was leading with two laps to go before a block on Spire Motorsports Chevrolet driver Carson Hocevar was unsuccessful. That led to Reddick surging forward following a push by Joe Gibbs Racing Toyota driver Chase Briscoe for the win.

After 15 second place finishes, Sheldon Creed won the Bennett Transportation and Logistics 250 on Saturday for his first win in the O'Reilly Auto Parts Series.

The win was a long time coming for the 28-year-old from Alpine, California. Creed's 15 second place finishes is the most all-time without a win in the O'Reilly Series.

Creed has been a staple in the O'Reilly Series since 2022, racing for juggernauts Richard Childress Racing Chevrolet in 2022 and 2023 and Joe Gibbs Racing Toyota in 2024.

2024 was particularly tough for Creed as he finished second six times that year.

In 2025, Creed joined Haas Factory Team and drove well for them, finishing No. 9 in the standings.

The 15 second place streak wasn't supposed to come to an end this week though. On the final lap at Echo Park Speedway, Creed sat third with Ross Chastain and Austin Hill fighting for the lead. Chastain then gets into the back of Hill, spinning Hill and killing his momentum in the process.

With two corners to go, Creed inherited the lead and won it with Parker Retzlaff coming way behind in second.

The weekend was very exciting for both series and this weekend will be the showdown of all showdowns as Connor Zilisch and Shane Van Gisbergen fight it out at the Circuit of the Americas in both the Cup Series and O'Reilly Series.

The Trucks Series will also be racing this weekend at St. Petersburg in an IndyCar double header.



Tyler Reddick, a professional NASCAR driver. He is a two-time champion in the Xfinity Series.

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