



DuPont Motorsports Post-Race Report
Centurion Boats at the Glen
Watkins Glen International
August 10, 2008

Gordon Remains Sixth in Standings Following 'Miserable' Watkins Glen Race

"That was probably as frustrating as it can get," said Jeff Gordon, who finished 29th in the Centurion Boats at The Glen. "We were probably the fastest car on the track for two laps, then we struggled after that."

Despite a myriad of problems at Watkins Glen International on Sunday, Gordon remained sixth in the standings following the 90-lap event. He trails race winner and points leader Kyle Busch by 500 after the 22nd event. More importantly, the driver of the No. 24 DuPont Chevrolet holds a 148-point advantage over 13th place in the standings with only four events remaining before the 12-driver "Chase for the NASCAR Sprint Cup" field is set.

Gordon, who started sixth, was up to third after the completion of lap 2. But he began dropping positions only a few laps later.

"I'm loose off the right turns and tight on the lefts," Gordon explained to the crew on lap 12 while running sixth. "And I'm real tight in the 'carousel' (corner). The drive off the corners is terrible."

The leaders began making their first scheduled pit stops at lap 20, and crew chief Steve Letarte began counting Gordon down to his first stop at lap 26. But Gordon drove by the entrance to pit road on lap 26. And again on lap 27. And again on lap 28.

With no response from Gordon, Letarte requested NASCAR 'black flag' the No. 24 driver. When the black flag is displayed, the driver must report immediately to pit lane.

"I was wondering why Steve hadn't called me onto pit lane," Gordon said after the race. "The engine stumbled like the fuel level was low, and then I noticed the black flag. I nursed it around to the pits, but it cost us a lot of time.

"The radio connection inside the car was disconnected, and I was able to reconnect it during the stop."

Letarte called for major adjustments during the stop, and Gordon returned to the track in 25th.

"I'm way, way tight now -- on the rights and the lefts," Gordon radioed the team. "The car's good for only about two laps."

On lap 49, Letarte called Gordon onto pit road for more chassis adjustments. While he lost more track position and restarted 36th, Letarte hoped the changes would give Gordon a better handling car. Although he gained six positions before his final 'fuel' stop on lap 58, Gordon was still battling a tight condition on the serpentine track.

Mired in 32nd position, Gordon stopped again for adjustments and four tires on lap 65 during a caution period. He restarted 34th with 24 laps to go, and was up to 24th when he narrowly missed a multi-car accident exiting the final turn on lap 82.

Although he avoided that accident, Gordon could not avoid an overly aggressive move by Robby Gordon on the last lap. Contact between the two sent the No. 24 Chevrolet Impala SS spinning to a 29th-place finish.

"We struggled," said Gordon after the race. "We really missed the setup today and it's tough to make changes and make up the lost track position at a road course event.

"We had a great car for 2 or so laps, but we struggled deeper into a run.

"Just a miserable, frustrating day."

Gordon and Team DuPont will look to get back on track next Sunday in the 3M Performance 400 at Michigan International Speedway. ESPN's live coverage begins at 1 p.m. EDT while MRN Radio's live coverage begins at 1:15 p.m. EDT.

(more)

Centurion Boats at The Glen results (unofficial)

1. Kyle Busch
2. Tony Stewart
3. Marcos Ambrose
4. Juan Pablo Montoya
5. Martin Truex, Jr.
6. Kevin Harvick
7. Jimmie Johnson
8. Denny Hamlin
9. Carl Edwards
10. Kurt Busch

29. Jeff Gordon

Point standings (unofficial)

1. Kyle Busch
2. Carl Edwards
3. Jimmie Johnson
4. Dale Earnhardt, Jr.
5. Jeff Burton
- 6. Jeff Gordon**
7. Tony Stewart
8. Kasey Kahne
9. Denny Hamlin
10. Greg Biffle