




00 David Reutimann
Toyota | Age: 36
Team: Michael Waltrip Racing
Sponsor: Burger

King/Domino's
Crew chief: Frank Kerr
Career wins: 0
Best finish 2006: Did not race Cup
Forecast: Rookie driver with team going from Busch to three-car operation. Challenges will be great; success could be fleeting.



01 Mark Martin
Chevrolet | Ginn Racing
Sponsor: U.S. Army
Crew chief: Ryan Pemberton
Martin: 35 career wins; best finish 2006: 2nd at Atlanta I
Smith: 0 career wins; did not compete in Cup in 2006
Forecast: Team struggled last year with Joe Nemechek. Organization has not shown it can win now. This is likely a year where Martin helps reshape the team's foundation.

Regan Smith
Age: 23
Fennig
Career wins: 0
Best finish 2006: 25th at Martinsville II
Forecast: Pressure is high and expectations low for the driver who takes over Mark Martin's ride. Season will be considered a success if he finishes top 25 in points.



07 Clint Bowyer
Chevrolet | Age: 27
Team: Richard Childress Racing
Sponsor: Jack Daniel's
Crew chief: Gil Martin
Career wins: 0
Best finish 2006: 3rd at California II
Forecast: Showed signs of success last season only to struggle late. Could benefit from Childress' heavy development of the Car of Tomorrow and challenge for one of the last spots in the expanded Chase lineup.

Eury Jr.
Career wins: 17
Best finish 2006: 1st at Richmond I
Forecast: His contract with DEI ends after this season and speculation will continue until a deal is done. The key is for the team not to let that be a distraction. Team showed major improvements at 1.5- and 2-mile tracks.



1 Martin Truex Jr.
Chevrolet | Age: 26
Team: Dale Earnhardt Inc.
Sponsor: Bass Pro
Shops
Crew chief: Kevin Marion
Career wins: 0
Best finish 2006: 2nd at Homestead
Forecast: Struggled last season more than most expected. Rookie season is behind him, time to start moving forward for two-time Busch series champ.

McCauley
Career wins: 15
Best finish 2006: 1st at Bristol I
Forecast: Working together last year should help Busch and McCauley this season. Team was fast in qualifying but slipped in races. Team should overcome that issue this season and return to victory lane multiple times.



2 Kurt Busch
Dodge | Age: 28
Team: Penske Racing
Sponsor: Miller Lite
Crew chief: Roy
Team director: Kenny Francis
Career wins: 7
Best finish 2006: 1st at Atlanta I, Texas I, Charlotte I & II, Michigan I, California II
Forecast: Late slide soured a good season. All the races he won last year are not Car of Tomorrow races this season, so he could be strong at many of the same tracks again.

Car make: Dodge
Team director: Rodney Childers
Career wins: 0
Best finish 2006: 4th at Bristol II
Forecast: Team must build consistency. Failed to finish on the lead lap 11 times a year ago. The question is if Riggs and his bunch will get the best of everything at Evernham or have to settle for seconds.




4 Ward Burton
Chevrolet | Age: 45
Team: Morgan-McClure Motorsports
Sponsor: State Water Heaters
Crew chief: Chris Carrier
Career wins: 5
Best finish 2006: 25th at Texas II
Forecast: First full-time season since 2004. Driving for underfunded team not in the top 35 in car owner points, so he's not guaranteed a starting spot in the first five races. Struggles early could lead to woes all season.

Car make: Dodge
Team director: Rodney Childers
Career wins: 0
Best finish 2006: 4th at Bristol II
Forecast: Team must build consistency. Failed to finish on the lead lap 11 times a year ago. The question is if Riggs and his bunch will get the best of everything at Evernham or have to settle for seconds.



5 Kyle Busch
Chevrolet | Age: 21
Team: Hendrick Motorsports
Sponsor: Kellogg's
Crew chief: Alan
Gustafson
Career wins: 3
Best finish 2006: 1st at New Hampshire I
Forecast: Made the Chase last year but was out of title hunt early. He's fast, but he must be more consistent. Last year's hard knocks could serve him well if he makes the Chase again.

Fennig
Career wins: 0
Best finish 2006: 25th at Martinsville II
Forecast: Pressure is high and expectations low for the driver who takes over Mark Martin's ride. Season will be considered a success if he finishes top 25 in points.



6 David Ragan
Ford | Age: 21
Team: Roush Racing
Sponsor: AAA
Crew chief: Jimmy
Fennig
Career wins: 0
Best finish 2006: 25th at Martinsville II
Forecast: Pressure is high and expectations low for the driver who takes over Mark Martin's ride. Season will be considered a success if he finishes top 25 in points.

