



Information Provided by NASCAR Statistical Services

Talladega Superspeedway

Track data:

Race:	#9 of 36 (4-30-06)	Track Size:	2.66 Mile
Event:	Aaron's 499	Number of Laps:	188
Location:	Talladega, AL	Length of Event:	500.08 Miles
Length of Front Stretch:	4,300 Feet	Degree of Banking in Corners:	33°
Length of Back Stretch:	4,000 Feet	Degree of Banking on Straights:	Tri-Oval 18°/Back 2°

Qualifying/Race data:

Last year's event pole winner:	Kevin Harvick	189.804 mph	4-29-05	50.452 seconds
Last year's event winner:	Jeff Gordon	146.904 mph	5-01-05	3 hrs, 30 min, 46 sec
Restrictor Plate qualifying record:	Bill Elliott	199.388 mph	5-4-90	48.128 seconds
Restrictor Plate race record:	Mark Martin	188.354 mph**	5-10-97	2hrs, 39min, 18sec
Track qualifying record:	Bill Elliott	212.809 mph*	4-30-87	44.998 seconds
Track race record:	Mark Martin	188.354 mph**	5-10-97	2hrs, 39min, 18sec

* Before Restrictor Plates** All-time NASCAR average speed record

Historical data:

Previous winners at Talladega:

Dale Earnhardt (10)	Dale Earnhardt Jr. (5)	Darrell Waltrip (4)	Buddy Baker (4)	Bobby Allison (4)
Jeff Gordon (4)	Davey Allison (3)	David Pearson (3)	Cale Yarborough (3)	Donnie Allison (2)
Pete Hamilton (2)	Richard Petty (2)	Bill Elliott (2)	Ernie Ivan (2)	Sterling Marlin (2)
Mark Martin (2)	Terry Labonte (2)	Dale Jarrett (2)	Dave Marcis (1)	Dick Brooks (1)
James Hylton (1)	Richard Brickhouse (1)	Lenny Pond (1)	Neil Bonnett (1)	Ron Bouchard (1)
Bobby Hillin Jr. (1)	Phil Parsons (1)	Ken Schrader (1)	Harry Gant (1)	Jimmy Spencer (1)
Bobby Labonte (1)	Bobby Hamilton (1)	Michael Waltrip (1)		

Races won from the pole: 12 of 73 events (16%)

Races won from in top 10: 54 of 73 events (74%)

Races won from outside top 10: 19 of 73 events (26%)

Modern Era Event Victories by Car Make (1972 - Present):

Chevy	Ford	Olds	Pontiac	Buick	Dodge	Mercury	Plymouth	Matador
29	17	6	2	6	2	5	1	0

Track Milestones

- **Bobby Isaac** won the first NASCAR NEXTEL Cup Bud Pole at Talladega in 1969.
- **Richard Brickhouse**, driving a Dodge, won the first NASCAR NEXTEL Cup (Grand National) race at Talladega Superspeedway in 1969.
- Qualifying has been canceled due to weather once at Talladega: October 2002.
- The 1996 DieHard 500 was shortened to 129 laps due to darkness.
- The 2005 Aaron's 499 was extended to 194 laps by a green-white-checked finish.
- There have been three caution free races at Talladega: April 1997, April 2001 and October 2002.
- The Winston/DieHard sponsorship at Talladega was flip-flopped beginning in 1998, in conjunction with the Winston Million bonus with Winston moving to the fall race.

Qualifying Update

There have been **seven different** Bud Pole winners in the last 10 races at Talladega. **Elliott Sadler** (fall 2003 and fall 2005) is the only repeat Bud Pole winner there since **Stacy Compton** swept both Talladega Bud Poles in 2001. Qualifying was canceled in the fall of 2002.

Track Update

Dale Earnhardt Jr., finished 42nd and 14th in his first two races at Talladega (2000). In his 10 races there since, he finished eighth or better eight times, including five victories and two second-place finishes. His other finishes were 15th and 40th in 2005. His four consecutive victories (October 2001 through April 2003) are the most ever by a driver at Talladega. **Buddy Baker** (three - May 1975 through May 1976) is the only other driver to win more than two consecutive races there.

