



Bud Pole Winner: Ryan Newman

Coca-Cola 600 – Lowe's Motor Speedway

May 26, 2005

- **Ryan Newman** won the NASCAR NEXTEL Cup Series Bud Pole for the Coca-Cola 600, lapping Lowe's Motor Speedway in 27.981 seconds at 192.988 mph. He broke **Mike Bliss'** track-qualifying record of 28.540 seconds, 189.208 mph, set in qualifying for the NEXTEL Open May 20, 2005.
- The top-18 qualifiers broke Bliss' six-day-old track record.
- This is Newman's 31st career Bud Pole in 128 NASCAR NEXTEL Cup Series races. He is the only driver that has started from the top-10 in every race this season. This is his 19th consecutive top-10 start. The record for top-10 starts is 66 by **Bobby Issac** in 1969-71.
- Newman took over sole possession of 10th on the modern-era Bud Pole list, breaking a tie with **Buddy Baker**. **Darrell Waltrip** leads the modern-era Bud Pole list with 59.
- This is Newman's fifth Bud Pole and ninth top-10 start in nine races at Lowe's Motor Speedway. He has won the Bud Pole in four of the last five races here. His worst start in his nine races here is fourth.
- **Jeff Gordon** posted the second-quickest qualifying lap of 28.136 seconds, 191.925 mph – and will join Newman on the front row for the Coca-Cola 600. Gordon has started from a top-10 starting position in 18 of his 25 races at Lowe's. Fifteen of those were top-fives, including seven Bud Poles. He won the Bud Pole for the Coca-Cola 600 five straight times between 1994 and 1998. This is his fourth top-10 start in 2005, all fourth or better.
- This is the sixth Bud Pole for **Dodge** in 2005. **Chevrolet** has four and **Ford** has two.
- **Matt Kenseth** (third) posted his second top-10 start in 12 races at Charlotte. It is his third top-10 start this season, but his first better than 17th since Las Vegas.
- **Kasey Kahne** (fourth) scored his second top-10 start in three races at Charlotte. It is his seventh top-10 start this season and his third consecutive top-five.
- **Jimmie Johnson** (fifth) posted his sixth top-10 start in eight races at Charlotte. It is his seventh top-10 start this season, but only his third since Atlanta.
- Ten drivers failed to qualify for the Coca-Cola 600: **Jason Leffler**, **Bobby Hamilton Jr.**, **Hermie Sadler**, **Boris Said**, **Jeff Fuller**, **Carl Long**, **Tony Raines**, **Mike Garvey**, **Kirk Shelmerdine** and **Greg Sacks**. This is the largest car count since there were 57 cars at Daytona in February 2005.
- There have been **only three different** Bud Pole winners in the nine NASCAR NEXTEL Cup Series races at Charlotte since Ryan Newman won his career-first Bud Pole here in qualifying for the 2001 Coca-Cola 600: Newman (five), **Jimmie Johnson** (two) and **Jimmy Spencer** (one). Qualifying was canceled in the fall of 2002.
- **Jimmie Johnson** won the 2003 Coca-Cola 600 from the **37th starting position**, the furthest back a race winner has started at Charlotte.
- **Six of the last 16 races** at Charlotte have been won from the front row, but six of the last 11 have been won from a starting position of 13th or worse.