Fennig
Career wins: 0
Best finish 2006: 25th at Martinsville II
Forecast: Pressure is high and expectations low for the driver who takes over Mark Martin's ride. Season will be considered a success if he finishes top 25 in points.



7 Robby Gordon
Ford | Age: 38
Team: Robby Gordon Motorsports
Sponsor: Jim Beam/Menards/Matei
Crew chief: Greg Erwin
Career wins: 3
Best finish 2006: 4th at Watkins Glen
Forecast: Single-car team switches from Chevrolet to Ford. Failed to finish a series-high nine races last year. If he can't avoid mechanical woes and accidents, he'll be in for another long season.

Eury Jr.
Career wins: 17
Best finish 2006: 1st at Richmond I
Forecast: His contract with DEI ends after this season and speculation will continue until a deal is done. The key is for the team not to let that be a distraction. Team showed major improvements at 1.5- and 2-mile tracks.



8 Dale Earnhardt Jr.
Chevrolet | Age: 32
Team: Dale Earnhardt Inc.
Sponsor: Budweiser
Crew chief: Tony
Labbe
Career wins: 10
Best finish 2006: 9th at Richmond I
Forecast: This is a big rebuilding job. Team finished 34th in the points and placed 35th or worse in nine races. If results don't improve, Sterling Marlin, could be looking elsewhere for a ride.

Labbe
Career wins: 10
Best finish 2006: 9th at Richmond I
Forecast: This is a big rebuilding job. Team finished 34th in the points and placed 35th or worse in nine races. If results don't improve, Sterling Marlin, could be looking elsewhere for a ride.



9 Kasey Kahne
Dodge | Age: 26
Team: Evernham Motorsports
Sponsor: Dodge Dealers/UAW
Team director: Kenny Francis
Career wins: 7
Best finish 2006: 1st at Atlanta I, Texas I, Charlotte I & II, Michigan I, California II
Forecast: Late slide soured a good season. All the races he won last year are not Car of Tomorrow races this season, so he could be strong at many of the same tracks again.

Car make: Dodge
Team director: Rodney Childers
Career wins: 0
Best finish 2006: 4th at Bristol II
Forecast: Team must build consistency. Failed to finish on the lead lap 11 times a year ago. The question is if Riggs and his bunch will get the best of everything at Evernham or have to settle for seconds.



10 Scott Riggs
Dodge | Age: 36
Team: Evernham Motorsports
Sponsor: Valvoline/Stanley Tools
Car make: Dodge
Team director: Rodney Childers
Career wins: 0
Best finish 2006: 4th at Bristol II
Forecast: Team must build consistency. Failed to finish on the lead lap 11 times a year ago. The question is if Riggs and his bunch will get the best of everything at Evernham or have to settle for seconds.

Car make: Dodge
Team director: Rodney Childers
Career wins: 0
Best finish 2006: 4th at Bristol II
Forecast: Team must build consistency. Failed to finish on the lead lap 11 times a year ago. The question is if Riggs and his bunch will get the best of everything at Evernham or have to settle for seconds.



11 Denny Hamlin
Chevrolet | Age: 26
Team: Joe Gibbs Racing
Sponsor: FedEx
Car make: Chevrolet
Crew chief: Mike Ford
Career wins: 2
Best finish 2006: 1st at Pocono I & II
Forecast: He had a remarkable run in the first 26 races last season, where he was involved in few accidents and that helped him climb into the Chase. It's tough for a driver to have such a run two years in a row.

Crew chief: Mike Ford
Career wins: 2
Best finish 2006: 1st at Pocono I & II
Forecast: He had a remarkable run in the first 26 races last season, where he was involved in few accidents and that helped him climb into the Chase. It's tough for a driver to have such a run two years in a row.



12 Ryan Newman
Dodge | Age: 29
Team: Penske Racing
Sponsor: Alltel
Crew chief: Mike Nelson
Career wins: 12
Best finish 2006: 2nd at Sonoma
Forecast: Team fell into a deep funk last year. Crew chief Matt Borland left. Nelson has been Newman's engineer, so they know each other well. Chase is possible with field expanded but might be a year away from being a force.

Crew chief: Mike Ford
Career wins: 2
Best finish 2006: 1st at Pocono I & II
Forecast: He had a remarkable run in the first 26 races last season, where he was involved in few accidents and that helped him climb into the Chase. It's tough for a driver to have such a run two years in a row.



