



Bud Pole Winner: Denny Hamlin

Pocono 500 – Pocono Raceway

June 9, 2006

- **Denny Hamlin** won the NASCAR NEXTEL Cup Series Bud Pole for the Pocono 500, lapping Pocono Raceway in 53.054 seconds at 169.638 mph. **Kasey Kahne** holds the track-qualifying record of 52.164 seconds, 172.533 mph - set June 11, 2004.
- This is Hamlin's second career Bud Pole in 21 NASCAR NEXTEL Cup Series races. His other Bud Pole came at Phoenix in November 2005. Hamlin posted his ninth top-10 start in 2006, including each of the last five races. It is his first qualifying attempt at Pocono.
- Hamlin became the **10th different Bud Pole winner** this season.
- Hamlin also became the **19th different Bud Pole winner** in the past 20 races at Pocono. Qualifying was canceled in June 2002 due to weather.
- A Raybestos Rookie-of-the-Year contender has **won a Bud Pole** in each of the past **11 seasons** (1996-2006). Hamlin actually posted his first Bud Pole last season, before his official rookie year.
- **Kurt Busch** posted the second-quickest qualifying lap of 53.102 seconds, 169.485 mph – and will join Hamlin on the front row for the Pocono 500. This is Busch's 11th top-10 start this season and his best since he won the Bud Pole at California in the second race of 2006. It is his sixth top-10 start and his third consecutive second-place start in 11 races at Pocono.
- This is the fourth Bud Pole for **Chevrolet** in 2006. **Dodge** has six Bud Poles and **Ford** has three. Qualifying was canceled at Bristol.
- **Kasey Kahne** (third) posted his eighth top-10 start in 2006 and his second in five races at Pocono. It is his first top-10 start here since he won the Bud Pole in June 2004.
- **Brian Vickers** (fourth) has posted a top-10 start in all five of his appearances at Pocono. It is his fourth top-10 start this season.
- **Jeff Burton** (fifth) posted his fifth top-10 start of 2006 but his first since Atlanta (Race No. 4). It is his seventh top-10 start in 25 races at Pocono and his first since he started eighth in three straight races from July 1999 through July 2001.
- Five drivers failed to qualify for the Pocono 500: **Scott Wimmer, Derrike Cope, Stanton Barrett, Greg Sacks, and Brent Sherman.**