

Week 7: The NASCAR Sprint Cup Series Top 12 – And Beyond

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. (March 30, 2009) – Below is a look at the NASCAR Sprint Cup Series top 12, along with other notable drivers, going into the Samsung 500 at Texas Motor Speedway on April 5. (Note: Drivers listed below who are outside the top 12 are chosen based on past performances at the upcoming track and/or are within striking distance of the top 12.)

1 – Jeff Gordon (No. 24 DuPont Chevrolet)

- Season-to-Date Driver Rating: 119.6

2009 Rundown

- Four top fives, five top 10s
- Average finish of 5.2
- Led five races for a total of 289 laps

Texas Speedway Outlook:

- Six top fives, eight top 10s; one pole
- Average finish of 16.1
- Finished second in November

- Led seven of 16 races for 341 laps

Season-To-Date Loop Data Highlight

- Series-best Average Running Position of 5.4

2 – Clint Bowyer (No. 33 Cheerios/Hamburger

Helper Chevrolet)

- Season-to-Date Driver Rating: 89.4

2009 Rundown

- Three top fives, four top 10s
- Average finish of 8.2
- Led one race for nine laps

Texas Speedway Outlook:

- Two top fives, three top 10s
- Average finish of 12.2

- Finished fourth in November

- Led three of six races for 40 laps

Season-To-Date Loop Data Highlight

- 476 Green Flag Passes, fifth-most

Chase Contenders

The Top 12 ... And Beyond

Following Race 6 of 36

Driver	Pts	Wins	Poles	Rank Last Week	Season Driver Rating
1. Jeff Gordon	959	0	0	1	119.6
2. Clint Bowyer	870	0	0	3	89.4
3. Kurt Busch	827	1	0	2	101.1
4. Jimmie Johnson	817	1	0	9	110.3
5. Denny Hamlin	811	0	0	8	103.4
6. Kyle Busch	800	2	1	4	107.0
7. Tony Stewart	798	0	0	7	96.8
8. Carl Edwards	750	0	0	5	98.9
9. Kasey Kahne	745	0	0	6	81.4
10. Kevin Harvick	714	0	0	12	82.0
11. David Reutimann	710	0	0	11	79.0
12. Matt Kenseth	704	2	0	10	75.1

ADDITIONAL DRIVERS

13. Jeff Burton	697	34. Joey Logano	437
14. J.P. Montoya	673	35. Paul Menard	414
15. AJ Allmendinger	670	36. Aric Almirola	387
16. Dale Earnhardt Jr.	660	37. David Gilliland	386
17. Michael Waltrip	630	38. Scott Speed	386
18. Ryan Newman	625	39. Travis Kvapil	292
19. Bobby Labonte	620	40. Scott Riggs	216
20. Brian Vickers	617	41. Regan Smith	206
21. Marcos Ambrose	616	42. Joe Nemechek	205
22. Jamie McMurray	609	43. Jeremy Mayfield	158
23. Greg Biffle	605	44. Dave Blaney	153
24. Elliott Sadler	600	45. Bill Elliott	149
25. David Stremme	599	46. Todd Bodine	123
26. Casey Mears	588	47. Terry Labonte	91
27. Mark Martin	587	48. Max Papis	55
28. Martin Truex Jr.	584	49. Brad Keselowski	49
29. David Ragan	569	50. Sterling Marlin	43
30. Reed Sorenson	569	51. Mike Bliss	34
31. Robby Gordon	485		
32. Sam Hornish Jr.	459		
33. John Andretti	455		

Note: The first 26 races of the NASCAR Sprint Cup Series season determine which 12 drivers qualify for the Chase for the NASCAR Sprint Cup, contested over the final 10 races of the season.

2-2-2-2

TOP 12 AND BEYOND

3 – Kurt Busch (No. 2 Miller Lite Dodge)

- Season-to-Date Driver Rating: 101.1

2009 Rundown

- One win, two top fives, three top 10s
- Average finish of 11.3
- Led three races for 237 laps

Texas Speedway Outlook:

- One top five, seven top 10s
- Average finish of 15.3
- Finished 41st in November

- Led three of 12 races for 93 laps

Season-To-Date Loop Data Highlight

- 129 Fastest Laps Run, third-most

4 – Jimmie Johnson (No. 48 Lowe's Chevrolet)

- Season-to-Date Driver Rating: 110.3

2009 Rundown

- One win, two top fives, four top 10s
- Average finish of 12.8
- Led five races for 307 laps

Texas Speedway Outlook:

- One win, five top fives, eight top 10s
- Average finish of 9.1
- Finished 15th in November