Manufacturer Update

Chevrolet won the **13 straight** races at Talladega between Ford wins in the 1998 Winston 500 and the 2005 UAW-Ford 500 (both fall races). Both of those Ford victories were posted by **Dale Jarrett**. Dodge last won there with **Dave Marcis** in the Talladega 500 (August 1976).

NASCAR NEXTEL Cup Active Drivers First and Last at this Track

	First Start	
Petty, Kyle		8-5-79
McMurray, Jamie		10-6-02
	First Pole	
Mayfield, Jeremy		7-26-96
	First Win	
Schrader, Ken		7-31-88
	Last Pole	
Schrader, Ken		4-23-99
Sadler, Elliott		9-30-05
	Last Win	
Waltrip, Michael		9-28-03
Jarrett, Dale		10-2-05

Last Victory at This Track

in a Chevrolet	Jeff Gordon	2005 Aaron's 499 (Spring)
in a Dodge	Dave Marcis	1976 Talladega 500 (Fall)
in a Ford	Dale Jarrett	2005 UAW-Ford 500 (Fall)
in a Pontiac	Bobby Labonte	1998 DieHard 500 (Spring)

Car Owner Victories at This Track

Richard Childress	9	Robert Yates	4	Holman-Moody	1
Ranier Racing	6	DiGard Racing Co.	2	Ray Nichels	1
Dale Earnhardt Inc.	6	Jack Roush	2	Jack Beebe	1
Rick Hendrick	6	Stavola Brothers	2	Jackson Brothers	1
Bud Moore	5	Melling Racing	2	Leo Jackson	1
Wood Brothers	5	Hoss Ellington	1	Joe Gibbs	1
Junior Johnson	5	Nord Krauskopf	1	Andy Petree	1
Morgan-McClure	4	Crawford Brothers	1	Total	73
Petty Engineering	4	James Hylton	1		

Would You Believe?

Dale Earnhardt still leads **all drivers** with 10 victories, 23 top-five and 27 top-10 finishes in 44 career races at Talladega. His victory total is twice that of **Dale Earnhardt Jr.**, his nearest competitor. Earnhardt Jr., has posted five victories, seven top-five finishes and eight top-10s in 12 Talladega appearances and has led in all but two of his races there.

Consistency

Of the 146 drivers that have made six or more starts at Talladega, only four have posted top five finishes in at least half of their races: **Dale Earnhardt** (23/44), **Dale Earnhardt Jr.** (7/12), **Tony Stewart** (7/14) and **Bobby Isaac** (4/8).

