




**00 David Reutimann**  
**Toyota | Age: 37**  
Team: Michael Waltrip Racing  
Sponsor: Aaron's  
Crew chief: Ryan Pemberton  
Career wins: 0  
**Best finish 2007:** 13th, Richmond II  
**Forecast:** Ran more races last year than teammates Dale Jarrett and Michael Waltrip. Moves to the No. 44, replacing Jarrett after the season's fifth points race.

**01 Regan Smith**  
**Chevrolet | Age: 24**  
Team: Dale Earnhardt Inc.  
Sponsor: TBA  
Crew chief: Doug Richert  
Career wins: 0  
**Best finish 2007:** 24th, Talladega I  
**Forecast:** Mark Martin is high on this driver. Key is how Smith performs with this ride and how well DEI does after a year of reorganization.


**07 Clint Bowyer**  
**Chevrolet | Age: 28**  
Team: Richard Childress Racing  
Sponsor: Jack Daniel's  
Crew chief: Gil Martin  
Career wins: 1  
**Best finish 2007:** 1st, New Hampshire II  
**Forecast:** Ran well in the Chase. Now he must prove he's not a one-hit wonder after his first Cup victory and third-place finish in the points last year.

**1 Martin Truex Jr.**  
**Chevrolet | Age: 27**  
Team: Dale Earnhardt Inc.  
Sponsor: Bass Pro Shops  
Crew chief: Kevin Manion  
Career wins: 1  
**Best finish 2007:** 1st, Dover I  
**Forecast:** DEI executive John Story says anything less than a title for this team would be a "bit of a disappointment."

**2 Kurt Busch**  
**Dodge | Age: 29**  
Team: Penske Racing  
Sponsor: Miller Lite  
Crew chief: Pat Tryson  
Career wins: 17  
**Best finish 2007:** 1st, Pocono II, Michigan II  
**Forecast:** Ran well second half of last season after Tryson joined team. Volatile driver must control his temper. It cost him 100 points for Dover incident.

**5 Casey Mears**  
**Chevrolet | Age: 29**  
Team: Hendrick Motorsports  
Sponsor: Kellogg's/Carquest  
Crew chief: Alan Gustafson  
Career wins: 1  
**Best finish 2007:** 1st, Charlotte I  
**Forecast:** This marks his third consecutive year with a different crew chief. Needs consistency to run well. Might take time to adjust to Gustafson early in the season, and that could hurt his chances of making the Chase.

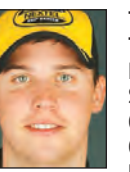
**6 David Ragan**  
**Ford | Age: 22**  
Team: Roush Fenway Racing  
Sponsor: AAA  
Crew chief: Jimmy Fennig  
Career wins: 0  
**Best finish 2007:** 3rd, Richmond II  
**Forecast:** Was involved in several accidents and spins last season as a rookie. Preseason talk is that team expects him to win. That's a heavy toll for a driver with only two top-five finishes.


**7 Robby Gordon**  
**Dodge | Age: 39**  
Team: Robby Gordon Motorsports  
Sponsor: Jim Beam  
Crew chief: Frank Kerr  
Career wins: 3  
**Best finish 2007:** 5th, at Watkins Glen  
**Forecast:** Admire Gordon for his gumption but this is a single-car operation, so a top-25 points finish — he was 26th last year — would be golden. Progress could be slowed by late switch from Ford to Dodge.

**8 Mark Martin**  
**Chevrolet | Age: 49**  
Team: Dale Earnhardt Inc.  
Sponsor: U.S. Army  
Crew chief: Tony Gibson  
Career wins: 35  
**Best finish 2007:** 2nd, Daytona 500  
**Forecast:** He will drive the car in 24 points races with rookie Aric Almirola driving it in the remaining events, as Martin continues running a partial schedule.


