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## **Today's Winner: Tony Stewart**

## Team: No. 20 Home Depot Chevrolet

- **Tony Stewart** won the Bass Pro Shops 500 at Atlanta Motor Speedway, scoring his **28th career** NASCAR NEXTEL Cup victory in his **281st** career start.
- Stewart moved into a tie for 20th on NASCAR's All-Time win list, with Rex White.
- It is Stewart's **fourth victory in 2006**. He also won races at Martinsville, the second Daytona race and Kansas.
- Stewart became the **only driver** to post multiple victories in the first seven races of the Chase.
- Stewart scored his **second victory** in 16 races at Atlanta. It is his **third straight top-10 finish** at Atlanta. Stewart last won here in March 2002.
- Stewart scored his 18th top-10 finish in 2006.
- Stewart's victory today was the **21st Chevrolet victory** in 33 races in 2006.
- Stewart won the race from **the 11th-place starting position**, marking the first race in the last six at Atlanta that a driver has won from outside the top 10.
- Stewart remained **11th in the Championship standings**. He has a **285-point lead** over 12th-place **Carl Edwards**, who finished **seventh**.
- Stewart led seven times for 146 of the 325 laps raced, leading the most laps for **the fifth time** in 2006, but the first time since the Pepsi 400 at Daytona.
- This is team owner **Joe Gibbs' 53rd NASCAR NEXTEL Cup victory** and **sixth in 2006**: Stewart (four) and **Denny Hamlin** (two). This was Gibbs' eighth NASCAR NEXTEL Cup victory at Atlanta.

## **Notebook Items**

- Race No. 33 at Atlanta is the seventh of the 10 races in the 2006 Chase for the NASCAR NEXTEL Cup.
- **Five of the 10** Chase drivers finished in the top 10.
- Seven of the 10 of The Chase drivers changed points positions at Atlanta.
- There have been six changes in the second-place points position in the seven Chase races.
- **Jimmie Johnson** has been **second in points** after Atlanta in **all three years** of the Chase.
- Four of the Chase drivers led at Atlanta: Dale Earnhardt Jr. (95), Jeff Gordon (44), Kevin Harvick (nine) and Jeff Burton (one).
- **Dale Earnhardt** Jr. and **Jeff Burton** are tied with 5,924 points with three races remaining. Earnhardt Jr. claims the fifth-place points position by the tie-breaker system which is based on finishes. Both have one victory and one second-place finish. Earnhardt has three third-place finishes as compared to Burton with one.
- The **top five** in points are separated by just **84 points**.
- Four of the seven races in the Chase have been won by Chase drivers.
- Matt Kenseth has scored six top-15 finishes in the seven races in The Chase, the only driver to do so.
- Matt Kenseth, Jeff Burton, Denny Hamlin and Jeff Gordon are the only Chase drivers to score four top-10 finishes in the seven races in the Chase.
- Jimmie Johnson and Jeff Gordon have each led in five of the seven races in the Chase.
- **Jimmie Johnson** is the only Chase driver to post **six top-10 starts** in the seven races in the Chase.
- Johnson has scored 21 top-10 finishes in 2006 and seven top-10 finishes in 11 races at Atlanta.
- Dale Earnhardt Jr. (third) scored his 15th top-10 finish in 2006 and his ninth top-10 finish in 15 races at Atlanta.
- Matt Kenseth (fourth) scored his 20th top-10 finish in 2006 and his seventh top-10 finish in 14 races at Atlanta.
- Greg Biffle (fifth) scored his 14th top-10 finish in 2006 and his fifth top-10 finish in eight races at Atlanta.
- **Denny Hamlin** (eighth) was the highest finishing rookie for the **16th time** in 2006.
- At least one of the 2006 Raybestos Rookie-of-the Year contenders has scored a top-15 finish in all 33 races this season

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