



## Bud Pole Winner: Kurt Busch

Auto Club 500 – California Speedway

Feb. 24, 2006

- **Kurt Busch** won the NASCAR NEXTEL Cup Series Bud Pole for the Auto Club 500, lapping California Speedway in 38.485 seconds at 187.086 mph. **Kyle Busch** holds the track-qualifying record of 38.248 seconds at 188.245 mph, set Feb. 26, 2005.
- This is his first top-10 start in 2006.
- This is Kurt Busch's fourth Bud Pole in 186 NASCAR NEXTEL Cup Series races.
- This is Kurt Busch's first Bud Pole and fourth top-10 start in eight NASCAR NEXTEL Cup Series race at California Speedway.
- Busch became the 10th different Bud Pole winner in the 12 races at California Speedway, joining **Joe Nemechek** (1997), **Jeff Gordon** (1998), **Mike Skinner** (2000), **Bobby Labonte** (2001), **Ryan Newman** (2002), **Steve Park** (2003), **Kasey Kahne** (May 2004), **Brian Vickers** (September 2004), **Kyle Busch** (February 2005) and **Carl Edwards** (September 2005). **Jeff Burton** (1999) started from the pole when qualifying was canceled.
- **Greg Biffle** posted the second-quickest qualifying lap of 38.671 seconds, 186.186 mph – and will join Kurt Busch on the front row for the Auto Club 500.
- This is the first Bud Pole for **Dodge** in 2006. **Chevrolet** won the Bud Pole at Daytona.
- **Jimmie Johnson** (third) posted his fourth top-10 start in seven races at California .
- **J.J. Yeley** (fourth) posted his third top-10 start in three races at California.
- **Denny Hamlin** (fifth) posted a top-10 start in his first NASCAR NEXTEL Cup race at California.
- **Jeff Burton** (fifth) posted his second straight top-10 start in 2006. The last time Burton posted back-to-back top-10 starts was in April 2003, at Martinsville and California when he started 10th in both races.
- Five drivers failed to qualify for the Auto Club 500: **Travis Kvapil**, **Hermie Sadler**, **Derrike Cope**, **Randy Lajoie** and **Morgan Shepherd**. **Mike Skinner** and **Chad Chaffin** withdrew prior to qualifying.