**9 Kasey Kahne**  
**Dodge | Age: 27**  
Team: Gillett Evernham Motorsports  
Sponsor: Budweiser  
Team director: Kenny Francis  
Career wins: 7  
**Best finish 2007:** 2nd, Bristol II  
**Forecast:** Coming off a dismal season where he had six times as many DNFs as he did top-five finishes. A good start would help make this team forget last year's woes.


**10 Patrick Carpentier**  
**Dodge | Age: 36**  
Team: Gillett Evernham Motorsports  
Sponsor: Valvoline  
Crew chief: Mike Shiplett  
Career wins: 0  
**Best finish 2007:** 22nd, Watkins Glen  
**Forecast:** Open-wheel driver making the transition to stock cars. His toughest challenge is that he's not in the top 35 in car owner points and not guaranteed a spot in the first five races.


**11 Denny Hamlin**  
**Toyota | Age: 27**  
Team: Joe Gibbs Racing  
Sponsor: FedEx  
Crew chief: Mike Ford  
Career wins: 3  
**Best finish 2007:** 1st, New Hampshire I  
**Forecast:** Smooth, steady driver who struggled late last year. Move to Toyota creates question marks. How well the Toyota engines run will determine this team's fate.


**12 Ryan Newman**  
**Dodge | Age: 30**  
Team: Penske Racing  
Sponsor: Alltel  
Crew chief: Roy McCauley  
Career wins: 12  
**Best finish 2007:** 2nd, Dover I, Pocono I, Martinsville II  
**Forecast:** Showed progress throughout season. Reunited with McCauley, who helped Newman win a few races in what is now called the Nationwide series. Key is how well the two work together now.

**15 Paul Menard**  
**Chevrolet | Age: 27**  
Team: Dale Earnhardt Inc.  
Sponsor: Menard's  
Crew chief: Doug Randolph  
Career wins: 0  
**Best finish 2007:** 12th Michigan I  
**Forecast:** He and team still have much to show. Failed to finish in the top 20 in any of the last 14 races a year ago.

**16 Greg Biffle**  
**Ford | Age: 38**  
Team: Roush Fenway Racing  
Sponsor: 3M  
Crew chief: Greg Erwin  
Career wins: 12  
**Best finish 2007:** 1st, Kansas  
**Forecast:** In a contract year this is his time to shine to get more money from Roush or another ride elsewhere. Despite all his wins, he's finished in the top 10 in points once in five seasons.


**17 Matt Kenseth**  
**Ford | Age: 35**  
Team: Roush Fenway Racing  
Sponsor: DeWalt  
Crew chief: Chip Bolin  
Career wins: 16  
**Best finish 2007:** 1st, California I, Homestead  
**Forecast:** Faces season without longtime crew chief Robbie Reiser, who moved to a management position. Bolin has been with Kenseth for years as an engineer.


**18 Kyle Busch**  
**Toyota | Age: 22**  
Team: Joe Gibbs Racing  
Sponsor: M&M's  
Crew chief: Steve Addington  
Career wins: 4  
**Best finish 2007:** 1st, Bristol I  
**Forecast:** Could be the free-agent steal. Busch will have something to prove after losing his Hendrick Motorsports ride to Dale Earnhardt Jr. Key is how well JGR gets the Toyotas running.

**19 Elliott Sadler**  
**Dodge | Age: 32**  
Team: Gillett Evernham Motorsports  
Sponsor: Best Buy, Stanley Tools, McDonald's  
Crew chief: Rodney Childers  
Career wins: 3  
**Best finish 2007:** 6th, Daytona 500  
**Forecast:** Last won in 2004. Team was not very good last year. Should be better but is it enough to compete for top-15 finishes.


**20 Tony Stewart**  
**Toyota | Age: 36**  
Team: Joe Gibbs Racing  
Sponsor: The Home Depot  
Crew chief: Greg Zipadelli  
Career wins: 32  
**Best finish 2007:** 1st, Chicago, Indianapolis, Watkins Glen  
**Forecast:** Perennial title contender who will only be as good as team makes his Toyota-powered car. Might be a year away from truly challenging for the title. Then again, Stewart loves to prove others wrong.

