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## Today's Winner: Kevin Harvick

### Team: No. 29 GM Goodwrench Chevrolet

- **Kevin Harvick** won the 2006 Checker Auto Parts 500 at Phoenix International Raceway, scoring his **10th career** NASCAR NEXTEL Cup victory in his **213th** career start.
- Harvick moved into a tie for **50th on NASCAR's All-Time win list**, tied with **Donnie Allison, Greg Biffle** and **Sterling Marlin**.
- This is Harvick's **fifth victory in 2006**. He also won races at Phoenix in April, Watkins Glen, second Richmond and second New Hampshire.
- Harvick is **the third driver** in 2006 to sweep both races at a track this season. He joined **Denny Hamlin** (Pocono) and **Kasey Kahne** (Charlotte).
- Harvick is the **only Chase driver to score two victories** in the 2006 Chase for the NASCAR NEXTEL Cup.
- Harvick won five races in the first five seasons in his career (between 2001-2005). Harvick has five victories this season.
- Harvick scored his **second victory** in eight races at Phoenix. Harvick has scored three top-10 finishes at Phoenix, all top fives.
- Harvick is **the fourth different driver** to post back-to-back victories at Phoenix.
- **Harvick** scored his **19th top-10 finish in 2006**.
- Harvick's victory today was the **23rd Chevrolet victory** in 35 races in 2006.
- Harvick led **four times for 252** laps, leading the most laps for **the third time** in 2006.
- Race winner Harvick **led the final 30 laps** in the 2006 Checker Auto Parts 500 at Phoenix.
- This was team owner **Richard Childress' 83rd NASCAR NEXTEL Cup victory**. Childress has scored **six** NASCAR NEXTEL Cup victories in 2006.

### The Championship

- **Five drivers** All drivers are in the 156-point window which is the maximum points that can be gained or lost during a single race and remain **mathematically eligible** to win the 2006 NASCAR NEXTEL Cup Championship in the final race at Homestead.
- If Johnson finishes **12th or better** or leads a lap and finishes **13th or better** or leads the most laps and finishes **15th or better** at Homestead, he will clinch the 2006 NASCAR NEXTEL Cup Championship, regardless of any other drivers performance. Johnson has five victories in 2006 and would also win in case of a tie because of his six second-place finishes.
- **Jeff Gordon** (-167) is mathematically eliminated from winning the 2006 NASCAR NEXTEL Cup Championship as soon as Johnson starts the race at Homestead.
- **Jeff Burton, Mark Martin, Kasey Kahne** and **Kyle Busch** are more than 190 points behind point leader Johnson and have been mathematically eliminated from winning the 2006 NASCAR NEXTEL Cup Championship.

### Notebook Items

- **Denny Hamlin** (third) scored his 19th top-10 finish in 2006. It was his first top-10 finish in three races at Phoenix. Hamlin was the highest finishing rookie for the **17th time** in 2006.
- **Jeff Gordon** (fourth) scored his 18th top-10 finish in 2006. It was his 13th top-10 finish in 16 races at Phoenix.
- **Carl Edwards** (fifth) scored his 19th top-10 finish in 2006. It was his fourth top-10 finish in five races at Phoenix.

## The Chase

- **Jimmie Johnson** (second) was **eighth in points** after the first four races in the Chase (after Talladega), then **156 points behind** then point leader **Jeff Burton**. Johnson has **gained 219 points** in the last five races, the result of five straight finishes of first or second and is first in the point standings for the second straight race.
- **Stewart** remained **11th in the Championship standings**. He has a **323-point lead** over 12th-place **Carl Edwards** who finished **fifth**. Stewart is mathematically assured the 11th-place points position and the **\$1 million bonus**.
- **Race No. 35 at Phoenix** marked the ninth of the 10 races in the 2006 Chase for the NASCAR NEXTEL Cup.
- **Eight of the 10** Chase drivers finished in the top 10 at Phoenix.
- **Five** of The Chase drivers changed points positions at Phoenix.
- **Five of the Chase drivers** led at Phoenix earning valuable lap leader bonus points.
- **First and second are separated by 63 points** with one race remaining. The **top five** in points are separated by **115 points** which makes them all mathematically eligible to win the 2006 Championship.
- **Five of the nine races** in the Chase have been won by Chase drivers
- **Matt Kenseth** has scored **eight top-15 finishes** in the nine races in The Chase, the only driver to do so.
- **Matt Kenseth** and **Dale Earnhardt Jr.** are the only Chase drivers to score **nine top-25 finishes** in all nine Chase races.
- **Jimmie Johnson** has scored **five top-five finishes** in the nine Chase races, the most among the Chase drivers. Johnson has finished **first or second** in the last five races in the Chase.
- **Denny Hamlin** and **Jeff Gordon** are the only Chase drivers to score **six top-10 finishes** in the nine races in the Chase.
- **Jimmie Johnson** is the only driver to lead in **seven of the nine** races in the Chase.
- **Jimmie Johnson** has scored **45 lap leader/bonus points** in nine races in the Chase, the most among all drivers.
- **Jimmie Johnson** is the only Chase driver to post **seven top-10 starts** in the nine races in the Chase