Notebook

- There have been 73 NASCAR NEXTEL Cup races at Talladega; two a year except for 1969, the inaugural year, which had only one race.
- **Three hundred and ninety-five different drivers** have competed in at least one NASCAR NEXTEL Cup race at Talladega since 1969. One hundred and thirty four have completed in just one race there.
- **Thirty different drivers** have won Bud Poles at Talladega. Nineteen drivers have won more than one Bud Pole there.
- **Bill Elliott** leads all drivers with eight Bud Poles at Talladega.
- **Sterling Marlin, Jeremy Mayfield** and **Joe Nemechek** (three each) lead all other active drivers in Bud Poles at Talladega.
- In the 10 races between 1983 and 1987 there were only two Bud Pole winners at Talladega. **Cale Yarborough** swept 1983 and 1984, while **Bill Elliott** posted six straight Bud Poles between 1985 and 1987.
- **Stacy Compton** won both Bud Poles at Talladega in 2001 – the most recent driver to sweep both poles there.
- **Kevin Harvick** is the defending Bud Pole winner for the Aaron's 499.
- **Thirty-three different drivers** have won races at Talladega. Eighteen drivers have won more than once there.
- **Six drivers** scored their only NASCAR NEXTEL Cup Series victory at Talladega: **Ron Bouchard, Richard Brickhouse, Dick Brooks, Bobby Hillin Jr., Phil Parsons** and **Lennie Pond**.
- **Dale Earnhardt** leads all drivers with 10 NASCAR NEXTEL Cup victories at Talladega, including victories in both races there in 1990 and 1999. His Talladega victory in the fall of 2000 was his final victory.
- **Dale Earnhardt Jr.** (five) leads all active drivers in Talladega victories. **Jeff Gordon** has four while **Dale Jarrett, Sterling Marlin,** and **Mark Martin** all have two. Part-timer **Terry Labonte** also has two wins there.
- **Dale Earnhardt Jr.**, finished first or second in **seven consecutive races at Talladega** between October 2001 and October 2004. He led 428 of the 1,316 laps in those seven races (33 percent).
- **Bobby Labonte** (May 1998) is the last driver to win from the Bud Pole at Talladega.
- **Jeff Gordon** is the defending champion of the Aaron's 499.
- **Nine of the last 14 races** at Talladega have been won from a starting position of 11th or worse.
- **Eight of the last 14 NASCAR NEXTEL Cup races** at Talladega have been won by an Earnhardt: **Dale Earnhardt Jr.**, (five) and **Dale Earnhardt** (three).
- **Bobby Hamilton** won the caution-free 2001 Talladega 500 with an average speed of 184.008 mph. His average speed for 188 laps was just 0.853 mph slower than the Bud Pole speed for that race set by **Stacy Compton**.
- **Mark Martin's** pace in the 1997 Winston 500 set **an all-time NASCAR NEXTEL Cup record for the fastest race ever run**. He won the caution-free race with an average speed of **188.354 mph** and covered the 500-mile distance in two hours, 39 minutes and 18 seconds.
- In the 35 years of twice-a-year NASCAR NEXTEL Cup racing at Talladega, a sweep has occurred six times: **Pete Hamilton** (1970), **Buddy Baker** (1975), **Darrell Waltrip** (1982), **Dale Earnhardt** (1990 and 1999) and **Dale Earnhardt Jr.** (2002).
- **Forty-two** of the 73 NASCAR NEXTEL Cup races at Talladega have been won from the first four starting positions (58 percent).
- The furthest back a winner has started at Talladega was when **Jeff Gordon** won the DieHard 500 (April 2000) from the **36th-place starting position**.

Spreading the Wealth

Jeremy Mayfield has scored three Bud Poles at Talladega. All three came with different team owners: **Cale Yarborough** (July 1996), **Roger Penske** (April 2000) and **Ray Evernham** (April 2003). His Bud Pole with Yarborough was the first of two straight Bud Poles for the former NASCAR NEXTEL Cup champion as a car-owner. **John Andretti** won the Bud Pole for Yarborough the following April.

Selected Modern Era Performance at this Track

(Races in parenthesis; Minimum of five starts all-time and active; three last 10)

Category	All-time	Active	Last 10 Races
Drivers	395	44	85
Starts	Dave Marcis - 61	Kyle Petty - 48	15 drivers - 10
Poles	Bill Elliott - 8 (54)	Sterling Marlin - 3 (45) Jeremy Mayfield - 3 (23) Joe Nemechek - 3 (22)	Joe Nemechek - 2 (9) Stacy Compton - 2 (6) Elliott Sadler - 2 (10)
Wins	Dale Earnhardt - 10 (44)	Dale Earnhardt Jr. - 5 (12)	Dale Earnhardt Jr. - 5 (10)
Top Fives	Dale Earnhardt - 23 (44)	Jeff Gordon - 11 (26) Dale Jarrett 11 (38) *	Dale Earnhardt Jr. - 7 (10)
Top 10s	Dale Earnhardt - 27 (44)	Mark Martin - 21 (40) *	Dale Earnhardt Jr. - 8 (10)
Laps Led	Dale Earnhardt - 1,377 (44)	Jeff Gordon - 640 (26)	Dale Earnhardt Jr. - 464 (10)
Most DNFs	Darrell Waltrip - 23 (55)	Sterling Marlin - 13 (45) * Ken Schrader - 13 (42)	Johnny Benson - 6 (7)
Fewest DNFs	Kevin Harvick - 0 (10)	Kevin Harvick - 0 (10)	Kevin Harvick - 0 (10)
Average Start	Bobby Isaac - 3.63 (8)	Jimmie Johnson - 6.38 (8)	Scott Riggs - 5.00 (4)
Average Finish	Pete Hamilton - 5.60 (5)	Dale Earnhardt Jr. - 10.67 ((12)	Dale Earnhardt Jr. - 7.20 (10)

* Terry Labonte has 14 top-fives, 23 top-10s and 17 DNFs (52 races)

