



Information Provided by NASCAR Statistical Services

Today's Winner: Denny Hamlin

Team: No. 11 FedEx Ground Chevrolet

- **Denny Hamlin** won the Pocono 500, scoring his **first** NASCAR NEXTEL Cup victory in his **21st** career start. This was Hamlin's first race at Pocono.
- Hamlin became the first rookie to win a NASCAR NEXTEL Cup race since **Kyle Busch** won at Phoenix in November 2005.
- Hamlin became the **ninth different race winner** in 2006. He scored his **sixth top-10** finish in 14 races this season. Hamlin has posted five straight top-15 finishes.
- Hamlin is the **30th first-time race winner** since 1994. There has been at least one first-time race winner in **12 of the last 13 years** (since 1994). There was no first-time race winner in 2004.
- This is the third time in 2006 that a race was won from the Bud Pole starting position. **Kasey Kahne** won two races from the Bud Pole (Texas and Atlanta).
- This marked the **10th race** at Pocono to be won from the Bud Pole.
- **Hamlin** led the most laps for **the first time** in his career.
- Race winner Hamlin led **six times** for **83 laps**, including **the final 24 laps**.
- This was team owner **Joe Gibbs's 49th NASCAR NEXTEL Cup victory**. Gibbs has scored **his fifth** NASCAR NEXTEL Cup victories at Pocono Raceway.
- **Joe Gibbs Racing** has won at least one race each season 1993-2006, **14 consecutive years**.

Notebook Items

- This is the **182nd victory by a No. 11** car in NASCAR history. The last time the No. 11 won was with **Bill Elliott** in the Junior Johnson-owned Ford in September 1994 at Darlington.
- **Kurt Busch** (second) scored his third top-10 and second top-five finish in 2006. It is his fifth top-five finish in 11 races at Pocono Raceway.
- **Tony Stewart** (third) scored his eighth top-10 finish in 14 races in 2006. It is his first top-10 finish in the last four races. Stewart climbed from **fifth to fourth** in the NASCAR NEXTEL Cup point standings. Stewart has scored 10 top-10 finishes in 15 races at Pocono Raceway.
- **Brian Vickers** (fourth) scored his fourth top-10 finish of 2006 and his **second top-10 finish** in five races at Pocono.
- **Matt Kenseth** (fifth) scored his 10th top-10 finish in 14 races in 2006. It is his **ninth top-five** finish in 2006. Kenseth has scored six top-10 finishes in 13 races at Pocono Raceway. He remained second in the point standings. **One year ago he ranked 24th** after 14 races.
- **Four races ago** Greg Biffle was **232 points behind 10th**. With his **sixth-place finish**, Biffle is now **27 points behind 10th** and is **just two points behind** 11th-place Jeff Gordon. He has climbed from **23rd to 12th** in points since Talladega. After 14 races in 2005, he ranked **second** in the point standings. Biffle has scored **five straight top-10 finishes**, tying the longest top-10 streak of his career set one year ago between August and September.
- **Jeff Burton** (ninth) has climbed from **21st to 7th** in the point standings since Martinsville. One year ago he ranked 17th in the standings after 14 races. Burton has scored **four straight top-10 finishes**, extending a streak that began at Darlington.
- **Jimmie Johnson** (10th) remained first in the NASCAR NEXTEL Cup point standings and is now just **48 points ahead** of second-place Matt Kenseth. Johnson has **lost 61 points** of his lead in the last two races. Johnson has scored top-15 finishes in **13 of the 14 races** in 2006.
- **Mark Martin** (17th) failed to score a top-15 finish for just **the second time** in 2006.
- At least one Raybestos Rookie-of-the Year contender has scored **a top-15 finish** in every race this season.
- **Dave Blaney** (27th) extended a **32-race streak** of running at the finish - the longest current streak.
- **Heading to Michigan**
 - **Ryan Newman** has posted top-15 starts in all nine of his races at Michigan. Seven were top-10 starts.
 - **Jeff Gordon** has posted four straight top-10 starts at Michigan, the longest current streak.
 - **Matt Kenseth** has scored top-10 finishes in his last six races at Michigan, the longest current streak among active drivers. **Greg Biffle** and **Carl Edwards** have each scored three straight top 10 finishes there.
 - **Tony Stewart** is the only non-Roush driver to score top-10 finishes in the last three races at Michigan.
 - **Matt Kenseth** has posted a **top-15 finish** in 12 of his 13 races at Michigan.
 - A **Dodge** has won three of the last five races at Michigan. A Ford has won five of the last eight races at Michigan. A Chevrolet has not won at Michigan since June 2001 (**Jeff Gordon**), 10 Michigan races ago.
 - **The last three races at Michigan** have been won from a starting position outside the top-10, including this race one year ago that was won from 25th, the second lowest starting position of a race winner at Michigan.
 - The NASCAR NEXTEL Cup Leader bonus will be worth **\$60,000** at Michigan International Speedway.