



DuPont Motorsports Post-Race Report  
Lenox Industrial Tools 300  
New Hampshire International Speedway  
July 1, 2007

**In Race No. 17 At New Hampshire, Team DuPont Gets 11th Top-Five Finish of 2007**

Jeff Gordon finished second in the Lenox Industrial Tools 300 at New Hampshire International Speedway on Sunday. Gordon, who started the 300-lap event from the eighth position, led 37 laps but came up just short of leading the final one, trailing Denny Hamlin across the finish line by 0.068 seconds. Following the race, points leader Gordon now leads by 156 over second-place Hamlin in the standings.

When the green flag dropped, Gordon battled a loose condition on his No. 24 DuPont Chevrolet but still managed to gain positions. By lap 31, the four-time NASCAR Cup Series champion was pacing the field.

"I'm looser as I get into and out of the corners," Gordon radioed the crew on lap 47. "It just keeps getting looser as the run goes on."

Interim crew chief Jeff Meendering made the call for a chassis adjustment during Team DuPont's first pit stop on lap 68, giving up the lead during this round of stops. (Note - NASCAR suspended crew chief Steve Letarte six races for infractions found during initial inspection at Sonoma one week ago.)

On lap 129, more adjustments were made to the car during a pit stop. This time, though, Gordon began losing spots.

"I'm *really* loose guys," Gordon said via the team radio. "We could be in some trouble (being so loose)."

Gordon fell to seventh. However, he was able to make it back to fifth before a set of green flag pit stops at lap 191. Air pressure, chassis adjustments, four new tires and fuel would improve the handling of the No. 24 car as Gordon fought back to second by lap 234.

The final caution of the event waved on lap 253. After stopping for new tires and fuel, Gordon restarted third behind Hamlin -- who changed only two tires during the pit stop -- and Martin Truex, Jr.

Gordon battled Truex for several laps, finally bypassing him with less than 10 laps to go. The driver of the No. 24 DuPont Chevrolet chased down leader Hamlin, but was only able to get a fender under his No. 11 Chevrolet before crossing under the checkered flag.

"I had fun battling at the end of the race with Martin (Truex, Jr.)," Gordon said following the race. "I think we used up a lot of what car we had left by battling with him, but overall I'm very happy with this finish.

"We were running Denny down, but I just didn't have enough time to get him. Maybe if we had another lap or two..."

"But it was fun racing those guys at the end.

"I'm so proud of this entire DuPont team. They overcame a lot this weekend and each person stepped up."

The NASCAR NEXTEL Cup Series heads to Daytona International Speedway for the Pepsi 400 next Saturday. TNT and MRN begin live coverage of the 160-lap event starting at 6:30 p.m. EDT.

Lenox Industrial Tools 300 results (unofficial)

1. Denny Hamlin
2. **Jeff Gordon**
3. Martin Truex, Jr.
4. Dale Earnhardt, Jr.
5. Jimmie Johnson
6. Jeff Green
7. Jeff Burton
8. Kevin Harvick
9. Matt Kenseth
10. Ryan Newman

Point standings (unofficial)

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