



DuPont Motorsports Post-Race Report  
Pocono 500  
Pocono Raceway  
June 10, 2007

**Team DuPont Captures Fourth Win of the Year at Pocono**

Jeff Gordon captured his fourth win of the season -- and 79th career victory -- in Sunday's rain-shortened Pocono 500 at Pocono Raceway, but crew chief Steve Letarte deserves the credit.

Gordon, who started 18th, gained nine positions in the first 18 laps on the event that started three hours late due to rain. He was running eighth when the first caution waved on lap 48.

After stopping for fuel and four new tires, Gordon restarted eighth on lap 53 of the scheduled 200-lap event. But the turning point of the race occurred when a caution flag waved only 10 laps later.

"Do not pit, do not pit," Letarte told Gordon via the team radio. "We can't make it to halfway from here, so don't pit."

A race must reach the halfway point before it is "official." If the race is stopped prior to that point, it must be restarted at a later time or date -- and reach the halfway mark -- before it becomes an official event. In Sunday's case, that "magical" mark was 100 laps.

Virtually the entire field -- except for Gordon -- stopped during the lap 63 caution, giving the driver of the No. 24 DuPont Chevrolet the lead for the restart. The clean air helped the handling on his Chevrolet as Gordon led the next 16 laps.

But he was forced to stop for fuel and new tires on lap 82 under green flag conditions. Due the length of time it takes to navigate the triangular track, Gordon returned to the track on the lead lap but in 36th position.

One by one the other cars were forced to stop for fuel, and Gordon inherited the lead again on lap 98. A hard charging Ryan Newman was closing in on Gordon, but threatening skies were also closing in on the track. Newman caught Gordon and was alongside him as rain began pelting the speedway. When the caution waved, the four-time NASCAR Cup Series champion was ahead.

The race was red-flagged due to rain on lap 106 with Gordon the leader, and approximately 35 minutes later NASCAR decided to end the event when a persistent rain would not allow them to dry the track and restart the race before darkness descended.

"Great, great call by Steve Letarte and all the guys on this DuPont Chevrolet team," Gordon said after the race. "We had a great race car, we just needed track position. I thought out in clean air with a few cars behind us that we would be in good shape -- which we were. That shows you just what clean air will do.

"Steve was looking at this thing being close to a 100-lap race, which was really smart. He looked at the radar and knew the rain was coming any time -- it was a risk worth taking. He is the one that won this race today, not me. We had a great race car, but without track position and a great risky call like that, we wouldn't be here. I can't believe we just won this thing.

"Our strategy changed," Letarte said. "We had a decent car, but it is so hard to pass here and everybody gets so spread out. Shannon (McGlamery, spotter) called it. He saw some rain clouds coming and told me to go check the radar."

Gordon will take a 242-point lead into next Sunday's Citizens Bank 400 at Michigan International Speedway. TNT and MRN Radio will broadcast the race live beginning at 12:30 p.m. EDT.

Pocono 500 results (unofficial)

- 1. Jeff Gordon**
2. Ryan Newman
3. Martin Truex, Jr.
4. Casey Mears
5. Tony Stewart
6. Denny Hamlin
7. Mark Martin
8. Kyle Busch
9. Matt Kenseth
10. Clint Bowyer

Point standings (unofficial)

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