



DuPont Motorsports Post Race Report
Sharpie 500
Bristol Motor Speedway
August 25, 2007

Team DuPont Fights Back From A Lap Down to Finish 19th at Bristol

An untimely caution resulted in Team DuPont falling a lap down in Saturday night's Sharpie 500 at Bristol Motor Speedway. While he was able to gain that lap back, Jeff Gordon was only able to post a 19th-place finish at the newly resurfaced short track.

Gordon, who started 18th, quickly moved up through the field. But while he was gaining spots, he was not quite satisfied with the handling on his No. 24 DuPont Chevrolet.

"We're too loose getting in and too loose off the corner," Gordon radioed crew chief Steve Letarte. "We're way too tight in the middle."

But that didn't stop Gordon from passing the competition. By lap 53, he was running fifth. By lap 138, he was up to second. He remained second before stopping for fuel, tires and chassis adjustments during a caution flag stop on lap 225.

"We're still loose in, tight in the middle and loose off," Gordon explained. "I don't know what you can do because I'm already too loose on entry for you to free up the middle."

Letarte explained that he would take a big "swing" at the chassis adjustments -- changing tires, air pressure, track bar and wedge. Unfortunately, the changes did not help and Gordon began losing positions.

When green flag pit stops began at lap 304, Gordon was down to eighth. After stopping for tires, fuel and more adjustments on lap 367, Gordon returned to the track one lap down in 19th. One lap later, the caution waved trapping him a lap down.

While he was able to gain that lap back and restart 18th with less than 100 laps to go, Gordon spent the remaining laps avoiding accidents on the tight, high-banked short track. But he could not completely miss a wreck on lap 452 which tore the rear bumper cover off the No. 24 Chevrolet Impala SS.

On the restart with less than 50 laps to go, Gordon told the crew "...I'm just trying to bring the car home in one piece." He did, posting a 19th-place finish in a race won by Carl Edwards.

"Man, it drove to the front at the start," Gordon said after the race. "It wasn't handling good, but it was handling better than the others.

"But the car changed, and the track changed, and were taking shots on our adjustments. They just weren't working.

"I still thought we were going to have a top-five or a top-10, but the caution that flew after our green-flag stop ended that chance.

"Even at the end, we couldn't get the car turning the middle. Hopefully, we can address that so we don't have that issue again on this Car of Tomorrow."

Next Sunday night, the NASCAR NEXTEL Cup Series visits California Speedway for the SHARP Aquos 500. ESPN and MRN Radio will broadcast the race live beginning at 7 p.m. EDT.

Sharpie 500 results (unofficial)

1. Carl Edwards
2. Kasey Kahne
3. Clint Bowyer
4. Tony Stewart
5. Dale Earnhardt, Jr.
6. Kurt Busch
7. Ryan Newman
8. Bobby Labonte
9. Kyle Busch
10. Greg Biffle

Point standings (unofficial)

- 1. Jeff Gordon**
2. Tony Stewart
3. Denny Hamlin
4. Matt Kenseth
5. Carl Edwards
6. Jimmie Johnson
7. Jeff Burton
8. Kyle Busch
9. Clint Bowyer
10. Kevin Harvick

19. Jeff Gordon