



DuPont Motorsports - Post Race Report
California Speedway
Sony AQUOS 500 – September 2, 2007

Team DuPont 'Learns' From 22nd-Place Finish at California

Following a late-race accident at California Speedway, Jeff Gordon and Team DuPont used the remaining laps of the Sharp AQUOS 500 as a 'learning' experience. While their 22nd-place finish meant very little in terms of the 2007 championship, experience gained during the event may be beneficial during the Chase for the NASCAR NEXTEL Cup.

Gordon, who started 16th, raced among the leaders for much of the 250-lap race. But with a spot in the Chase already secure and bonus points for the final 10 races based on number of wins, crew chief Steve Letarte decided to make a major chassis adjustment to the No. 24 DuPont Cromax Pro Chevrolet with less than 75 laps to go -- an effort to give Gordon the best shot at victory.

During the four-tire stop at lap 175, a right rear spring rubber was pulled from the No. 24 Chevrolet. While it was an adjustment to improve the handling, Gordon lost valuable track position during the stop and was forced to restart 19th on lap 177.

Two laps later while racing four-wide, Gordon was involved in a multi-car accident that severely damaged the sheet metal on the No. 24 Chevrolet and ruined his chance at victory.

"Okay, guys," crew chief Steve Letarte said to Gordon and the team on lap 181. "Let's use this as a learning experience for the Chase. Let's work on the car as if it were one of those final 10 races and get all we can get with the laps remaining."

After pitting several times to repair the damage, Gordon restarted 24th. While teammate Jimmie Johnson secured the victory, Gordon nursed his badly damaged No. 24 Chevrolet to a 22nd-place finish.

"It wasn't a great night, but we were pretty good," Gordon said after the race. "There were times when we drove to the front.

"Other times, we struggled. But we were working on the set-up and making it better, and I was pretty happy with that.

"We made a call to come down pit road and that got us in the back. They were two and three wide ahead of me and I tried to make a move to go underneath them. There just wasn't enough room.

"I actually was trying to squeeze out of the throttle but it was too late."

The NASCAR NEXTEL Cup Series heads to Richmond International Raceway next weekend. Live coverage begins at 7:00 p.m. EDT on ABC and MRN Radio.

Sony AQUOS 500 Results (unofficial)

1. Jimmie Johnson
2. Carl Edwards
3. Kyle Busch
4. Jeff Burton
5. Dale Earnhardt, Jr.
6. Martin Truex, Jr.
7. Matt Kenseth
8. Brian Vickers
9. Kurt Busch
10. Kasey Kahne

Point Standings (unofficial)

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

22. Jeff Gordon