



DuPont Motorsports Post-Race Report  
Crown Royal Presents the Dan Lowry 400  
Bristol Motor Speedway  
May 3, 2008

**Team DuPont Notches Top-10 Finish at Richmond**

Jeff Gordon and Team DuPont fought back from a lap down to post a ninth-place finish in the Crown Royal Presents the Dan Lowry 400 at Richmond International Raceway on Saturday night. Clint Bowyer won the event while Gordon's finish moved him up one position to 13th in the standings, 339 points behind leader Kyle Busch.

The day did not start out well for the No. 24 team. Hours before the event during a pre-race check, the engine on the DuPont Chevrolet would not start. Since this was an "impound" race, no work could be completed on the car following Friday's qualifying without penalty. The team replaced the starter, but a NASCAR penalty for the change forced Gordon to start the race from the rear of the field.

Once the 400-lap race began on the three-quarter mile short track, Gordon began gaining positions. But the leader -- in "clean" air -- began lapping cars only 20 laps into the event. By lap 44, Gordon was up to 36th, but down a lap to the race leader.

"I'm pretty tight in the middle, but real loose off," Gordon radioed crew chief Steve Letarte. "I'm tight on throttle, but it snaps loose on exit."

Team DuPont changed four tires, added fuel, and added a spring rubber to the right rear spring to help the handling during a caution flag pit stop on lap 67. The handling improved and Gordon gained a few spots, but he was still a lap down when another caution on lap 128.

"It helped, but I need more," Gordon radioed the crew. Another right rear spring rubber was added during a pit stop on lap 129, and Gordon restarted 32nd on lap 133. Four laps later, the four-time NASCAR Cup Series champion was up to 30th when a caution waved. Because he was the first car scored a lap down, he was the beneficiary of a "free pass" onto the lead lap.

Once again, Letarte called for another right rear spring rubber to be added during the caution period. Gordon restarted 30th on lap 144 and began to charge through the field.

By lap 157, he was up to 20th. On lap 228 while running 12th, Gordon narrowly missed an 11-car wreck that collected many contenders including teammate Jimmie Johnson.

With 100 laps to go, Gordon was up to eighth while still fighting the handling on the No. 24 Chevrolet Impala SS.

"I'm loose getting in, tight in the middle and I can't drive the car off the corner (because it's so loose)," Gordon said. "I know the lap times are good, but this is a handful."

He was up to seventh when a caution waved with only nine laps remaining. Letarte gambled and called Gordon onto pit road for four new tires while many leaders remained on the track. Gordon restarted 12th and gained three positions before the checkered flag waved.

"I thought we were about an eighth or a ninth-place car," Gordon said after the race. "We came in and got tires at the end and it was the right move, but some other guys took two (tires) which put us further back in the running order than we had hoped."

"To start 43rd, go a lap down and fight to get our lap back, I'm real proud of this DuPont Chevrolet team. That was a great battle -- a great fight. It showed what we're made of. To come home with a top 10 was good. We didn't make a lot of gains in the points, but we didn't lose anything."

"It was good momentum for our team. We needed this run."

"Man, I had my hands full. You just try to match yourself up against the competition. We started out loose in, tight in the middle and loose off, and that's a hard thing to fix. A lot of guys were struggling with handling tonight."

Next Saturday night, the NASCAR Sprint Cup Series visits Darlington Raceway for the Dodge Challenger 500. Fox begins their live coverage at 7 p.m. EDT while MRN Radio's live coverage begins at 7:20 p.m. EDT. Gordon is the defending champion of the event.

Crown Royal Presents the Dan Lowry 400 results (unofficial)

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

Points standings (unofficial)

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

**13. Jeff Gordon**