



DuPont Motorsports Post Race Report  
Allstate 400 at the Brickyard  
Indianapolis Motor Speedway  
July 29, 2007

### **Team DuPont Finishes Third at The Brickyard**

Jeff Gordon finished third in Sunday's Brickyard 400 at Indianapolis Motor Speedway. While it certainly is a prestigious race, Gordon felt it was also an important one -- one that could provide Team DuPont momentum through the end of the season.

Gordon, who started 21st, quickly moved up through the field once the green flag waved. By lap 10, he was running 10th. When a caution waved on lap 38, the four-time Brickyard 400 champion was running sixth.

"The 'turn in' is good," Gordon told the No. 24 team. "But I get tight as soon as I pick up the throttle through the exit."

During the ensuing caution, Gordon stopped for four new tires, fuel and chassis adjustments. Quick pit work by Team DuPont allowed Gordon to restart fourth on lap 43.

But the turning point of the race for the No. 24 team occurred 18 laps later during a caution period with Gordon running third. Tire wear was an issue during the early stages of the event, so interim crew chief Jeff Meendering called Gordon onto pit road for four new tires during the caution period. Other teams chose differing strategies, including some two-tire stops, some gas-only stops -- and some that did not stop. Gordon restarted 18th with less than 100 laps to go on the 2.5-mile flat track, and found the passing much more difficult this time around.

"I'm way too tight to come up through here," Gordon said over the team radio. "I need to be loosened up if I'm going to be in traffic."

He was able to maneuver up to fifth just prior to his final stop at lap 126. During the round of green flag pit stops, Team DuPont changed four tires, added fuel and made chassis adjustments to the No. 24 Chevrolet. A quick stop gained Gordon a position during the exchange.

But the adjustments went a little too far, and the four-time NASCAR Cup Series champion fought a loose condition through the end of the 160-lap event. But he was able to move into third with only three laps remaining, and he trailed winner Tony Stewart and second-place Juan Pablo Montoya across the finish line after 400 miles.

"We started off well, but it wasn't good in traffic in the later stages of the event," Gordon said after the race. "It was too tight when we were stuck in traffic, and then it was too loose on that last run."

"We kind of got in a hole after taking four tires during that one stop. We lost a lot of track position, and it was tough to get it back."

"But this was an important race for us. We didn't necessarily have to win it to get momentum. This was a strong effort by the entire team and it gave us some momentum starting off this final stretch."

"We're in a position where we can gamble now, so we're definitely going to be taking chances in the coming weeks to try to win some races and gain the additional bonus points heading into the Chase."

Gordon now holds a 371-point lead heading into next Sunday's Pennsylvania 500 at Pocono Raceway. ESPN and MRN Radio will broadcast the race live beginning at 1 p.m. EDT.

#### Brickyard 400 results (unofficial)

1. Tony Stewart
2. Juan Pablo Montoya
- 3. Jeff Gordon**
4. Kyle Busch
5. Reed Sorenson
6. Mark Martin
7. Kevin Harvick
8. Jeff Burton
9. Dave Blaney
10. Matt Kenseth

#### Point standings (unofficial)

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