13 Joe Nemechek
Chevrolet | Age: 43
Team: Ginn Racing
Sponsor: TBA
Crew chief: Peter Sospenzo
Career wins: 4
Best finish 2006: 9th at Charlotte II, Atlanta II
Forecast: Nemechek moved from the 01 for Mark Martin and also because he's a good qualifier since this team is not guaranteed a starting spot in the first five races. If team can get through that OK, then it can focus on racing.

Crew chief: Mike Ford
Career wins: 2
Best finish 2006: 1st at Pocono I & II
Forecast: He had a remarkable run in the first 26 races last season, where he was involved in few accidents and that helped him climb into the Chase. It's tough for a driver to have such a run two years in a row.



14 Sterling Marlin
Chevrolet | Age: 49
Team: Ginn Racing
Sponsor: Waste Management
Crew chief: Richard
Labbe
Career wins: 10
Best finish 2006: 9th at Richmond I
Forecast: This is a big rebuilding job. Team finished 34th in the points and placed 35th or worse in nine races. If results don't improve, Sterling Marlin, could be looking elsewhere for a ride.

Crew chief: Mike Ford
Career wins: 2
Best finish 2006: 1st at Pocono I & II
Forecast: He had a remarkable run in the first 26 races last season, where he was involved in few accidents and that helped him climb into the Chase. It's tough for a driver to have such a run two years in a row.




15 Paul Menard
Chevrolet | Age: 26
Team: Dale Earnhardt Inc.
Sponsor: Menards
Crew chief: Tony Eury
Sr.
Career wins: 0
Best finish 2006: 7th at Atlanta I
Forecast: He finished sixth in the Busch series last year, the top Busch-only driver. Focus for rookie of the year will be on Juan Pablo Montoya, but Menard could challenge for title if his equipment is good.

Crew chief: Mike Ford
Career wins: 2
Best finish 2006: 1st at Pocono I & II
Forecast: He had a remarkable run in the first 26 races last season, where he was involved in few accidents and that helped him climb into the Chase. It's tough for a driver to have such a run two years in a row.



16 Greg Biffle
Ford | Age: 37
Team: Roush Racing
Sponsor: Ameritrust
Crew chief: Pat Tryson
Career wins: 11
Best finish 2006: 1st at Darlington, Homestead
Forecast: A new crew chief and several new crew members (many from Mark Martin's team) could either infuse this team or cause it to fall further. Biffle nearly won the 2005 title but was not as strong last year and failed to make the Chase.

Crew chief: Mike Ford
Career wins: 2
Best finish 2006: 1st at Pocono I & II
Forecast: He had a remarkable run in the first 26 races last season, where he was involved in few accidents and that helped him climb into the Chase. It's tough for a driver to have such a run two years in a row.



17 Matt Kenseth
Ford | Age: 34
Team: Roush Racing
Sponsor: DeWalt
Crew chief: Robbie Reiser
Career wins: 14
Best finish 2006: 1st at California I, Dover I, Michigan II, Bristol II
Forecast: A title favorite. Team was not as strong in the Chase and could not hold off Jimmie Johnson. If the team can't fix those woes, Kenseth will have to settle for finishing in the top 10 in points a sixth consecutive year.

Crew chief: Mike Ford
Career wins: 2
Best finish 2006: 1st at Pocono I & II
Forecast: He had a remarkable run in the first 26 races last season, where he was involved in few accidents and that helped him climb into the Chase. It's tough for a driver to have such a run two years in a row.



18 J.J. Yeley
Chevrolet | Age: 30
Team: Joe Gibbs Racing
Sponsor: Interstate Batteries
Crew chief: Steve Addington
Career wins: 0
Best finish 2006: 8th at California I, New Hampshire II
Forecast: Teammate Tony Stewart lauds Yeley's driving ability. Now's the time to see it with better performances. Fell out of six races because of accidents. Must reduce that total.

Crew chief: Mike Ford
Career wins: 2
Best finish 2006: 1st at Pocono I & II
Forecast: He had a remarkable run in the first 26 races last season, where he was involved in few accidents and that helped him climb into the Chase. It's tough for a driver to have such a run two years in a row.



19 Elliott Sadler
Dodge | Age: 31
Team: Evernham Motorsports
Sponsor: Dodge Dealers
Team director: Josh Browne
Career wins: 3
Best finish 2006: 4th at Daytona I
Forecast: Got a head start on this year by driving in the final 14 races for team. Needs a good start, because he beats himself up too much. A good start could help Sadler place two Evernham cars in the Chase.

