



Bud Pole Winner: Denny Hamlin

Chevy Rock & Roll 400 – Richmond International Raceway

Sept. 7, 2006

- **Denny Hamlin** won the NASCAR NEXTEL Cup Series Bud Pole for the Chevy Rock & Roll 400, lapping Richmond International Raceway in 21.096 seconds at 127.986 mph. **Brian Vickers** holds the track-qualifying record of 20.772 seconds, 129.983 mph - set May 14, 2004.
- This is Hamlin's fourth career Bud Pole in 33 NASCAR NEXTEL Cup Series races.
- This is his third Bud Pole and 17th top-10 start in 2006.
- **Kurt Busch** (five), **Kasey Kahne** (four), **Jeff Burton** (four), **Greg Biffle** (two) and **Ryan Newman** (two) are the other multiple Bud Pole winners this season.
- This is Hamlin's first Bud Pole and second top-10 start in two NASCAR NEXTEL Cup Series race at Richmond International Raceway. He started seventh and finished second here in May.
- Hamlin became the **13th consecutive different** Bud Pole winner at Richmond International Raceway.
- **Jeff Burton** posted the second-quickest qualifying lap of 21.126 seconds, 127.805 mph – and will join Hamlin on the front row for the Chevy Rock & Roll 400. Burton has started from the top-10 in nine of his 25 races at Richmond. This is his 12th top-10 start this season, including six from the front row in the last nine races
- This is the ninth Bud Pole for **Chevrolet** in 2006. **Dodge** has 12 Bud Poles and **Ford** has four. Qualifying was canceled at Bristol.
- **Jeff Gordon** (third) has started from the top-10 in 21 of his 27 races at Richmond..
- **Mark Martin** (fourth) has posted 23 top-10 starts in 42 races at Richmond, including top-fives in seven of the past 12.
- **Kevin Harvick** (fifth) has started from the four of his 12 races at Richmond – all in the past four races here.
- Six of the 11 drivers still eligible for the Chase qualified in the top 10: Hamlin, Burton, Gordon, Martin, Harvick and **Matt Kenseth** (10th).
- **Scott Wimmer** (sixth) was the fastest of the drivers that were required to qualify on time. It is Wimmer's first start better than 17th this season.
- **Morgan Shepherd** (43rd) qualified for his first NASCAR NEXTEL Cup race since New Hampshire last July. Shepherd had failed to qualify 21 times in the interim
- Five drivers failed to qualify for the Chevy Rock & Roll 400: **Derrike Cope**, **Mike Wallace**, **Michael Waltrip**, **Hermie Sadler** and **Ted Christopher**.