



DuPont Motorsports Post Race Report  
Centurion Boats at the Glen  
Watkins Glen International  
August 12, 2007

### **Team DuPont Clinches Spot in Chase Following Ninth-Place Finish at Watkins Glen**

You could hear the disappointment in Jeff Gordon's voice following his ninth-place finish in the Centurion Boats at The Glen on Sunday.

"The team deserved the win," Gordon said in his first interview following the race at Watkins Glen International. "The driver didn't deliver."

Gordon, who led a race high 51 laps during the 90-lap event, was leading with less than two laps to go when he spun entering turn 1 at the New York road course. Tony Stewart inherited the lead and drove to victory while Gordon recovered to post Team DuPont's 20th top-10 in 22 races this season. He remained the points leader -- now 344 markers up on second-place Denny Hamlin -- and clinched one of the 12 spots in this year's edition of "The Chase for the NASCAR NEXTEL Cup."

With rain canceling qualifying on Friday, the starting order was set by points with Gordon leading the field to green. He led the first 13 laps before Stewart passed him, and Gordon remained in second until making his first pit stop under caution at lap 24.

Quick pit work by the No. 24 team allowed Gordon to exit pit lane first, but he restarted eighth on lap 25 behind seven drivers who did not stop during the caution. By lap 38, the four-time NASCAR Cup Series champion was running second behind Stewart.

But on lap 45 Gordon witnessed a little bit of the future. As Stewart approached turn 1, he lost control of his No 20 Chevrolet and spun. Gordon quickly drove past and led until a caution waved on lap 51.

With a berth in the Chase all but assured, Gordon and Team DuPont planned to gamble for the victory. Interim crew chief Jeff Meendering -- in his last race calling the shots atop the pit box -- called Gordon onto pit road for fuel and four tires with 37 laps remaining. Their fuel mileage calculation, though, showed they could only make it 30 laps before needing to stop again for fuel.

"Save gas, save gas, save gas," Meendering radioed Gordon.

Gordon restarted sixth on lap 54. Six laps later, he was leading.

Aided by 14 laps of caution in the final 30 laps, Meendering informed Gordon that fuel should not be an issue. But the late-race spin while leading left Gordon disappointed with the ninth-place finish.

"I'm disappointed in myself," Gordon said following the race. "Tony was fast and I was pushing to stay ahead of him. I just pushed too hard.

"We were terrible on Saturday (during practice), but the team gave me a great car today.

"It was a stupid mistake, and I hate making mistakes."

Gordon will try to make amends next Sunday in the 3M Performance 400 at Michigan International Speedway. ESPN and MRN Radio will broadcast the race live beginning at 1 p.m. EDT.

#### Centurion Boats at The Glen results (unofficial)

1. Tony Stewart
2. Denny Hamlin
3. Jimmie Johnson
4. Ron Fellows
5. Robby Gordon
6. Martin Truex, Jr.
7. Kyle Busch
8. Carl Edwards
- 9. Jeff Gordon**
10. Greg Biffle

#### Point standings (unofficial)

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