Restrictor-Plate History

- Since 1988 the primary method of limiting the speeds of NASCAR NEXTEL Cup cars on the Daytona and Talladega superspeedways has been the reduction of the airflow through the carburetor by the use of restrictor-plates.
- There have been **73 restrictor-plate races** since 1988: 37 at Daytona International Speedway and 36 at Talladega Superspeedway.
- Three drivers have competed in all 73 restrictor-plate races: **Mark Martin**, **Ken Schrader** and **Michael Waltrip**.
- **Twenty-nine** different drivers have won Bud Poles for restrictor-plate events; 18 have won more than one restrictor-plate pole.
- Three drivers have accounted for 19 restrictor-plate poles: **Sterling Marlin** (seven) along with **Ernie Irvan** and **Dale Earnhardt** (six each).
- **Twenty-six** different drivers have won restrictor-plate races led by **Dale Earnhardt** with 11 victories followed by **Jeff Gordon** (10), **Dale Earnhardt Jr.** (seven), **Dale Jarrett** (six) and **Sterling Marlin** (five).
- **Dale Earnhardt** had a **9.377 average finish** in 53 restrictor-plate races. Only **Bobby Allison**, who compiled a 1.5 average finish in only two restrictor-plate races, posted a better average finish.
- **Dale Earnhardt** (Talladega 1990 and '99) and **Dale Earnhardt Jr.** (Talladega 2002) are the **only drivers** to sweep both restrictor-plate races at a track in a single season.

Qualifying Update

There have been **nine different** Bud Pole winners in the last nine restrictor-plate races beginning at Daytona in 2004. Four of those nine drivers posted their career-first restrictor-plate Bud Pole: **Greg Biffle**, **Jeff Burton**, **Ricky Rudd** and **Tony Stewart**.

Manufacturer Update

Chevrolet has won **18 of the last 21** restrictor-plate races, from 2001. **Ford** has had just two restrictor-plate victories since 2001 and Dodge has one.

Notebook Items

- **Fifty-three** restrictor-plate races have been won from a top-10 starting position but **only seven** have been won from the Bud Pole.
- **Jeff Gordon** (2004 Pepsi 400) and **Tony Stewart** (2005 Pepsi 400) are the only drivers in the past five years to win a restrictor-plate race from the Bud Pole.
- Ten of the 21 restrictor-plate races since 2001, have been won from a starting position outside the top 10, but four of the past seven have been won from the front row.
- The average starting position of the race winner in the 73 restrictor-plate races is **8.03**.

Restrictor-Plate Victories

No driver has ever **won all four** restrictor-plate races in a season. **Dale Earnhardt** won three of the four restrictor-plate races in 1990. Including Earnhardt's three, a driver has **won two** restrictor-plate races in the same season 15 times – including each of the past five seasons.

Selected Restrictor-Plate Performances

(Number of races in parenthesis; All-time - Minimum 10 races; Active – minimum 5; Last 10 minimum - 3)

Category	All-time	Active	Last 10 Races
Drivers	195	50	73
Starts	Mark Martin – 73	Mark Martin – 73	22 Drivers – 10
	Ken Schrader – 73	Ken Schrader – 73	
	Michael Waltrip – 73	Michael Waltrip – 73	
Poles	Sterling Marlin – 7 (72)	Sterling Marlin – 7 (72)	Elliott Sadler - 2 (10)
Wins	Dale Earnhardt – 11 (53)	Jeff Gordon – 10 (53)	Jeff Gordon - 4 (10)
Top Fives	Dale Earnhardt – 32 (53)	Jeff Gordon – 21 (53)	Dale Earnhardt Jr. – 7 (10)
			Tony Stewart – 7 (10)
Top 10s	Dale Earnhardt – 40 (53)	Sterling Marlin - 34 (72)	Tony Stewart - 9 (10)
		Mark Martin – 34 (73)	
Laps Led	Dale Earnhardt – 2,135 (53)	Jeff Gordon - 1,110 (53)	Tony Stewart - 465 (10)
Most DNFs	Derrike Cope – 21 (47)	Ken Schrader – 20 (73)	Six Drivers - 4
Fewest DNFs	Greg Biffle. – 0 (12)	Greg Biffle. – 0 (13)	Four Drivers - 0 (10)
Average Start	Davey Allison – 5.74 (23)	Jimmie Johnson – 7.53 (17)	Jimmie Johnson - 8.10 (10)
Average Finish	Dale Earnhardt – 9.38 (53)	Dale Earnhardt Jr. – 11.00 (25)	Tony Stewart – 5.50 (10)

Restrictor-Plate Would You Believe?

