



DuPont Motorsports Post-Race Report  
Allstate 400 at The Brickyard  
Indianapolis Motor Speedway  
July 27, 2008

**Gordon and Team DuPont Persevere to Top-Five Finish at The Brickyard**

Facing tire concerns -- right-side tires were wearing down to the cords in less than 15 laps, NASCAR threw mandatory cautions during Sunday afternoon's Allstate 400 at The Brickyard. While it wasn't his "kind of race," Jeff Gordon and the No. 24 team posted a fifth-place finish in the caution-marred event. Jimmie Johnson won the 160-lap event that featured 12 caution periods.

Tire wear became an issue during Saturday afternoon's practice sessions, and NASCAR and the teams monitored the tire wear during the event. Tire wear did not improve as the race progressed and NASCAR was forced to throw a caution flag every 10 laps to minimize tire failures.

"This is such a big race, and it was disappointing," Gordon said after the race. "It wasn't my kind of race. Actually, conserving tires is my kind of race, but not when it's for only a few laps.

"These tires were completely worn out after 10 laps."

Gordon, who started fifth, was up to second by lap 3 when he voiced his concern with the situation.

"The tires are grinding," Gordon radioed the crew. "The car is good, but the tires are wearing out quick."

After stopping for fuel and new tires on lap 14, Gordon passed teammate Dale Earnhardt, Jr., for the lead on lap 24. He held the lead until the next mandatory caution waved at lap 29.

After the four-tire stop, Gordon returned to the track in second place -- behind the No. 18 car that changed only right side tires. By lap 36, the driver of the No. 24 DuPont Chevrolet was leading again.

But Gordon consistently lost positions during the pit stops that occurred every 10 laps. Crew chief Steve Letarte was concerned about tire wear on all four tires and elected to change each during caution stops. Although Gordon would restart behind each of the teams that elected the two-tire strategy, each 10-lap green flag run would result with teammates Gordon and Johnson leading the field under the yellow flag.

But Letarte was forced to use a different strategy when the day's final caution waved on lap 149.

"It's going to be a 7 or 8-lap shootout," Letarte said over the team radio. "We'll lose a lot of track position if we take four, so we have to take right-sides only during this stop."

With seven laps to go, Gordon restarted sixth. But Gordon was only able to pass one car before the checkered flag waved.

"We were too tight on that last run," said Gordon, who remained sixth in the standings following the race. "We were good, we just didn't have the track position needed to win at the end.

"I am real proud of this team. We had a strong weekend, we were strong in each practice and we were strong in the race. I hate that we had the issues with the tires."

Next Sunday, the NASCAR Sprint Cup Series visits Pocono Raceway for the Pennsylvania 500. ESPN begins their live coverage at 1 p.m. EDT while MRN Radio begins their live coverage at 1:15 p.m. EDT.

Allstate 400 at The Brickyard results (unofficial)

1. Jimmie Johnson
2. Carl Edwards
3. Denny Hamlin
4. Elliott Sadler
- 5. Jeff Gordon**
6. Jamie McMurray
7. Kasey Kahne
8. Greg Biffle
9. Jeff Burton
10. A.J. Allmendinger

Points standings (unofficial)

1. Kyle Busch
2. Dale Earnhardt, Jr.
3. Jeff Burton
4. Jimmie Johnson
5. Carl Edwards
- 6. Jeff Gordon**
7. Greg Biffle
8. Denny Hamlin
9. Kasey Kahne
10. Tony Stewart