



Bud Pole Winner: Kasey Kahne

Dodge Charger 500 – Darlington Raceway

May 12, 2006

- **Kasey Kahne** won the NASCAR NEXTEL Cup Series Bud Pole for the Dodge Charger 500, lapping Darlington Raceway in 29.096 seconds at 169.013 mph. **Ward Burton** holds the track-qualifying record of 28.295 seconds, 173.797 mph - set March 22, 1996.
- Kahne is now three-for-three in qualifying at Darlington, winning the Bud Pole in all three of his qualifying session here. He started 13th in 2004 when qualifying was canceled.
- This is Kahne's ninth career Bud Pole in 83 NASCAR NEXTEL Cup Series races.
- This is his third Bud Pole and seventh top-10 start in 2006.
- **Ryan Newman** posted the second-quickest qualifying lap of 29.238 seconds, 168.192 mph – and will join Kahne on the front row for the Dodge Charger 500. This is Newman's fourth top-10 start in 2006 and ties Atlanta for his season-best. This is his seventh top-10 start in eight Darlington races. It is his third second-place start here. He also has one Bud Pole and one third-place start in those eight races.
- This is the fourth Bud Pole for **Dodge** in 2006. **Chevrolet** and **Ford** each have three. Qualifying was canceled at Bristol.
- The last all-Dodge front-row was Atlanta this past March, was also Kahne (first) and Newman (second).
- **Clint Bowyer** (third) posted his career-best start and is competing in his career-first NASCAR NEXTEL Cup race at Darlington. This is his second top-10 start this season – both in the past four races.
- **David Stremme** (fourth) also posted his career-first top-10 start. It is his first start better than 17th in his 15 career races.
- **Denny Hamlin** (fifth) became the third rookie candidate to post a top-10 start. It is his sixth top-10 start this season and comes in his first NASCAR NEXTEL Cup race at Darlington.
- This is the second time this season that three rookies qualified in the top-10. Texas had **J.J. Yeley** (second), **Hamlin** (eighth) and **Martin Truex Jr.** (ninth).
- **Terry Labonte** (43rd) used a past champion's provisional to make the race for the third time this season.
- Four drivers failed to qualify for the Dodge Charger 500: **Chad Chaffin**, **Kenny Wallace**, **Carl Long** and **Chad Blount**.