



DuPont Motorsports Post-Race Report
Ford 400
Homestead-Miami Speedway
November 16, 2008

Team DuPont Finishes Fourth at Miami; Gordon Finishes Seventh in Standings

Jeff Gordon and Team DuPont posted a fourth-place finish -- their 13th top-five of the season -- in the Ford 400 at Homestead-Miami Speedway on Sunday night to secure a seventh-place finish in the 2008 NASCAR Sprint Cup standings. Jimmie Johnson, driving a car Gordon co-owns, finished 15th in the 400-mile event and won his third consecutive championship in NASCAR's premier division.

Gordon, who started 37th in the 267-lap race, steadily moved up through the field once the green flag fell. He gained 16 positions on the track while the No. 24 crew gained six positions during a pit stop in the first 70 laps. By lap 114, Gordon was running in the top 10.

"The car's pretty good," Gordon radioed the crew while running eighth on lap 119. "But I'm a little tight in the middle of the corner."

Although no chassis adjustments were made during a green-flag four-tire stop on lap 124, Gordon fell four positions in 10 laps after the stop.

"I don't know what happened there," he told the crew on lap 140 during a caution period. "It's like the car is completely different in traffic."

To gain track position, Letarte called for a two-tire stop -- a decision that allowed Gordon to restart sixth on lap 146. But he quickly lost spots, and Gordon was on pit road again for four new tires only six laps later.

Although he restarted 16th, that pit stop created an advantage when a caution waved on lap 167. The leaders stopped for service and Gordon remained on the track to inherit the lead -- a lead he held for 16 laps.

"We're not as good as we need to be, but we're much better out front," Gordon reported to the team.

Gordon had fallen to second when a caution waved on lap 198. After stopping for fuel and tires during the caution period, he restarted eighth -- behind cars that did not pit -- on lap 203. Four laps later, he was one of only a handful of drivers to stop again for fuel during the day's final caution flag on lap 206.

After restarting 16th, Gordon began moving up the running order when drivers began peeling off the race track with less than 20 laps to go for a final splash of fuel. But three drivers ahead of Gordon -- including winner Carl Edwards -- made it the distance without stopping.

"I have to thank my guys on this DuPont Chevrolet team for an awesome year," Gordon said after the race. "It wasn't from a lack of effort that we didn't win any races or be more competitive in the championship. I am still proud of everything that they did, and we had a great top-five here today.

"Coming from 37th, I couldn't be more proud of them. I wish we would have started up front. We were really, really good and then we had one set -- I don't know if it was the tires or what it was -- but we fell back. Once we lost that track position, we were just going to be lucky to get back in the top five.

"There were moments of greatness this year, but we can never pull it all together. That's where we know we have to get better.

"And that's what we're focusing on in the off-season."

Ford 400 results (unofficial)

1. Carl Edwards
2. Kevin Harvick
3. Jamie McMurray
- 4. Jeff Gordon**
5. Clint Bowyer
6. Kasey Kahne
7. Travis Kvapil
8. Casey Mears
9. Tony Stewart
10. Martin Truex, Jr.

Point standings (unofficial)

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