



DuPont Motorsports Post-Race Report
Camping World RV 400
Dover International Speedway
September 21, 2008

Gordon Moves to Eighth in Standings After Seventh-Place Finish at Dover

Following a seventh-place finish in Camping World RV 400 at Dover International Speedway on Sunday, Jeff Gordon moved from 11th to eighth in the point standings. He now trails leader Carl Edwards by 118 with eight races remaining in the 2008 season. Greg Biffle won the 400-lap event for his second consecutive victory.

Gordon, who won the pole on Friday, paced the field for the first 30 circuits around the concrete track. "I'm real, real loose on exit," Gordon radioed the crew while running second during a caution on lap 63. "I have no grip off the corner."

During a pit stop on lap 65, the No. 24 DuPont crew changed four tires, added fuel and made a chassis adjustment to the No. 24 Chevrolet. But the adjustments tightened up the handling in the middle of the corner.

"We hurt the middle," Gordon explained to the crew on lap 109 while running sixth. "It's not turning the middle of the corner anymore."

During the next pit stop on lap 144, the DuPont crew made more chassis adjustments while changing four tires. Quick work allowed Gordon to gain two positions and restart fourth at lap 148.

With Gordon still running fourth on lap 170, crew chief Steve Letarte called him onto pit road for a pit stop during a caution period. Many of the leaders stayed on the track, and Gordon was forced to restart 18th. The strategy placed Gordon deep in the field, but he was now on a different pit sequence compared to the leaders.

The strategy appeared to work as Gordon moved into second place on lap 240 when other drivers stopped for fuel during green flag conditions, but the four-time NASCAR Cup Series champion was forced to stop for fuel 20 laps later. When the caution flag waved at lap 291 with Gordon running sixth, every team stopped for fuel and tires -- and the strategy would no longer factor in the outcome.

Letarte called for another major chassis adjustment during the stop -- a spring rubber added to the right rear spring -- and only one spot was lost during the caution period. But Gordon did lose another spot on the track before the final caution waved at lap 350.

"I'm tight getting into the corner," Gordon radioed the crew while running eighth. "But I'm real, real loose exiting the corners."

More chassis adjustments were made during their final stop, and Gordon was able to gain one position before the checkered flag waved on lap 400.

"I got to hand it to the DuPont crew," Gordon said after the race. "We were constantly making big changes to the car, and they still pulled off some fast pit stops."

"But the car was just a little 'off' today. We're 'off' a little bit to the leaders, but we've tested a lot recently and we're not giving up. If we can find that little bit of extra speed, we can fight for the win -- and possibly the championship before the year is over."

Next Sunday, the NASCAR Sprint Cup Series visits Kansas Speedway for the Camping World RV 400. ABC's live coverage begins at 1 p.m. EDT while MRN Radio's live broadcast begins at 1:15 p.m. EDT.

Camping World RV 400 results (unofficial)

1. Greg Biffle
2. Matt Kenseth
3. Carl Edwards
4. Mark Martin
5. Jimmie Johnson
6. Kevin Harvick
- 7. Jeff Gordon**
8. Clint Bowyer
9. Jeff Burton
10. Michael Waltrip

Point standings (unofficial)

1. Carl Edwards
2. (tie) Jimmie Johnson (-10)
2. (tie) Greg Biffle (-10)
4. Jeff Burton (-82)
5. Kevin Harvick (-101)
6. Clint Bowyer (-106)
7. Tony Stewart (-113)
- 8. Jeff Gordon (-118)**
9. Dale Earnhardt, Jr. (-129)
10. Matt Kenseth (-167)
11. Denny Hamlin (-193)
12. Kyle Busch (-210)