- Led four of 11 races for 77 laps

Season-To-Date Loop Data Highlight

- Average Running Position of 7.4, second-best

5 – Denny Hamlin (No. 11 FedEx Toyota)

- Season-to-Date Driver Rating: 103.4

2009 Rundown

- Two top fives, three top 10s
- Average finish of 11.8
- Led two races for 303 laps

Texas Speedway Outlook:

- Two top fives, five top 10s
- Average finish of 11.6
- Finished 17th in November

- Led two of seven races for 86 laps

Season-To-Date Loop Data Highlight

- Average Running Position of 8.9, third-most

3-3-3-3

TOP 12 AND BEYOND

6 – Kyle Busch (No. 18 M&M's Toyota)

- Season-to-Date Driver Rating: 107.0
- **2009 Rundown**
- Two wins, three top fives
- Average finish of 14.7
- Led three races for 517 laps
- **Texas Speedway Outlook:**
- Three top fives, four top 10s
- Average finish of 16.3
- Finished sixth in November
- Led four of eight races for 207 laps
- **Season-To-Date Loop Data Highlight**
- Has been passed 222 times, the fewest on the series

7 – Tony Stewart (No. 14 Office Depot/Old Spice Chevrolet)

- Season-to-Date Driver Rating: 96.8
- **2009 Rundown**
- One top five, four top 10s
- Average finish of 11.7
- Led two races for 18 laps
- **Texas Speedway Outlook:**
- One win, three top fives, eight top 10s
- Average finish of 13.2
- Finished 16th in November
- Led five of 14 races for 452 laps
- **Season-To-Date Loop Data Highlight**
- Average Running Position of 11.7, sixth-best

8 – Carl Edwards (No. 99 Aflac Ford)

- Season-to-Date Driver Rating: 98.9
- **2009 Rundown**
- One top five, two top 10s
- Average finish 14.3
- Led three races for 31 laps
- **Texas Speedway Outlook:**
- Three wins
- Average finish of 13.9
- Swept the Texas races in 2008
- Led four of eight races for 467 laps
- **Season-To-Date Loop Data Highlight**
- Series-high 328 Quality Passes (passes of cars in the top 15 under green)

4-4-4-4

TOP 12 AND BEYOND

9 – Kasey Kahne (No. 9 Budweiser Dodge)

- Season-to-Date Driver Rating: 81.4
- **2009 Rundown**
- One top five, two top 10s
- Average finish of 13.8
- Led one race for one lap
- **Texas Speedway Outlook:**
- One wins, two top fives; one pole
- Average finish of 22.2
- Finished 24th in November
- Led three of nine races for 213 laps
- **Season-To-Date Loop Data Highlight**
- Average Running Position of 15.7, 10th-best

10 – Kevin Harvick (No. 29 Shell/Pennzoil Chevrolet)

- Season-to-Date Driver Rating: 82.0
- **2009 Rundown**
- Two top fives
- Average finish of 16.2
- Led one race for nine laps
- **Texas Speedway Outlook:**
- Two top fives, five top 10s
- Average finish of 12.8
- Finished seventh in November
- Led three of 12 races for four laps
- **Season-To-Date Loop Data Highlight**
- Laps in the Top 15 percentage of 62%, 11th-best

11 – David Reutimann (No. 00 Aaron's Dream Machine Toyota)

- Season-to-Date Driver Rating: 79.0
- **2009 Rundown**
- One top five
- Average finish of 15.7
- Led one race for one lap
- **Texas Speedway Outlook:**
- One top 10
- Average finish of 31.3
- Finished 10th in November
- Led one of three races for five laps
- **Season-To-Date Loop Data Highlight**
- 444 Green Flag Passes, seventh-most

5-5-5

TOP 12 AND BEYOND

12 – Matt Kenseth (No. 17 DEWALT Ford)

- Season-to-Date Driver Rating: 75.1

2009 Rundown

- Two wins
- Average finish of 18.8
- Led two races for 91 laps

Texas Speedway Outlook:

- One win, five top fives, eight top 10s
- Average finish of 10.1
- Finished ninth in November

- Led nine of 13 races for 443 laps

Season-To-Date Loop Data Highlight

- Ranks 10th in average Green Flag Speed

13 – Jeff Burton (No. 31 Caterpillar Chevrolet)

- Season-to-Date Driver Rating: 79.5

2009 Rundown

- One top five, two top 10s
- Average finish of 16.7
- Led one race for 61 laps

Texas Speedway Outlook:

- Two wins, three top fives, seven top 10s

- Average finish of 16.0
- Finished 13th in November

- Led four of 16 races for 146 laps

Season-To-Date Loop Data Highlight

- 55 Fastest Laps Run, ninth-most

For more information, contact:

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