



**DuPont Motorsports Post Race Report
SYLVANIA 300 – New Hampshire International Speedway
September 16, 2007**

Team DuPont Scores Second Place Finish in New Hampshire

Sunday's SYLVANIA 300 at New Hampshire International Raceway was an important race to Jeff Gordon for two reasons. In addition to being the first race of the "Chase for the NASCAR NEXTEL Cup," NASCAR's 10-race "playoff" among the top-12 drivers of the first 26 events, it was also the four-time champion's 500th-consecutive career start.

After starting 18th, Gordon battled his way to the front finishing second in the 300-lap race leaving the one-mile oval of New Hampshire tied with Jimmie Johnson for the points lead.

The No. 24 DuPont Chevrolet started outside row nine with Gordon quickly making his way to 12th when a competition yellow flag fell on lap 35.

"I'm pushing tight on the front end," Gordon said before coming to get four tires while under caution on lap 37. "I'm tight behind traffic, but great while I'm out in clean air."

The three-time New Hampshire winner drove his way to eighth by lap 68 when the caution flag waved again. Steve Letarte, crew chief, elected to take two tires on the ensuing pit stop, moving Gordon to second position.

Gordon fell to third on lap 81 battling a loose-handling condition, but was able to keep his track position.

"I'm loose in the middle and on exit of the corners," Gordon said on lap 119.

Team DuPont put on four fresh tires and added fuel to help the loose-handling No. 24 DuPont Chevrolet on lap 140 during a round of green flag pit stops. Gordon came off pit road fourth, but quickly moved his way up to second by lap 147.

Another caution on lap 164 brought the leaders to pit road with Letarte again electing to take right side tires, this time making slight air pressure adjustments to the new Goodyears. Several cars did not pit and Gordon restarted sixth on lap 168.

Gordon was able to gain one position before another caution waved on lap 180.

"I'm terrible during the first couple of laps," Gordon said. "But then the car comes back to me after about five laps of green flag racing."

Gordon was battling for fourth position on lap 188 when the final caution flag waved. He continued the battle for fourth following the caution, eventually falling back to fifth on lap 195. Gordon recovered and was running in second when Team DuPont made their final pit stop on lap 225.

"We have to be better on the short runs," Gordon said. "I'm snug right now after this long run, but I need it to be tighter as we get closer to the end of this race."

Four tires, fuel, and further air pressure adjustments were made to help improve the handling of the car for the short runs. Unfortunately for Team DuPont, the race would stay green for the remaining 75 laps. Gordon battled lapped traffic before taking over second position on lap 253. He was unable to catch leader and eventual race winner Clint Bowyer, scoring his 16th top-five finish of the 2007 season.

"The lapped cars gave us a little bit of trouble, but Clint (Bowyer) had to good of a car for us to catch him," Gordon said following the race.

"We got a little behind on qualifying, but we had a great race coming from 18th to finish second. I drove hard all day long on every lap and this finish is just what we needed to start our championship run off strong."

SYLVANIA 300 Results (unofficial)

1. Clint Bowyer
2. **Jeff Gordon**
3. Tony Stewart
4. Kyle Busch
5. Martin Truex, Jr.
6. Jimmie Johnson
7. Matt Kenseth
8. Casey Mears
9. Ryan Newman
10. J.J. Yeley

"Chase for the NASCAR NEXTEL Cup" Points Standings (unofficial)

1. (tied) Jimmie Johnson
- Jeff Gordon**
3. Tony Stewart
4. Clint Bowyer
5. Kyle Busch
6. Martin Truex, Jr.
7. Matt Kenseth
8. Carl Edwards
9. Denny Hamlin
10. Kevin Harvick
11. Jeff Burton
12. Kurt Busch