



Bud Pole Winner: Kurt Busch

SONY HD 500 – California Speedway

Sept. 1, 2006

- **Kurt Busch** won the NASCAR NEXTEL Cup Series Bud Pole for the SONY HD 500, lapping California Speedway in 39.016 seconds at 184.540 mph. **Kyle Busch** holds the track-qualifying record of 38.248 seconds at 188.245 mp -, set Feb. 26, 2005.
- This is Kurt Busch's eighth career Bud Pole in 209 NASCAR NEXTEL Cup Series races.
- This is his fifth Bud Pole and 18th top-10 start in 2006 – both more than any other driver. He became the first driver to win five Bud Poles in 2006. **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 second Bud Pole at California. He has started from the top-10 five times in nine races at California – all fourth or better.
- Kurt Busch became the **first repeat Bud Pole winner** in 13 races at California Speedway. Qualifying was canceled in 1997 due to weather.
- **Brian Vickers** posted the second-quickest qualifying lap of 39.120 seconds, 184.049 mph – and will join Kurt Busch on the front row for the SONY HD 500. Vickers has posted five top-10 starts in his six California races. This is his third front row start here.
- This is the 12th Bud Pole for **Dodge** in 2006. **Chevrolet** has eight Bud Poles and **Ford** has four. Qualifying was canceled at Bristol.
- **Clint Bowyer** (third) posted his first top-10 start in two races at California. He started 32nd and finished 14th here in February.
- **Scott Riggs** (fourth) has started from the top 10 in four of his six races at California and has not started worse than 14th here.
- **Martin Truex Jr.** (fifth) posted his career-best qualifying effort, bettering his previous best of eighth, which he posted at Atlanta in October 2005. His fifth top-10 start this season is his best of 2006.
- **Denny Hamlin** (eighth) posted his second top-10 start in as many races at California Speedway. He started fifth and finished 12th here earlier this season.
- **Kyle Busch**, the qualifying record holder at California, qualified 10th. He has started from the top 10 in three of his five races here. He won his career-first Bud Pole in qualifying for the 2005 Auto Club 500 and posted his career-first victory in the 2005 SONY HD 500 – both at California Speedway.
- This is the 11th time in 2006 that two or more rookies have started in the top 10.
- **Scott Wimmer** (17th) was the highest qualifier of the drivers that had to make the field on time.
- Five of the 13 drivers still vying for the Chase to the NASCAR NEXTEL Cup qualified in the top 10 and four others are in the top20. **Mark Martin** (38th) posted the worst starting position of the drivers still eligible for the final 10-race Chase.
- **Ford** did not post a top-10 start for the fourth time this season – all in the past six races. A Ford driver has won two of those six races and finished second in two others.
- Four drivers failed to qualify for the SONY HD 500: **Todd Kluever**, **Kertus Davis**, **Chad Chaffin** and **Bill Lester**.