



Bud Pole Winner: Kasey Kahne

Golden Corral 500 – Atlanta Motor Speedway

March 17, 2006

- **Kasey Kahne** won the NASCAR NEXTEL Cup Series Bud Pole for the Golden Corral 500, lapping Atlanta Motor Speedway in 28.792 seconds at 192.553 mph. **Geoffrey Bodine** holds track-qualifying record of 28.074 seconds, 197.478 mph, set Nov. 15, 1997, in the first qualifying session on the current track configuration. Bodine's lap remains the fastest qualifying lap on a non-restrictor-plate track in NASCAR history.
- This is Kahne's seventh career Bud Pole in 76 NASCAR NEXTEL Cup Series races.
- This is his first Bud Pole and second top-10 start in 2006.
- This is Kahne's first Bud Pole and third top-10 start in five NASCAR NEXTEL Cup Series race at Atlanta Motor Speedway – all in the past three races. He has three top-five finishes here.
- **Ryan Newman** posted the second-quickest qualifying lap of 28.794 seconds, 192.540 mph – and will join Kahne on the front row for the Golden Corral 500. It is his ninth top-10 start in as many races at Atlanta – including eight front-row starts. Newman had scored **six straight Bud Poles** at Atlanta (March 2003 through October 2005). It is his first top-10 starting position since he started second at Homestead last fall.
- Kahne and Newman were the only drivers to break the 192 mph-mark.
- This is the second Bud Pole for **Dodge** in 2006. **Chevrolet** and **Ford** each have one Bud Pole this season.
- **Jeff Burton** (third) posted his fourth top-10 start of 2006, the only driver to do so. It is only his second top-10 start in 24 races at Atlanta. His previous best start here was 10th in this race in 1998. It was his best qualifying effort since he started second at Bristol in August 2005.
- **Bobby Labonte** (fourth) posted his 10th top-10 start in 27 races at Atlanta – but his first since he started 10th in this race in 2004. It is Labonte's second top-10 start this season but his best start since he qualified fifth at Phoenix last November.
- **J.J. Yeley** (fifth) posted his second top-10 qualifying effort of 2006 – both top fives. He started 36th in his one previous race at Atlanta.
- **Kevin Harvick** (sixth) posted his first start better than 15th this season and his best since he started sixth at Pocono last July.
- Nine drivers failed to qualify for the Golden Corral 500: **Mike Garvey, Stanton Barrett, Chad Chaffin, Derrike Cope, Kenny Wallace, Travis Kvapil, Mike Skinner, Greg Sacks and Chad Blount.**