



# NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 17, 2006 (06-32)

## **Dale Earnhardt, Jr. Can't Wait For Talladega**

*Track's Most Victorious Active Driver Encouraged By Strong Daytona Finish, But Expects More In Aaron's 499 On April 30*

TALLADEGA, Ala. — Always the overwhelming favorite at Talladega Superspeedway, Dale Earnhardt, Jr. looks forward to returning for the Aaron's 499 on April 30 every bit as much as his fans in the stands anticipate watching him put his No. 8 machine to the test.

After a troublesome 2005 season, Talladega's most victorious active driver seems to be back on track early this season, with three top 10's and two top 5's in seven races thus far. Starting off the year with a strong eighth place finish at Daytona had to have been a relief, given his dominant record on superspeedways. However, Earnhardt, Jr. said he'd venture to predict an even better finish here in a couple weeks.

"I think we can be better than we were at Daytona. We're always working hard on our restrictor plate program, and both me and Martin (Truex, Jr.) really like racing at Talladega," Earnhardt, Jr. said. "Hopefully we can work together and be around at the end to try to win it."

His reunion this season with Crew Chief Tony Eury, Jr. lends even more confidence, Earnhardt, Jr. added.

"Tony (Eury) Jr. builds great race cars, especially at restrictor-plate tracks. Not sure what car we'll take to Talladega yet, but you can be assured it'll be good."

An eighth place finish at Daytona isn't bad by any means, but comparing it to sister superspeedway Talladega, eighth had been Earnhardt, Jr.'s "worst" finish here in his last 10 races (including 2 NASCAR Busch Series events) until last year. In fact, six of those races yielded wins, and the other three were second place finishes.

Yet in both the Aaron's 499 and UAW-Ford 500 here last year, Earnhardt, Jr. finished outside the top 10. However, he said his 40<sup>th</sup> place finish in last fall's UAW-Ford 500 did not reflect the machine under him.

With five victories here to his credit, putting him second only to his father in all-time NASCAR NEXTEL Cup Series wins at Talladega, Earnhardt, Jr. said the track is always a welcome sight on the schedule not just for his success here, but because of its history and the enthusiasm of its fans.

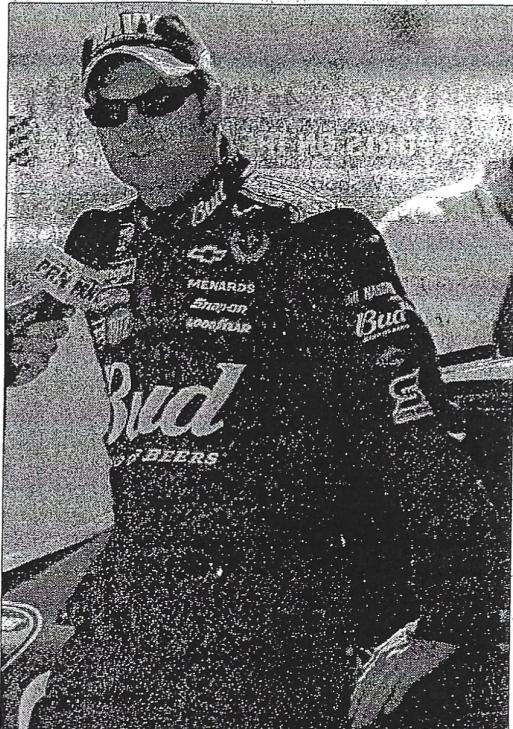
"A defining statement? It's been a cash cow for the Earnhardts!" he said with a laugh. "Nah, I'm kidding. We've won a few races there, and Daddy won the Winston No Bull Million there, and it's just been a really good race track for us. I have a deep respect and understanding for the history of our sport, and Talladega is very much a part of that history. A lot of great drivers have raced there and won there, and the fans there are deeply passionate about the sport."

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**Dale Earnhardt, Jr. Can't Wait For Talladega**

Talladega Superspeedway welcomes fans back for another year of the most competitive racing on the NASCAR circuit! Get your tickets now for Aaron's Dream Weekend, set for April 28 – 30, 2006. The weekend begins on Friday, April 28 with two NASCAR NEXTEL Cup Series practices and *The Birmingham News* Qualifying for the NASCAR Busch Series. Then on Saturday, April 29, take advantage of the unbeatable value of witnessing *The Birmingham News* Qualifying for the NASCAR NEXTEL Cup Series followed by the Aaron's 312 NASCAR Busch Series race. Then on Sunday April 30, be here for the premier event the Aaron's 499 NASCAR NEXTEL Cup Series race. Kids age 11 and younger are admitted free of charge on Friday and Saturday of race weekend. To order tickets, call 1-877-Go2-DEGA (1-877-462-3342). For our hearing impaired guests, please call TDD 1-866-ISC-TRAK (1-866-472-8725). Tickets also are available online at [www.racetickets.com](http://www.racetickets.com), or in person by visiting the Talladega Superspeedway Ticket Office from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. CDT, Monday - Friday.

