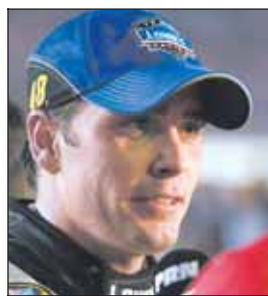


Race Week

NEXTEL CUP SERIES DICKIES 500 AT TEXAS MOTOR SPEEDWAY



THE CHASE STANDINGS

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
JIMMIE JOHNSON	MATT KENSETH	DALE EARNHARDT JR.	DENNY HAMLIN	KEVIN HARVICK	JEFF GORDON	JEFF BURTON	KYLE BUSCH	MARK MARTIN	KASEY KAHNE
Points 6,157	Points -17	Points -78	Points -80	Points -105	Points -157	Points -184	Points -233	Points -253	Points -290
Sunday's finish Second	Sunday's finish 12th	Sunday's finish Sixth	Sunday's finish 10th	Sunday's finish Third	Sunday's finish Ninth	Sunday's finish 38th	Sunday's finish Fourth	Sunday's finish 22nd	Sunday's finish 33rd

Smoked again

Non-Chaser Tony Stewart wins for third time in eight Chase races



STAR-TELEGRAM/PAUL MOSELEY

Tony Stewart celebrates his fifth Nextel Cup victory of the year. Three of those victories have come in the eight Chase for the Nextel Cup races.

IN MY OPINION

Stewart scoffs at being the Cup's party crasher



Ray Buck

■ Out of the Chase, Tony Stewart is able to win his third race in six weeks with the fastest car and a license to gamble.

Dale Earnhardt Jr. was guzzling Tums to ward off heartburn and even possible

daunted.

Out of the Chase for the Nextel Cup with nothing to lose, Stewart sat behind the wheel of easily the quickest car on the 1.5-mile quadoval at Texas Motor Speedway on Sunday.

Out of the Chase with nothing to lose, he could take just two fresh tires during a 7.3-second pit stop with 18 scheduled laps to go, just as he was able to avoid a fuel stop in Kansas City last month and still win that race,

More on BUCK on 3D

vomiting inside his No. 8 Budweiser car.

Kasey Kahne was sucker-punched by a blown engine on Lap 328 just when it appeared that he would be Tony Stewart's strongest challenger.

And Stewart was simply Stewart, unshaven and un-

TOP FINISHERS

In Sunday's Dickies 500:

1. Tony Stewart, Chevrolet
2. Jimmie Johnson, Chevrolet
3. Kevin Harvick, Chevrolet
4. Kyle Busch, Chevrolet
5. Clint Bowyer, Chevrolet
6. Dale Earnhardt Jr., Chevrolet
7. Casey Mears, Dodge
8. Kurt Busch, Dodge
9. Jeff Gordon, Chevrolet
10. Denny Hamlin, Chevrolet

■ Complete results. 6D

■ A closer look at each of the drivers in the Chase. 4-5D

■ The drivers aren't the only people busy on race day. 8D

■ "Texas Terry" Labonte takes his final NASCAR spin. 7D

■ The dips and bumps should produce another T-shirt. 7D

ONLINE EXCLUSIVES

For more coverage of TMS, including videos and audio slide shows, go to www.star-telegram.com.

■ Jimmie Johnson finishes second, his fourth consecutive top-two finish, to emerge as the points leader.

By JOHN STURBIN
STAR-TELEGRAM STAFF WRITER

Whatever the series, Tony Stewart is not in the habit of apologizing for winning races.

That includes races in the Chase for the Nextel Cup where, like it or not, the 10 drivers vying for NASCAR's 2006 championship are being outrun by Smoke Johnson.

"I don't think I'm crashing anybody's party," Stewart said after his dominating victory in Sunday's Dickies 500 at Texas Motor Speedway. "I'm still not going to be in the top 10, still not going to be able to go for the trophy at the end of the year. So I don't think we're crashing anybody's party."

Not that he was apologizing, anyway.

The 2002 and 2005 Cup champion, Stewart and his team admittedly were shocked when they failed to qualify for Chase



CHASE CRASHER

Tony Stewart failed to make the Chase, but he has won three of the first eight Chase races:

Track	Fin.
New Hampshire International	2
Dover Int'l Speedway	33
Kansas Speedway	1
Talladega Superspeedway	22
Lowe's Motor Speedway	13
Martinsville Speedway	4
Atlanta Motor Speedway	1
Texas Motor Speedway	1

III. But freed from the burden of points-racing for two months, Stewart has won three of eight Chase races, including last Sunday's 500-miler at Atlanta Motor Speedway and Sunday's event in Fort Worth.

Stewart became the 12th winner in as many Cup races at

More on CHASE on 3D