Crew chief: Mike Ford
Career wins: 2
Best finish 2006: 1st at Pocono I & II
Forecast: He had a remarkable run in the first 26 races last season, where he was involved in few accidents and that helped him climb into the Chase. It's tough for a driver to have such a run two years in a row.



20 Tony Stewart
Chevrolet | Age: 35
Team: Joe Gibbs Racing
Sponsor: Home Depot
Crew chief: Greg
Zipadelli
Career wins: 29
Best finish 2006: 1st at Martinsville I, Daytona II, Kansas, Atlanta II, Texas II
Forecast: Considered the title favorite by many since he won three races late last season. That was too late to help him make the Chase, though. He's strong everywhere. Key is to avoid problems.

Crew chief: Mike Ford
Career wins: 2
Best finish 2006: 1st at Pocono I & II
Forecast: He had a remarkable run in the first 26 races last season, where he was involved in few accidents and that helped him climb into the Chase. It's tough for a driver to have such a run two years in a row.



21 Ken Schrader
Ford | Wood Brothers/JTG Racing
Sponsor: Air Force
Crew chief: Ernie Cope
Schrader: 4 career wins; best finish in 2006, 7th at Richmond II
Wood: 0 career wins; did not compete in Cup in 2006
Forecast: Schrader will give way in about 10 races to the rookie from Virginia, Jon Wood.

Crew chief: Mike Ford
Career wins: 2
Best finish 2006: 1st at Pocono I & II
Forecast: He had a remarkable run in the first 26 races last season, where he was involved in few accidents and that helped him climb into the Chase. It's tough for a driver to have such a run two years in a row.



22 Dave Blaney
Toyota | Age: 44
Team: Bill Davis Racing
Sponsor: Caterpillar
Crew chief: Kevin Hamlin
Career wins: 0
Best finish 2006: 4th at Richmond II
Forecast: Toyota's backing will lift this team, which did not have manufacturer support last season. Team had about a five-week stretch where it had good results but finished around 20th place or worse most of the season. Needs to build consistency.

Crew chief: Mike Ford
Career wins: 2
Best finish 2006: 1st at Pocono I & II
Forecast: He had a remarkable run in the first 26 races last season, where he was involved in few accidents and that helped him climb into the Chase. It's tough for a driver to have such a run two years in a row.




24 Jeff Gordon
Chevrolet | Age: 35
Team: Hendrick Motorsports
Sponsor: DuPont
Crew chief: Steve
Letarte
Career wins: 75
Best finish 2006: 1st at Sonoma, Chicago
Forecast: Should pass Dale Earnhardt on the career victory total this season. Team showed steady improvement last year from 2004 when he missed the Chase.

Crew chief: Mike Ford
Career wins: 2
Best finish 2006: 1st at Pocono I & II
Forecast: He had a remarkable run in the first 26 races last season, where he was involved in few accidents and that helped him climb into the Chase. It's tough for a driver to have such a run two years in a row.



25 Casey Mears
Chevrolet | Age: 28
Team: Penske Racing
Sponsor: National Guard/GMAC
Crew chief: Darian Grubb
Career wins: 0
Best finish 2006: 2nd at Daytona I, Kansas
Forecast: Mears left Ganassi for Hendrick and steps into a ride that was a race last year. Mears was winless in four seasons at Ganassi. Has improved each season in Nextel Cup.

Crew chief: Mike Ford
Career wins: 2
Best finish 2006: 1st at Pocono I & II
Forecast: He had a remarkable run in the first 26 races last season, where he was involved in few accidents and that helped him climb into the Chase. It's tough for a driver to have such a run two years in a row.



26 Jamie McMurray
Ford | Age: 30
Team: Roush Racing
Sponsor: Crown Royal/IRWIN
Crew chief: Larry
Carter
Career wins: 1
Best finish 2006: 2nd Dover I
Forecast: Everything that could go wrong did last year for this team. McMurray had several crew chiefs and none worked. Car owner Jack Roush let him pick a crew chief and he chose Carter. This team should be better.

Crew chief: Mike Ford
Career wins: 2
Best finish 2006: 1st at Pocono I & II
Forecast: He had a remarkable run in the first 26 races last season, where he was involved in few accidents and that helped him climb into the Chase. It's tough for a driver to have such a run two years in a row.