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## AUTO RACING



ASSOCIATED PRESS / TONY GUTIERREZ

Dale Earnhardt, Jr., chats with a reporter prior to qualifying for the NASCAR Samsung/RadioShack 500 auto race at Texas Motor Speedway in Fort Worth, Texas, April 7.

# Earnhardt can't wait for Talladega

Special to The Times

TALLADEGA — Always the overwhelming favorite at Talladega Superspeedway, Dale Earnhardt, Jr., looks forward to returning for the April 30 race as much as his fans anticipate watching him race here.

After a troublesome 2005 season, Talladega's most victorious active driver seems to be back on track this season, with three top 10's and two top 5's in seven races thus far.

He started the year with a eighth place finish at Daytona. But Junior said he would venture to predict an even better finish at Talladega.

"I think we can be better than we were at Daytona. We're always working hard on our restrictor plate program, and both me and Martin (Truex, Jr.) really like racing at Talladega," he said. "Hopefully, we can work together and be around at the end to try to win it."

The Gadsden Times  
Wednesday, April 19, 2006  
SPORTS SECTION, page D3

His reunion this season with crew chief Tony Eury, Jr., lends even more confidence to Earnhardt.

"Tony builds great race cars, especially for restrictor-plate tracks. Not sure what car we'll take to Talladega yet, but you can be assured it'll be good," he added.

An eighth place finish at Daytona isn't bad by any means, but comparing it to Talladega, eighth had been Earnhardt's worst finish in his last 10 races (including two Busch Series events) until last year. He won five of those races and was second in three others.

Yet in both races here last year, Earnhardt, Jr., finished outside the top 10. However, he said his 40th place finish in last fall's race did not reflect the kind of car he had.

His five wins here are second to his father in all-time NASCAR Cup Series wins at Talladega. Junior said the track is always a welcome sight on the schedule not just for his success here, but because of its history and the enthusiasm of its fans.

"A defining statement? It's been a cash cow for the Earnhardts," he said. "Nah, I'm kidding. We've won a few races there, and Daddy won the Winston No Bull Million there. It has just been a really good race track for us. I have a deep respect and understanding for the history of our sport, and Talladega is very much a part of that history. A lot of great drivers have raced there and won there, and the fans there are deeply passionate about the sport."

Qualifying for the race will be on April 28; the race will be on April 30.

## Sports Section

Thursday, April 18, 2006

# Junior looking forward to 'Dega

Staff report

TALLADEGA — After a troublesome 2005 season, Dale Earnhardt Jr. seems to be back on track with three top-10 and two top-five finishes in the season's first seven races. Earnhardt, who has won more Talladega races than any other active driver, looks forward to returning to the tri-oval as much as his fans anticipate seeing him put the No. 8 Chevy through the paces.

He started the year with a strong eighth-place finish at Daytona, and he's always had great success on superspeedways. Earnhardt, Jr. predicts an even better finish at Talladega on April 30.

"I think we can be better than we were at Daytona," he said.

"We're always working hard on our restrictor plate program, and both me and Martin (Truex, Jr.) really like racing at Talladega.

"Hopefully, we can work together and be around at the end to try to win it."

His reunion this season with crew chief Tony Eury Jr. lends even more confidence.

"Tony builds great race cars, especially at restrictor-plate tracks" Earnhardt said. "Not sure what car we'll take to Talladega yet, but you can be assured it'll be good."

An eighth-place finish at Daytona isn't bad. But until last year, eighth was the worst Earnhardt had finished in 10 races at Talladega, counting a couple of Busch races. He has won six

times at Talladega, and finished second the other three times.

But last year, in the Aaron's 499 and UAW-Ford 500, Earnhardt finished outside the top 10. He said his 40th place finish in last fall's UAW-Ford 500 did not reflect the machine.

His five Nextel Cup victories at Talladega, second only to his father, make the track always a welcome sight.

"It's been a cash cow for the Earnhardts," he said with a laugh. "Nah, I'm kidding. I have a deep respect and understanding for the history of our sport, and Talladega is very much a part of that history. A lot of great drivers have raced there and won there, and the fans there are deeply passionate about the sport."