



Bud Pole Winner: Kurt Busch

Sharpie 500 – Bristol Motor Speedway

Aug. 25, 2006

- **Kurt Busch** won the NASCAR NEXTEL Cup Series Bud Pole for the Sharpie 500, lapping Bristol Motor Speedway in 15.362 seconds at 124.906 mph. **Ryan Newman** holds the track-qualifying record of 14.908 seconds, 128.709 mph - set March 21, 2003.
- This is Kurt Busch's seventh career Bud Pole in 208 NASCAR NEXTEL Cup Series races.
- This is his fourth Bud Pole and 17 top-10 start in 2006. He is tied for the most Bud Poles and leads all other drivers in top-10 starts this season. **Kasey Kahne** (four), **Jeff Burton** (four), **Greg Biffle** (two), **Denny Hamlin** (two) and **Ryan Newman** (two) are the other multiple Bud Pole winners this season.
- This is Kurt Busch's first Bud Pole in 12 NASCAR NEXTEL Cup Series race at Bristol Motor Speedway. He has posted top-10 starts in five of those 12 races.
- Kurt Busch became the **fifth different Bud Pole winner** in the past six races at Bristol. Qualifying was canceled here in March.
- **Jeff Burton** posted the second-quickest qualifying lap of 15.374 seconds, 124.808 mph – and will join Kurt Busch on the front row for the Sharpie 500. His career-best Bristol start is just his third top-10 in 26 races here.
- This is the 11th Bud Pole for **Dodge** in 2006. **Chevrolet** has eight Bud Poles and **Ford** has four. Qualifying was canceled at Bristol in March.
- **Bobby Labonte** (third) posted his 10th top-10 start in 28 races at Bristol, but his first since March 2000.
- **Matt Kenseth** (fourth) posted his sixth top-10 start in 14 races at Bristol and his 10th this season.
- **Tony Stewart** (fifth), who won the Bud Pole in just his second Bristol race (August 1999), posted his seventh top-10 start in 16 races at Bristol.
- **Kyle Petty** (eighth) posted his best qualifying effort since he started eighth at Richmond in May 2003. This is the first time since Talladega in October 2001 that two Petty Enterprises cars have started in the top 10.
- Five of the current top-10 drivers in the point standings qualified in the top 10: Burton, Kenseth, Stewart, **Denny Hamlin** (sixth) and **Kevin Harvick** (seventh).
- **Reed Sorenson** (10th) will join Hamlin in making this the 10th time this season that at least two rookies have started from the top 10.
- Six drivers failed to qualify for the Sharpie 500: **Chad Chaffin**, **Hermie Sadler**, **Mike Wallace**, **Mike Skinner**, **Morgan Shepherd** and **Stanton Barrett**. Shepherd and Barrett withdrew before qualifying.