

Jeff Gordon

Full Name: Jeffrey Michael Gordon
Birth Date: August 4, 1971
Family: Married to Ingrid Vandebosch
Daughter, Ella

Hometown: Vallejo, CA
Resides: Charlotte, N.C.

Born August 4, 1971 in Vallejo, Calif., Jeff Gordon and his older sister Kimberly were raised by mother, Carol Bickford, and stepfather, John Bickford. Known today as one of history's most successful NASCAR drivers, Gordon was first introduced to automobile racing as a young boy when John Bickford began teaching him how to race around a makeshift racetrack at a fairground close to their home. Under Bickford's watchful eye, Gordon's talent and natural ability was quickly apparent and he soon began racing in local quarter midget races at the age of five. By the age of six, Gordon won 35 main events and set five track records.

After numerous wins and championships in quarter midgets, his attention turned to sprint cars. To give him the best opportunities for success in the next level of racing, Gordon and his family moved from California to Pittsboro, Ind. to race in the heart of open wheel racing.

Many race wins, track titles, and championships later, Gordon found there were no opportunities for him in open wheel racing. A trip to the Buck Baker Driving School and a few laps in a stock car convinced Gordon that stock car racing was where he wanted to be. The 1991 Busch Grand National season marked Gordon's first full-time season in NASCAR as the driver of the No. 1 Ford for Bill Davis Racing. During a race at Atlanta Motor Speedway, Gordon's talent and skilled driving style caught the attention of team owner Rick Hendrick. Soon thereafter, Gordon signed to drive for Hendrick Motorsports in the NASCAR Cup Series.

The 2009 NASCAR Sprint Cup season will mark Gordon's 17th year as driver of the No. 24 DuPont Chevrolet for Hendrick Motorsports. During Gordon's career in the sport's elite series, he has collected four championships, more than 80 wins, 67 poles, and career winnings topping \$100 million. Gordon is a three-time Daytona 500 winner, four-time Indianapolis Motor Speedway Brickyard 400 winner, and put together one of the most impressive seasons in the modern era, capturing a record-tying 13 wins and winning his second of four series championships in 1998.

As his racing career continues to prosper, Gordon enjoys an equal amount of success away from the race track. A savvy businessman and philanthropist, Gordon founded The Jeff Gordon Foundation in 1999. Since its establishment, The Jeff Gordon Foundation has provided resources to bring support, medical aide, research, care and hope to children battling life threatening diseases. The money the Foundation has raised over the past 10 years has gone towards purchasing life saving equipment and advancing medical research in the nation's top pediatric centers. In 2006, The Jeff Gordon Foundation celebrated the opening of the Jeff Gordon Children's Hospital in Concord, N.C. which serves children in the community by providing a high level of primary and specialty pediatric care.

Another passion of Gordon's is fine wine and in 2004, he released the first wine of The Jeff Gordon Collection of fine wines, the Jeff Gordon Carneros Chardonnay. Since then, The Jeff Gordon Collection has released several varieties of fine wine including Chardonnay, Pinot Noir, Merlot, Cabernet, and a Cabernet Sauvignon blend.

Gordon's popularity has extended beyond the track and into the entertainment world. He has appeared as a guest and host of "Live! With Regis and Kelly" numerous times and hosted "Saturday Night Live" in 2003. Gordon has appeared in issues of GQ, Men's Vogue, Reader's Digest and Guideposts, and has made cameo appearances in "Taxi," "Herbie: Fully Loaded" and "Looney Tunes: Back in Action".

Gordon married Ingrid Vandebosch in November 2006 and welcomed daughter, Ella, into their family in June 2007.