



DuPont Motorsports Post-Race Report
Best Buy 400
Dover International Speedway
June 1, 2008

Team DuPont Finishes Fifth at Dover; Gordon Now Sixth in Standings

Jeff Gordon gained four positions and moved up to sixth place in the points standings following his fifth-place finish in the Best Buy 400 at Dover International Speedway on Sunday -- his third consecutive top-five finish. He trails Kyle Busch, who won the event, by 404 points.

Gordon, who started seventh, was running fifth when a caution flag waved for a wreck on lap 16. The multi-car accident severely damaged the cars of Tony Stewart, Kevin Harvick and Denny Hamlin -- drivers who started the day ahead of Gordon in the standings.

"I'm tight in the middle," Gordon radioed crew chief Steve Letarte. "But I'm real loose off."

After stopping for fuel, four new tires and chassis adjustments, Gordon restarted ninth behind several drivers that elected to change only two tires during the caution period. But the changes hurt the handling of the No. 24 DuPont Chevrolet.

"I'm tighter in the middle and I'm looser off the corner now," Gordon told the crew while running 11th. During a caution period on lap 66, Letarte called for a wedge adjustment during the four-tire pit stop.

The four-time NASCAR Cup Series champion restarted 11th, and radioed the crew the handling was "better" as the race reached the halfway point of the 400-lap event.

When a round of green flag stops began on lap 228, Gordon was up to fifth. One-by-one, the leaders peeled off the race track to pit while Gordon remained on the track. On lap 235, Gordon was scored the leader and gained five valuable championship points for leading at least one lap. One lap later, he was on pit road for service by the No. 24 crew.

Gordon returned to the track in fifth and stayed there until his final pit stop on lap 320. He reported the car was "pretty good through the middle of the corner, but too loose off." Another wedge adjustment was made during the four-tire stop and, once pit stops were completed, he was once again running fifth. He was unable to mount a charge and crossed the finish line in that position 80 laps later -- one of only six cars on the lead lap after 400 miles.

"Well, we finished fifth and we have to be happy about that," Gordon said after the race. "You know, it was a distant fifth and we were too loose there at the end. I was just riding it to the finish.

"I knew it was going to be a big points day. Unfortunately some guys had some big trouble.

"We've got an awesome pit crew and team. They are doing their job right here on pit road and with communication. It was a solid day for us.

"We were about a fifth place car, and that's where we finished.

"We started off real good and then we got a little bit tight. We made some adjustments and I'm really proud of these guys. Steve Letarte and all these guys on this DuPont Chevrolet really made some great adjustments and got us up in the top five. We pretty much stayed there the rest of the day.

"I'm really happy with the way this car and this team performed this weekend, but we've still got some work to do."

Next Sunday, the NASCAR Sprint Cup Series visits Pocono Raceway for the Pocono 500, and Gordon is the defending winner of the event. TNT's live coverage begins at 12:30 p.m. EDT while MRN Radio's live coverage begins at 1:15 p.m. EDT.

(more)

Best Buy 400 results (unofficial)

1. Kyle Busch
2. Carl Edwards
3. Greg Biffle
4. Matt Kenseth
- 5. Jeff Gordon**
6. Martin Truex, Jr.
7. Jimmie Johnson
8. Jeff Burton
9. Dave Blaney
10. Jamie McMurray

Point standings (unofficial)

1. Kyle Busch
2. Jeff Burton
3. Dale Earnhardt, Jr.
4. Carl Edwards
5. Greg Biffle
- 6. Jeff Gordon**
7. Jimmie Johnson
8. Clint Bowyer
9. Denny Hamlin
10. Kevin Harvick