**21 Bill Elliott**  
**Ford | Age: 52**  
Team: Wood Brothers  
Sponsor: Motorcraft, Little Debbie, Air Force  
Crew chief: Gene Nead  
Career wins: 44  
**Best finish 2007:** 11th, Michigan I  
**Forecast:** Marcos Ambrose and Jon Wood also will share time in this ride during the season. Elliott keeps driving because he's eligible for a champion's provisional and this team is just trying to survive.

**22 Dave Blaney**  
**Toyota | Age: 45**  
Team: Bill Davis Racing  
Sponsor: Caterpillar  
Crew chief: Tommy Baldwin  
Career wins: 0  
**Best finish 2007:** 3rd, Talladega II  
**Forecast:** Only Toyota team to finish in the top 35 in car owner points last year. That guarantees him a spot in the first five races. Still, team has much work to do if it hopes to crack the top 25.

**24 Jeff Gordon**  
**Chevrolet | Age: 36**  
Team: Hendrick Motorsports  
Sponsor: DuPont  
Crew chief: Steve Letarte  
Career wins: 81  
**Best finish 2007:** 1st, Phoenix I, Talladega I, Darlington, Pocono I, Talladega II, Charlotte II  
**Forecast:** Team's challenge is to be more aggressive, particularly in the Chase. He won six races and had a series-record 30 top-10 finishes and didn't win the title.

**26 Jamie McMurray**  
**Ford | Age: 31**  
Team: Roush Fenway Racing  
Sponsor: Crown Royal  
Crew chief: Larry Carter  
Career wins: 2  
**Best finish 2007:** 1st, Daytona II  
**Forecast:** Had full season with Carter, his choice for crew chief, and finished 17th in points. Expectations will be higher, especially since Roush has increased his testing program. Needs to show progress.

**27 Jacques Villeneuve**  
**Toyota | Age: 36**  
Team: Bill Davis Racing  
Sponsor: TBA  
Crew chief: Richard Labbe  
Career wins: 0  
**Best finish 2007:** 21st, Talladega II  
**Forecast:** A Formula One champ, Villeneuve faces a big challenge with his limited stock-car experience. Compounding things is his lack of sponsorship.

**28 Travis Kvapil**  
**Ford | Age: 31**  
Team: Yates Racing  
Sponsor: TBA  
Crew chief: Todd Parrott  
Career wins: 0  
**Best finish 2007:** Ran in Truck series  
**Forecast:** Roush Fenway Racing is trying to help prop Yates Racing up, but Yates needs sponsorship. Top-30 finish might be considered a good season for this group.

**29 Kevin Harvick**  
**Chevrolet | Age: 32**  
Team: Richard Childress Racing  
Sponsor: Shell-Pennzoil  
Crew chief: Todd Berrier  
Career wins: 11  
**Best finish 2007:** 21st, Daytona 500  
**Forecast:** Promise of Daytona 500 win faded in a series of blown tires and other woes. Although team made the Chase, it was not a serious title contender. Needs to gain speed.

**31 Jeff Burton**  
**Chevrolet | Age: 40**  
Team: Richard Childress Racing  
Sponsor: AT&T  
Crew chief: Scott Miller  
Career wins: 19  
**Best finish 2007:** 1st, Texas I  
**Forecast:** Team was good last year but not great. Led 79 laps all of last season — less than 1 percent of all laps run. Needs to run up front more to be considered a title threat.


**38 David Gilliland**  
**Ford | Age: 31**  
Team: Yates Racing  
Sponsor: TBA  
Crew chief: Cully Barraclough  
Career wins: 0  
**Best finish 2007:** 4th, Talladega I  
**Forecast:** Unless sponsorship is found, this team could be headed for another like last year when it had two top-10 finishes and finished 25th or worse 26 times.

