



DuPont Motorsports Post-Race Report
Coke Zero 400
Daytona International Speedway
July 5, 2008

Late-Race Spin Results in 30th-Place Finish at Daytona for Gordon

Jeff Gordon led 46 laps during Saturday night's Coke Zero 400 at Daytona International Speedway, but a spin while running second with two laps to go relegated Team DuPont to a 30th-place finish. Gordon remained sixth in the NASCAR Sprint Cup standings, now 437 behind race winner and points leader Kyle Busch.

Gordon, who started 26th, had moved up to 13th by lap 13.

"The car is driving like a dream in clean air," Gordon radioed the crew. "I'm a little loose in and I'm tight middle off, but that's only in traffic."

Although a pit road miscue dropped the four-time NASCAR Cup Series champion back to 19th on lap 24, Gordon methodically worked his way through traffic. He broke into the top 10 for the first time on lap 32, and he was up to fifth by lap 43. Just prior to halfway, he was leading the 160-lap race.

"The car's good," Gordon radioed crew chief Steve Letarte. "If we're going to be behind cars, I may need you to loosen the car up a little."

Gordon's final pit stop of the night occurred on lap 124, and a minor chassis adjustment was made to the No. 24 car during the four-tire stop. Gordon restarted fourth on lap 128, but was leading the race only six laps later. He remained there until he maneuvered into the outside lane on lap 155.

"I made a mistake and I let the 18 (Busch) get underneath me," Gordon explained after the race. "I saw the 17 (driven by Matt Kenseth) coming high and he seemed to have more cars behind him.

"It was a mistake -- I should have never left the bottom."

The move cost Gordon the lead, but a late-race caution set up a "green-white-checkered" finish -- a two-lap shootout for the victory. On the restart while trying to block third-place Carl Edwards, Gordon spun through the infield grass. With four flat tires, Gordon limped to a 30th-place finish.

"You know on a green/white/checkered its going to get crazy in the end," Gordon said after the race. "We were going for the win, trying to get the momentum and the 99 (of Edwards) got a run. I went low to block him and I guess I must have come across his front bumper.

"We had such an awesome night going and I'm just so excited about the way we ran. But, obviously, we're disappointed about the finish.

"I am probably more mad at myself than anything else."

Next Saturday night, NASCAR's top division visits Chicagoland Speedway for the LifeLock.com 400. TNT begins their live broadcast at 6:30 p.m. EDT while MRN Radio's live coverage begins at 7:15 p.m. EDT.

Coke Zero 400 results (unofficial)

1. Kyle Busch
2. Carl Edwards
3. Matt Kenseth
4. Kurt Busch
5. David Ragan
6. Robby Gordon
7. Kasey Kahne
8. Dale Earnhardt, Jr.
9. Clint Bowyer
10. Mark Martin

30. Jeff Gordon

Point standings (unofficial)

1. Kyle Busch
2. Dale Earnhardt, Jr.
3. Jeff Burton
4. Carl Edwards
5. Jimmie Johnson
- 6. Jeff Gordon**
7. Denny Hamlin
8. Kasey Kahne
9. Matt Kenseth
10. Clint Bowyer