Dale Earnhardt is the all-time lap leader with 2,135 laps led in 53 restrictor-plate races. The next three places on the all-time list are active drivers. **Jeff Gordon** is second all-time and leads all active drivers with 1,110 laps led in 53 restrictor-plate events. **Sterling Marlin** is third with 1,004 laps led in his 72 restrictor-plate races. **Dale Earnhardt Jr.**, fourth all-time, has led 802 laps in just 25 restrictor-plate races.

Mr. Restrictor-Plate

Dale Earnhardt was undoubtedly the master of restrictor-plate racing. He still leads all other drivers in five of the seven restrictor-plate performance categories and is second in the other two.

- Poles – 6 (tied with Ernie Irvan; second to Sterling Marlin - 7)
- Wins - 11
- Top 5s - 32
- Top 10s - 40
- Avg. Start - 8.6 (second only to **Davey Allison** – 5.7 among drivers with 20 or more restrictor-plate starts)
- Avg. Finish - 9.3**
- Laps Led - 2,135

** Drivers with 3 or more starts

Mr. Restrictor-Plate – Page Two

Dale Earnhardt Jr., has assumed the restrictor-plate crown, winning seven restrictor-plate races since his father's death. Earnhardt Jr., led 229 of the 736 restrictor-plate laps raced in 2001 and was the only driver to score **four restrictor-plate top-10s** that season. He out-scored his nearest competitor, **Jeff Burton**, by 135 points in points earned in restrictor-plate races (692-557). He continued his winning restrictor-plate program into 2002, posting three top 10 finishes, including two more Talladega victories, in the four restrictor-plate races that season. Earnhardt Jr., won the first Talladega race in 2003 – his record-setting fourth consecutive victory at the Alabama superspeedway - and went on to post three top-10 finishes in the four restrictor-plate races in 2003. Earnhardt Jr., led 102 of 645 laps, second only to teammate Michael Waltrip who led 103. The 2004 season-opening Daytona 500 saw Earnhardt Jr., post his sixth restrictor-plate victory and he followed that with a second-place finish at Talladega, a third Daytona in July and his seventh restrictor-plate victory at Talladega in October. He was the only driver to post a top-five finish in each of the four races and led 216 of 736 restrictor-plate laps raced in 2004.

Page Three and Four

After being shut-out of the restrictor-plate victory lanes for three years during the height of the Dale Earnhardt Inc. dominance (2001-2003), **Jeff Gordon** has recently regained his restrictor-plate form. Gordon has won four of the last nine restrictor-plate races.

Tony Stewart has also gained success in recent restrictor-plate races. Stewart has posted eight top-10 finishes in his last nine restrictor-plate races, including a victory in the 2005 Pepsi 400 - his first restrictor-plate victory. He has also led the most laps (465) and posted the best average finish (5.77) over those nine races.

Back-to-Back

A driver has won consecutive restrictor-plate races 13 times:

- * Davey Allison 1989 Winston 500 and Pepsi 400
- * Dale Earnhardt 1990 Winston 500, Pepsi 400 and DieHard 500 (three straight)
- * Davey Allison 1992 Daytona 500 and Winston 500
- * Ernie Irvan 1992 Pepsi 400 and DieHard 500
- * Dale Earnhardt 1993 Pepsi 400 and DieHard 500
- * Jimmy Spencer 1994 Pepsi 400 and DieHard 500
- * Sterling Marlin 1996 Winston Select 500 and Pepsi 400
- * Jeff Gordon 1996 DieHard 500, 1997 Daytona 500
- * Jeff Gordon 1998 Pepsi 400 and 1999 Daytona 500
- * Dale Earnhardt Jr. 2001 Pepsi 400 and 2001 EA Sports 500
- * Jeff Gordon 2004 Aaron's 499 and 2004 Pepsi 400
- * Jeff Gordon 2005 Daytona 500 and 2005 Aaron's 499

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