



DuPont Motorsports Post-Race Report
Citizens Bank 400
Michigan International Speedway
June 17, 2007

At Michigan, Team DuPont Secures 13th Top-10 in 15 Starts This Season

Jeff Gordon and the No. 24 team battled the handling on the DuPont Chevrolet during Sunday's Citizens Bank 400 at Michigan International Speedway, but they persevered to post a ninth-place finish in the 200-lap event -- besting the drivers ranked second through fourth in the points standings. His lead now stands at 264 points over second-place Denny Hamlin. Carl Edwards won the 400-mile race.

Gordon, who started sixth, was running third before the first round of green flag pit stops began at lap 36. After stopping for four new tires and fuel, the four-time NASCAR Cup Series champion returned to the track in the same position.

Gordon remained in the top five until lap 58 when he began losing spots due to a loose condition. On lap 60, he described the car as "way loose." Seven laps later he had fallen to 10th when the day's second caution waved.

While the leaders stopped for four new tires, Gordon stopped for only two and led the field off pit road. The car handled much better in "clean" air, and he led the next 18 laps.

But Gordon was the first one to hit pit road during green flag conditions on lap 108. While he returned to the track in 24th, he made it up to eighth before a caution flag waved before all the scheduled stops were completed.

Crew chief Steve Letarte called Gordon onto pit road on lap 116 for fuel and tires. He returned to pit road three laps later to "top off" the fuel cell. This allowed him to complete the 200 laps with only one more stop for fuel, but Gordon restarted 17th due to the extra stop.

The driver of the No. 24 DuPont Chevrolet had moved up to 13th when teams began making their scheduled stops at lap 148. Gordon made his final stop at lap 159, but making it the final 41 laps with enough fuel was going to be difficult.

Several drivers did run out of fuel or were forced to stop, but Gordon was able make it to the end and secure another top-10 finish -- despite a very loose car.

"You'll always take a top 10, especially when we got as far back as we did," said Gordon. "We were really awesome with the DuPont Chevrolet early in the day and especially when we took two tires. We were incredible but when we took four tires, the car was just completely sideways loose.

"I couldn't hang on to it and we lost a lot of track position. At that point we just played the fuel mileage game and ended up ninth."

"It just shows you how temperamental tires can be, and how important track position is. When we were out in clean air, the car was unbelievably good. I mean I was just on rails driving easy. We put four tires on it and it became so loose I couldn't hang onto it. This is not a fun track when it's loose, and I saw a lot of guys not having much fun.

"I was one of them."

Next Sunday, the NASCAR NEXTEL Cup Series visits Infineon Raceway for the Toyota/Save Mart 350. TNT and PRN Radio will broadcast the race live beginning at 3:30 p.m. EDT.

Citizens Bank 400 results (unofficial)

1. Carl Edwards
2. Martin Truex, Jr.
3. Tony Stewart
4. Casey Mears
5. Dale Earnhardt, Jr.
6. Kyle Busch
7. Kevin Harvick
8. Jamie McMurray
- 9. Jeff Gordon**
10. Michael Waltrip

Point standings (unofficial)

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