



## Bud Pole Winner: Jeff Gordon

Checker Auto Parts "500" presented by Pennzoil – Phoenix International Raceway  
Nov. 3, 2006

- **Jeff Gordon** won the Bud Pole for the Checker Auto Parts "500" presented by Pennzoil, lapping Phoenix International Raceway in 26.773 seconds at 134.464 mph. **Ryan Newman** holds the track-qualifying record of 26.499 seconds, 135.854 mph - set Nov. 5, 2004.
- This is Gordon's 56th career Bud Pole in 472 NASCAR NEXTEL Cup Series races. He moved into sole possession of sixth on the all-time Bud Pole winners list, breaking a tie with **Bill Elliott**.
- This is his second Bud Pole and 17th top-10 start in 2006. He became the eighth repeat Bud Pole winner this season.
- This is Gordon's second Bud Pole and ninth top-10 start in 16 NASCAR NEXTEL Cup Series race at Phoenix International Raceway.
- **Kevin Harvick** posted the second-quickest qualifying lap of 26.871 seconds, 133.973 mph – and will join Gordon on the front row for the Checker Auto Parts "500". Harvick posted his fourth top-10 start in eight races at Phoenix and his 14th top-10 start in 2006.
- This is the 13th Bud Pole for **Chevrolet** in 2006. **Dodge** has 15 Bud Poles and **Ford** has six. Qualifying was canceled at the first Bristol and second Atlanta races.
- **Brian Vickers** (third) has posted five top-10 starts in six races at Phoenix and has not started worse than 14th here.
- **Dale Earnhardt Jr.** (fourth) has posted just two top-10 starts in his nine Phoenix races. This is his 150<sup>th</sup> race without a Bud Pole.
- **Joe Nemechek** (fifth) has posted just four top-10 starts in 15 races at Phoenix.
- Five of the 10 Chase drivers qualified in the top 10: Gordon, Harvick, Earnhardt, **Kyle Busch** (eighth) and **Matt Kenseth** (10th). **Kasey Kahne** (11th), **Jeff Burton** (18th), **Mark Martin** (21st), **Denny Hamlin** (22nd) and **Jimmie Johnson** (29th) are the Chase drivers starting outside the top 10.
- **Michael Waltrip** (19th) was the fastest of the drivers required to qualify on time.
- **Brandon Whitt** (37th) qualified for his career-first NASCAR NEXTEL Cup race and will be the 77th different driver to compete in at least one NASCAR NEXTEL Cup race this season.
- **Bill Elliott** used a past champion's provisional to make the field – the second consecutive week that the past champion provisional had been employed. **Terry Labonte** used it in Texas.
- Eight drivers failed to qualify for the Checker Auto Parts "500": **Jason Leffler**, **Todd Kluever**, **Morgan Shepherd**, **Brandon Ash**, **Kevin Lepage**, **Kenny Wallace**, **Derrike Cope** and **Jeremy Mayfield**.