**40 Dario Franchitti**  
**Dodge | Age: 34**  
Team: Chip Ganassi Racing with Felix Sabates  
Sponsor: TBA  
Crew chief: Steve Lane  
Career wins: 0  
**Best finish 2007:** Did not compete in Cup  
**Forecast:** Follows teammate Juan Pablo Montoya in making the transition from open-wheel racing to stock cars. Likely will struggle at times. Top-25 finish would be a good season.

**41 Reed Sorenson**  
**Dodge | Age: 22**  
Team: Chip Ganassi Racing with Felix Sabates  
Sponsor: Target  
Crew chief: Jimmy Elledge  
Career wins: 0  
**Best finish 2007:** 3rd, Atlanta II  
**Forecast:** Needs to step up this season. He's never finished in the top 20 in points. His youth is a plus but eventually the team will need to see more than just three top-five finishes in a season.

**42 Juan Pablo Montoya**  
**Dodge | Age: 32**  
Team: Chip Ganassi Racing with Felix Sabates  
Sponsor: Texaco/Havoline  
Crew chief: Donnie Wingo  
Career wins: 1  
**Best finish 2007:** 1st, Infineon Raceway  
**Forecast:** Car owner Chip Ganassi said last year he expects Montoya to contend for a spot in the Chase. Key will be tracks 1 mile or less. Had an average finish of 22.7 in those 12 races.

**43 Bobby Labonte**  
**Dodge | Age: 43**  
Team: Petty Enterprises  
Sponsor: Cheerios  
Crew chief: Jeff Meendering  
Career wins: 21  
**Best finish 2007:** 8th, Phoenix I, Bristol II  
**Forecast:** Had only three top-10s last season yet still finished in the top 20 in points, a major accomplishment for this team. Meendering will help. Climbing higher in the points will be difficult.

**44 Dale Jarrett**  
**Toyota | Age: 51**  
Team: Michael Waltrip Racing  
Sponsor: UPS  
Crew chief: Bill Pappas  
Career wins: 32  
**Best finish 2007:** 17th, Homestead  
**Forecast:** An embarrassing season last year as Waltrip's team wasn't ready and Toyota had issues. Will run first five points races before he retires and gives way to David Reutimann.

**45 Kyle Petty**  
**Dodge | Age: 47**  
Team: Petty Enterprises  
Sponsor: Wells Fargo  
Crew chief: Bill Wilburn  
Career wins: 8  
**Best finish 2007:** 3rd, Charlotte I  
**Forecast:** Heading closer to retirement but wants to make both Petty teams more stable. Moving team shop should help but it will take more. Goal is to remain in the top 35 in car owner points and steadily progress.

**48 Jimmie Johnson**  
**Chevrolet | Age: 32**  
Team: Hendrick Motorsports  
Sponsor: Lowe's  
Crew chief: Chad Knaus  
Career wins: 33  
**Best finish 2007:** 1st, Las Vegas, Atlanta I, Martinsville I, Richmond I, California II, Richmond II, Martinsville II, Atlanta II, Texas II, Phoenix II  
**Forecast:** Two-time defending series champ has 15 wins in past two seasons. He wants to be better at Bristol and Infineon Raceway.


**49 Ken Schrader**  
**Dodge | Age: 52**  
Team: BAM Racing  
Sponsor: TBA  
Crew chief: David Hyder  
Career wins: 4  
**Best finish 2007:** 19th, Martinsville I  
**Forecast:** Lost ride at Wood Brothers when team fell out of top 35 in car owner points and went with former champ Bill Elliott. This opportunity is just a chance to be in a car but odds are stacked against this team.

**55 Michael Waltrip**  
**Toyota | Age: 44**  
Team: Michael Waltrip Racing  
Sponsor: NAPA  
Crew chief: Paul Andrews  
Career wins: 4  
**Best finish 2007:** 10th, Michigan I, Charlotte II  
**Forecast:** Horrendous year that started with the fuel penalty at Daytona and then he failed to make 19 races. Needs to make races. Otherwise, questions will persist about how long sponsors can remain with team.


