



**DuPont Motorsports Post Race Report
Pepsi 400
Daytona International Speedway
July 7, 2007**

Team DuPont Finishes Fifth in Pepsi 400

Jeff Gordon fought a loose-tight condition on his No. 24 DuPont/Pepsi Chevrolet during much of Saturday night's Pepsi 400 at Daytona International Speedway, but a late four-tire stop provided the security he needed late in the race to battle for the victory. Unfortunately, he lost drafting help in the late stages of the 400-mile event while fighting for the lead and finished fifth. Jamie McMurray edged Kyle Busch by 0.005 seconds to capture the victory.

The field was set by car owner points when rain stopped Friday's qualifying session, so points leader Gordon led the field to the green flag Saturday night. While he led a few laps early, Gordon struggled to stay in the top 10 as the race approached the 100-lap mark.

"I'm tight through the middle of the corners," Gordon radioed the crew. "I'm a little loose in and a little loose off, but I'm tight as soon as the car 'lands' (in the corner)."

During a caution period on lap 116, Team DuPont changed four tires and made chassis adjustments. After restarting 17th on lap 116, Gordon maneuvered into the top 10 by lap 120. But when a caution waved only 11 laps later, he had fallen to 13th.

"It took off there for a bit on new tires," said Gordon over the team radio. "I'm still loose in and tight through the middle, though."

Once again, the driver of the No. 24 DuPont/Pepsi Chevrolet elected to stop for four tires and adjustments. Quick pit work by the No. 24 crew allowed Gordon to gain three positions and restart 10th with 23 laps to go.

The four-time NASCAR Cup Series champion gained five positions before another caution waved on lap 143. When the race restarted four laps later, Gordon used drafting help in the outside line to maneuver to the lead as the day's final caution waved on lap 150.

The race restarted with seven laps to go, and eventual winner McMurray bypassed Gordon on lap 155. Gordon tried to take the lead again, but lacked the necessary drafting help to complete the pass and dropped several positions before the checkered flag waved.

"It was nuts," Gordon said after the race. "I made a bad move when I tried to go around McMurray on the outside. It was too early, I didn't have enough help and I thought I was in big trouble. I had the momentum so I tried to go with it."

"Luckily I got back to the inside and got back up to the top five. A top five is a great, great finish for us tonight because we had about a 12th or 15th place car. That's a great effort."

"It was loose and tight, so it was kind of hard to tune on it. But (interim crew chief) Jeff Meendering and the guys on this DuPont/Pepsi Chevrolet did a great job because we were not very good at the start. They made great adjustments and got the car better and four new Goodyears certainly helped us out."

Next Sunday, defending race champion Gordon takes a 277-point lead into Chicagoland Speedway for the USG Sheetrock 400. TNT and MRN Radio will broadcast the event live beginning at 2:30 p.m. EDT.

Pepsi 400 results (unofficial)

1. Jamie McMurray
2. Kyle Busch
3. Kurt Busch
4. Carl Edwards
- 5. Jeff Gordon**
6. Greg Biffle
7. Clint Bowyer
8. Matt Kenseth
9. Kasey Kahne
10. Jimmie Johnson

Point standings (unofficial)

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