



DuPont Motorsports Post-Race Report
Pep Boys Auto 500
Atlanta Motor Speedway
October 26, 2008

Gordon Moves Up to Sixth in Standings Following Ninth-Place Finish in Atlanta

Jeff Gordon moved up one position to sixth in the point standings following Team DuPont's ninth-place finish in the Pep Boys Auto 500 at Atlanta Motor Speedway on Sunday. With three races remaining in the 2008 season, Gordon trails points leader and teammate Jimmie Johnson by 312. Carl Edwards, now second in the standings, won the 500-mile event.

With qualifying rained out for the third consecutive week and the starting lineup set by points, Gordon began Sunday's race from the seventh position. Although he battled a loose condition on his No. 24 DuPont Chevrolet during the early stages, the four-time NASCAR Cup Series champion had moved up to third by lap 64.

"I need you to tighten me up," Gordon radioed the crew in advance of his green-flag pit stop on lap 88. "I'm loose into the corner and loose off."

During the four-tire stop, Team DuPont made a wedge adjustment to help tighten up the chassis. Although he remained in the top five, the changes were not what Gordon was looking for.

"I thought I was 'loose in' before, and I was wrong," Gordon said while running third on lap 150. "I'm really loose in now, and I have no drive off the corner."

During the No. 24 team's next stop during green-flag conditions on lap 185, crew chief Steve Letarte called for a chassis adjustment using the 'track bar.' Gordon liked the changes, but wanted more.

"I'm not nearly tight enough -- I'm still loose," Gordon told the team while running fifth at lap 234. "The car's better, but I'm still completely sideways on exit of turn 2."

Letarte called for similar adjustments during the team's next pit stop at lap 253, and Gordon restarted fifth four laps later. But Gordon knew the changes hurt the car shortly after the restart.

"The changes have killed us on the 'short' run," Gordon radioed the No. 24 team after dropping one position in four laps. He continued to lose spots, falling to 12th by lap 285 of the 325-lap race.

After stopping for more adjustments and new tires during a caution flag on lap 289, Gordon restarted 10th. He quickly maneuvered into ninth before another caution waved on lap 298.

"A huge improvement there, guys," Gordon radioed the crew. Letarte elected to gamble during the caution and called Gordon onto pit road for four new tires -- even though Gordon had run only five laps on that set of tires. The gamble paid off as Gordon only lost one position during the stop, yet was able to restart in 10th with much newer tires.

The driver of the No. 24 DuPont Chevrolet gained another position before the day's final caution waved at lap 312. This time, Team DuPont elected to stay on the track to gain valuable track position while many drivers behind him stopped for new tires. The gamble appeared to work as Gordon moved up to sixth with six laps to go, but he lost three positions -- all to drivers with newer tires -- in the closing laps and finished ninth.

"We were good and we just kept trying to make it better," Gordon said after the race. "We were making adjustments trying to get the grip back in it. The track really changed on us, so we struggled there at the end.

"We were fortunate we got the caution to get the four tires, but the the last caution -- when a lot of guys behind us stopped -- ended up costing us.

"But we ran well, and a top-10 finish was a good points day for us.

"We gained a spot in the standings and I think we have a shot of getting into the top five before the season ends."

Next Sunday, the NASCAR Sprint Cup Series visits Texas Motor Speedway for the Dickies 500. ABC begins their live broadcast at 3 p.m. EST while PRN Radio begins their live coverage at 3:30 p.m. EST.

(more)

Pep Boys Auto 500 results (unofficial)

1. Carl Edwards
2. Jimmie Johnson
3. Denny Hamlin
4. Matt Kenseth
5. Kyle Busch
6. Kurt Busch
7. Jamie McMurray
8. David Ragan
- 9. Jeff Gordon**
10. Greg Biffle

Point standings (unofficial)

1. Jimmie Johnson
2. Carl Edwards (-183)
3. Greg Biffle (-185)
4. Jeff Burton (-218)
5. Kevin Harvick (-307)
- 6. Jeff Gordon (-312)**
7. Clint Bowyer (-314)
8. Tony Stewart (-401)
9. Matt Kenseth (-413)
10. Dale Earnhardt, Jr. (-419)
11. Denny Hamlin (-425)
12. Kyle Busch (-465)