29 Kevin Harvick
Chevrolet | Age: 31
Team: Richard Childress Racing
Sponsor: Shell
Crew chief: Todd
Berrier
Career wins: 10
Best finish 2006: 1st at Phoenix I, Watkins Glen, Richmond II, New Hampshire II, Phoenix II
Forecast: Another title contender. Car of Tomorrow races could determine champion and RCR was involved in the testing process early on.

Crew chief: Mike Ford
Career wins: 2
Best finish 2006: 1st at Pocono I & II
Forecast: He had a remarkable run in the first 26 races last season, where he was involved in few accidents and that helped him climb into the Chase. It's tough for a driver to have such a run two years in a row.




31 Jeff Burton
Chevrolet | Age: 39
Team: Richard Childress Racing
Sponsor: Cingular Wireless
Crew chief: Scott Miller
Career wins: 18
Best finish 2006: 1st at Dover II
Forecast: Made the Chase and ended nearly five-year winless streak last season. Now looks to improve upon that. Team needs to get better in final 100 miles of a race. If it can do that, Burton can climb higher in the points.

Crew chief: Mike Ford
Career wins: 2
Best finish 2006: 1st at Pocono I & II
Forecast: He had a remarkable run in the first 26 races last season, where he was involved in few accidents and that helped him climb into the Chase. It's tough for a driver to have such a run two years in a row.



36 Jeremy Mayfield
Toyota | Age: 37
Team: Bill Davis Racing
Sponsor: 360 OTC
Crew chief: Derrick
Finley
Career wins: 5
Best finish 2006: 13th at Talladega I
Forecast: Parted ways with Evernham Motorsports last August and sat out rest of season except for finale. Just how good this team will be remains to be seen. New driver/crew chief combination creates a lot of uncertainties.

Crew chief: Mike Ford
Career wins: 2
Best finish 2006: 1st at Pocono I & II
Forecast: He had a remarkable run in the first 26 races last season, where he was involved in few accidents and that helped him climb into the Chase. It's tough for a driver to have such a run two years in a row.




38 David Gilliland
Ford | Age: 30
Team: Robert Yates Racing
Sponsor: M&M's
Crew chief: Todd
Parrott
Career wins: 0
Best finish 2006: 15th at Talladega II, Atlanta II
Forecast: Wowed NASCAR nation by winning Kentucky Busch race last summer with underfunded team. That led to job with Yates. He then struggled, often wrecking his Cup or Busch ride.

Crew chief: Mike Ford
Career wins: 2
Best finish 2006: 1st at Pocono I & II
Forecast: He had a remarkable run in the first 26 races last season, where he was involved in few accidents and that helped him climb into the Chase. It's tough for a driver to have such a run two years in a row.



40 David Stremme
Dodge | Age: 29
Team: Chip Ganassi Racing with Felix Sabates
Sponsor: Coors Light/
Crew chief: Steve Lane
Career wins: 0
Best finish 2006: 11th at New Hampshire I, Homestead
Forecast: Never was competitive last season. He had more finishes of 30th or worse (13) than top-20 finishes (10). He and team need to improve.

Crew chief: Mike Ford
Career wins: 2
Best finish 2006: 1st at Pocono I & II
Forecast: He had a remarkable run in the first 26 races last season, where he was involved in few accidents and that helped him climb into the Chase. It's tough for a driver to have such a run two years in a row.




41 Reed Sorenson
Dodge | Age: 21
Team: Chip Ganassi Racing with Felix Sabates
Sponsor: Target
Crew chief: Jimmy Elledge
Career wins: 0
Best finish 2006: 5th at Michigan I
Forecast: Shared struggles with rookie teammate David Stremme last season but did have five top-10 finishes. He's young and talented. If the team improves and he continues to gain experience, he could be one to watch.

Crew chief: Mike Ford
Career wins: 2
Best finish 2006: 1st at Pocono I & II
Forecast: He had a remarkable run in the first 26 races last season, where he was involved in few accidents and that helped him climb into the Chase. It's tough for a driver to have such a run two years in a row.




42 Juan Pablo Montoya
Dodge | Age: 31
Team: Chip Ganassi Racing with Felix Sabates
Sponsor: Texaco/
Havoline
Crew chief: Donnie Wingo
Career wins: 0
Best finish 2006: 34th at Homestead
Forecast: He'll be the most-watched rookie, ditching Formula One for stock cars. Should be a threat in the two road course races, but how well he does at other tracks is a question mark.

Crew chief: Mike Ford
Career wins: 2
Best finish 2006: 1st at Pocono I & II
Forecast: He had a remarkable run in the first 26 races last season, where he was involved in few accidents and that helped him climb into the Chase. It's tough for a driver to have such a run two years in a row.