**66 Scott Riggs**  
**Chevrolet | Age: 37**  
Team: Haas CNC Racing  
Sponsor: State Water Heaters  
Crew chief: Robert Barker  
Career wins: 0  
**Best finish 2007:** 8th, Martinsville I  
**Forecast:** Questions persist about this team and if it has enough sponsorship money to succeed. Finishing in the top 30 in points could be considered a great year.

**70 Jeremy Mayfield**  
**Chevrolet | Age: 38**  
Team: Haas CNC Racing  
Sponsor: TBA  
Crew chief: Dave Skog  
Career wins: 5  
**Best finish 2007:** 22nd, Kansas, Texas II  
**Forecast:** If finishing in the top 30 is good for teammate Scott Riggs (No. 66), then just staying in the top 35 is the goal for this team also looking for sponsorship dollars.

**77 Sam Hornish Jr.**  
**Dodge | Age: 28**  
Team: Penske Racing  
Sponsor: Mobil 1  
Crew chief: Chris Carrier  
Career wins: 0  
**Best finish 2007:** 30th, Phoenix II  
**Forecast:** Former Indy 500 champ follows growing list of open-wheel drivers migrating to NASCAR. Failed to qualify for six Cup races before making season's final two.

**78 Joe Nemechek**  
**Chevrolet | Age: 44**  
Team: Furniture Row Racing  
Sponsor: Furniture Row  
Crew chief: Jay Guy  
Career wins: 4  
**Best finish 2007:** 9th, Daytona I  
**Forecast:** If this team makes more than two-thirds of the races, it will be considered a successful season.

**83 Brian Vickers**  
**Toyota | Age: 24**  
Team: Red Bull Racing Team  
Sponsor: Red Bull  
Crew chief: Kevin Hamlin  
Career wins: 1  
**Best finish 2007:** 5th, Charlotte I  
**Forecast:** Showed signs of progress last year but starts this season outside the top 35 in car owner points and without guarantee of making races. First five races are critical to team's success.

**84 A.J. Allmendinger**  
**Toyota | Age: 26**  
Team: Red Bull Racing  
Sponsor: Red Bull  
Crew chief: Ricky Viers  
Career wins: 0  
**Best finish 2007:** 15th, Charlotte II  
**Forecast:** Failed to make 19 races last year. Needs to make races. First five races also are critical to this team.

**88 Dale Earnhardt Jr.**  
**Chevrolet | Age: 33**  
Team: Hendrick Motorsports  
Sponsor: AMP/National Guard  
Crew chief: Tony Eury Jr.  
Career wins: 17  
**Best finish 2007:** 2nd, Pocono II  
**Forecast:** Expectations are high. Strong start will relieve pressure. If he struggles early, the pressure will grow and challenge this driver who has spent his career inside a bubble of expectations.

**96 J.J. Yeley**  
**Toyota | Age: 31**  
Team: Hall of Fame Racing  
Sponsor: Texas Instruments DLP  
Crew chief: Brandon Thomas  
Career wins: 0  
**Best finish 2007:** 2nd, Charlotte I  
**Forecast:** Moves from Joe Gibbs Racing to this one-car team that is a satellite team of JGR. Team is still learning and developing. A top-25 points finish would be considered a good step forward.

**99 Carl Edwards**  
**Ford | Age: 28**  
Team: Roush Fenway Racing  
Sponsor: Office Depot  
Crew chief: Bob Osborne  
Career wins: 7  
**Best finish 2007:** 1st, Michigan I, Bristol II, Dover II  
**Forecast:** Broke out of winless streak last season but might be remembered as much for his post-race confrontation with teammate Matt Kenseth. If Edwards can control his passion, he could be a strong title contender.