



DuPont Motorsports Post-Race Report  
Auto Club 500  
California Speedway  
February 25, 2008

**Team DuPont Gains 24 Positions in Standings After Third-Place Finish at California**

Despite blowing an engine on the final lap of the Auto Club 500 at California Speedway on Monday, Jeff Gordon was able to post a third-place finish in the rain-delayed event. Carl Edwards won the 250-lap race while Gordon advanced 24 positions in the point standings to 14th, 114 behind new leader Kyle Busch.

Rain canceled Friday's qualifying session and the field was set by 2007 points with Gordon taking the green flag from the second position. He moved into the lead on lap 1, and led 58 of the first 87 laps in cool, overcast conditions on Sunday. But the race was red-flagged Sunday night because of rain and unable to restart.

The teams returned to the track on Monday and Gordon, who had stopped for fuel and tires prior to the red flag the night before, restarted sixth when the race resumed on lap 90. Three laps later, he was running third.

"I'm tight into the middle (of the corner) and loose off," Gordon explained to crew chief Steve Letarte. "I'm sliding the back end of the car 'big time' off the corner."

Letarte called for fuel, four new tires, track bar and wedge adjustments during a green-flag pit stop on lap 122. Once pit stops had cycled through, Gordon was again third but fighting a car that was "looser than it was before."

Gordon remained third when he stopped again during a caution period on lap 169. Quick pit work by the No. 24 DuPont crew allowed him to exit pit road first.

On lap 180, Edwards passed him for the lead. Gordon was running second -- six seconds behind Edwards -- when he made a green-flag stop on lap 211. Another great stop by the 24 crew cut that deficit in half when pit stops were completed.

"We've helped the drive off, but we've killed the middle of the corner," Gordon said over the team radio. "I'm just way too tight in the middle now."

Gordon's final stop occurred on lap 221 during a caution period. Fuel was added and chassis adjustments were made during the four-tire stop, and Gordon exited the pits second behind teammate Jimmie Johnson.

On the restart, Gordon made a move alongside Johnson but was unable to complete the pass. On lap 233, Edwards bypassed Gordon for second place. Gordon remained third when the field received the white flag signifying the final lap.

A final bit of drama occurred on the last lap when the caution waved -- and Gordon reported to the crew the engine had blown. But he was able to coast the No. 24 Chevrolet to the finish line and a third-place finish.

"The DuPont Chevrolet was a rocket ship on Sunday in the cooler temperatures," Gordon said after the race on Monday. "I knew Carl was going to be strong, but he was in a class of his own today. He was in another league."

"I thought we would be strong today in the higher temperatures and slicker track, but we struggled with the drive off the corner."

"We have to feel fortunate, though. The engine blew up as the caution was coming out on the final lap and we were still able to finish third."

Next Sunday, the NASCAR Sprint Cup Series visits Las Vegas Motor Speedway for the UAW-Dodge 400. Fox will broadcast the race live beginning at 3:30 p.m. EST while PRN Radio's live coverage begins at 4:30 p.m. EST.

Auto Club 500 results (unofficial)

1. Carl Edwards
2. Jimmie Johnson
- 3. Jeff Gordon**
4. Kyle Busch
5. Matt Kenseth
6. Martin Truex, Jr.
7. Tony Stewart
8. Kevin Harvick
9. Kasey Kahne
10. Ryan Newman

Point standings (unofficial)

1. Kyle Busch
2. Ryan Newman
3. Tony Stewart
4. Kurt Busch
5. Carl Edwards
6. Kasey Kahne
7. Kevin Harvick
8. Jimmie Johnson
9. Greg Biffle
10. Jeff Burton

**14. Jeff Gordon**