



## Bud Pole Winner: Kevin Harvick

Aaron's 499 – Talladega Superspeedway

April 29, 2005

- **Kevin Harvick** won the NASCAR NEXTEL Cup Series Bud Pole for the Aaron's 499, lapping Talladega Superspeedway in 50.452 seconds at 189.804 mph. **Bill Elliott** track-qualifying record of 44.998 seconds, 212.809 mph, set April 30, 1987 – prior to the implementation of restrictor-plates. Elliott also holds the restrictor-plate qualifying record at Talladega – 48.128 seconds, 199.388 mph, set May 4, 1990.
- Harvick posted his third career Bud Pole and his first since Indianapolis 2003, 60 races ago. It is his third top-10 start in 2005, all in the past four races. Harvick has just three top-10 starts in nine Talladega races. His previous best start here was second in April 2003.
- Harvick is the seventh different Bud Pole winner in 2005. **Ryan Newman** (three) is the only multiple Bud Pole winner this season.
- **Jeff Gordon** posted the second-quickest qualifying lap of 50.670 seconds, 188.988 mph – and will join Harvick on the front row for the Aaron's 499. Gordon tied his best Talladega start (July 1996) in posting his 13th top-10 start in 25 races here. He scored his fourth top-10 start in 2005, all in the past five races.
- This is the fourth Bud Pole for **Chevrolet** in 2005. **Dodge** has three Bud Poles and **Ford** has two.
- **Elliott Sadler** (third) posted his fourth top-10 start in 12 races at Talladega, all in the past five races. It is also his fourth top-10 start this season.
- **Scott Riggs** (fourth) posted his third top-10 start in 2005. Riggs has started from the top five in all three of his races at Talladega.
- **Ryan Newman** (fifth) posted his fourth top-10 start in seven races at Talladega, but his first since April 2003. Newman is the only driver to post top10 starts in every race this season.
- **Jimmie Johnson** (sixth) posted his sixth top-10 start in seven races at Talladega. It is his fifth top-10 start in 2005, but his first since Atlanta.
- **Ricky Rudd** (seventh) posted his 19th top-10 start in his 57 races at Talladega. It is his second top-10 start this season.
- **Dave Blaney** (eighth) posted just his second top-10 start in 2005 and his first start better than 16th in 10 Talladega races.
- **Travis Kvapil** (ninth) qualified for his first race at Talladega. He started 25th and finished 19th in the Daytona 500. He has been the highest-qualifying rookie in eight out of nine races this season.
- **Boris Said** (12th) posted his first start better than 27th in his six oval-course races. Said has four top-10 starts in 15 NASCAR NEXTEL Cup races, all on road courses.
- **Kerry Earnhardt** (31st) qualified for his fifth NASCAR NEXTEL Cup race. All but his career-first race (Michigan – August 2000) have been in restrictor-plate races.
- **Dale Earnhardt Jr.** (36th) posted just his second start outside the top top-20 in 11 races at Talladega. His career worst start here was 38th in September 2003.
- Four drivers failed to qualify for the Aaron's 499: **Robby Gordon, Kevin Lepage, Kenny Wallace and Stanton Barrett.**
- **Forty** of the 71 NASCAR NEXTEL Cup races at Talladega have been won from the first four starting positions (56 percent).
- **Nine of the last 12 races** at Talladega have been won from a starting position of 11th or worse.
- The furthest back a winner has started at Talladega was when **Jeff Gordon** won the DieHard 500 (April 2000) from the **36th-place starting position.**
- **Bobby Labonte** is the last driver to win from the Bud Pole at Talladega (May 1998).