43 Bobby Labonte
Dodge | Age: 42
Team: Petty Enterprises
Sponsor: Cheerios/
Betty Crocker
Crew chief: Paul Andrews
Career wins: 21
Best finish 2006: 3rd at Martinsville II
Forecast: Was set to give Petty Enterprises its first top-20 points finish in years but struggled last two races and fell to 21st. Key to improvement is reliability. Three engine failures sidelined Labonte last season.

Crew chief: Mike Ford
Career wins: 2
Best finish 2006: 1st at Pocono I & II
Forecast: He had a remarkable run in the first 26 races last season, where he was involved in few accidents and that helped him climb into the Chase. It's tough for a driver to have such a run two years in a row.




44 Dale Jarrett
Toyota | Age: 50
Team: Michael Waltrip Racing
Sponsor: UPS
Crew chief: Matt
Borland
Career wins: 32
Best finish 2006: 4th at Kansas
Forecast: New driver, new crew chief, new team, new manufacturer. It has all the elements of a disaster. Then again, this is a former champion driver, top crew chief and aggressive manufacturer. It'll be interesting to see how this works.

Crew chief: Mike Ford
Career wins: 2
Best finish 2006: 1st at Pocono I & II
Forecast: He had a remarkable run in the first 26 races last season, where he was involved in few accidents and that helped him climb into the Chase. It's tough for a driver to have such a run two years in a row.



45 Kyle Petty
Dodge | Age: 46
Team: Petty Enterprises
Sponsor: Wells Fargo
Crew chief: Bill
Wilburn
Career wins: 8
Best finish 2006: 8th at Atlanta I
Forecast: Offseason restores excitement, but this group still has a long way to go. Petty will be a part of several TNT broadcasts. That could allow a younger driver to gain some experience.

Crew chief: Mike Ford
Career wins: 2
Best finish 2006: 1st at Pocono I & II
Forecast: He had a remarkable run in the first 26 races last season, where he was involved in few accidents and that helped him climb into the Chase. It's tough for a driver to have such a run two years in a row.



48 Jimmie Johnson
Chevrolet | Age: 31
Team: Hendrick Motorsports
Sponsor: Lowe's
Crew chief: Chad
Knaus
Career wins: 23
Best finish 2006: 1st at Daytona I, Las Vegas, Talladega I, Indianapolis, Martinsville II
Forecast: Defending champion has recovered from broken wrist. No driver has won back-to-back titles since Jeff Gordon did it in 1997-98.

Crew chief: Mike Ford
Career wins: 2
Best finish 2006: 1st at Pocono I & II
Forecast: He had a remarkable run in the first 26 races last season, where he was involved in few accidents and that helped him climb into the Chase. It's tough for a driver to have such a run two years in a row.



49 Mike Bliss
Dodge | Age: 41
Team: BAM Racing
Sponsor: WhatsOnline.com
Crew chief: Lee
McCall
Career wins: 0
Best finish 2006: 23rd at Texas II
Forecast: Team failed to qualify for 11 races last season. McCall is good addition but questions remain about funding. Single-car team faces long odds. Any top-20 finishes will be considered victories.

Crew chief: Mike Ford
Career wins: 2
Best finish 2006: 1st at Pocono I & II
Forecast: He had a remarkable run in the first 26 races last season, where he was involved in few accidents and that helped him climb into the Chase. It's tough for a driver to have such a run two years in a row.



55 Michael Waltrip
Toyota | Age: 43
Team: Michael Waltrip Racing
Sponsor: NAPA
Crew chief: David
Hyder
Career wins: 4
Best finish 2006: 14th at Talladega II
Forecast: Coming off embarrassing season where he did not finish in the top 35 in car owner points and is not guaranteed a starting spot in the first five races. He faces a big challenge, owning a three-car operation.

Crew chief: Mike Ford
Career wins: 2
Best finish 2006: 1st at Pocono I & II
Forecast: He had a remarkable run in the first 26 races last season, where he was involved in few accidents and that helped him climb into the Chase. It's tough for a driver to have such a run two years in a row.



66 Jeff Green
Chevrolet | Age: 44
Team: Haas-CNC Racing
Sponsor: Best Buy
Crew chief: Harold
Holly
Career wins: 0
Best finish 2006: 7th at Talladega II
Forecast: Showed little until the end of last season. Team is moving Busch program up to Cup to join Green. It will help having a second car but much is uncertain for this team that has shown little in four full seasons of Cup.