



DuPont Motorsports Post-Race Report
Bank of America 500
Lowe's Motor Speedway
October 11, 2008

Team DuPont Finishes Eighth at Lowe's Motor Speedway; Gordon Remains Eighth in Standings

Despite hitting the wall twice in the first six laps of Saturday night's Bank of America 500 at Lowe's Motor Speedway, Jeff Gordon and Team DuPont battled back to finish eighth in the 334-lap race. Gordon remains eighth in the standings, now 245 points behind leader Jimmie Johnson. Jeff Burton won the 500-mile event and moved up to second in the standings.

With qualifying canceled on Thursday due to a persistent rain, Gordon started eighth. He passed two cars on the opening lap, but scraped the turn 2 wall one lap later. On lap 5, the right side of Gordon's No. 24 DuPont Chevrolet made significant contact with the turn 4 wall.

Due to the possibility of a fender rubbing a tire, Gordon pitted under green flag conditions on lap 9. The No. 24 crew pulled the fenders clear during the two-tire top, but Gordon returned to the track one lap down in last place.

When a caution waved on lap 50, Gordon received the "free pass" -- NASCAR allows the first car scored one or more laps lap down to gain a lap back -- onto the lead lap.

"I'm a little loose into the corner, but a little tight off," Gordon radioed the crew during the caution period. After stopping for four tires and a chassis adjustment, Gordon restarted 34th on lap 59. Four laps later, he moved into the top 30.

By lap 78, the four-time NASCAR Cup Series champion had moved into 20th. And when a cycle of green flag stops concluded at lap 184, he was up to 14th.

A caution flag waved only two laps later, and crew chief Steve Letarte elected to call Gordon onto pit road again.

"There's only 18 cars on the lead lap," Letarte informed Gordon. "I want you to pit, no matter what the leaders do." The decision was the correct one since Gordon and each of the drivers behind him were the only ones to stop during the caution period.

Gordon restarted 14th on lap 191, but a caution waved only three laps later. Gordon stayed on the track and moved up to second when all but one of the leaders stopped for fuel and tires.

When the race restarted, Gordon made quick work of Martin Truex, Jr., to take the lead on lap 204 -- a lead he held until pitting during green flag conditions for fuel and tires on lap 251. When a caution waved 13 laps later, Gordon was running second.

"The car is good in 'clean' air, but it's tight in traffic," Gordon radioed the crew. He stopped for four tires during the caution period, but restarted seventh when other teams elected to stay out or stop for only two tires.

And traffic was the difference. Gordon battled 'dirty' air the remainder of the event and finished eighth.

"It was a great effort by this DuPont Chevrolet team," Gordon said after the race. "I'm just so bummed out that I got in the wall early. I wasn't pushing that hard. it's just like the air came off the other cars and I just didn't leave enough room and boom, I got in the wall -- not once, but twice -- and ruined our night.

"It's amazing how great the car is out front and how terrible it is six cars back. So we just got the best possible finish we could out of it there at the end.

"It's unbelievable how good my car drove out front -- it was on rails. It was like having the best car, and then having the worst car when I was five or six cars back."

Next Sunday, the NASCAR Sprint Cup Series visits Martinsville Speedway for the TUMS QuikPak 500. ABC begins their live coverage at 1 p.m. EDT while MRN Radio's live coverage begins at 12:45 p.m. EDT.

(more)

Bank of America 500 results (unofficial)

1. Jeff Burton
2. Kasey Kahne
3. Kurt Busch
4. Kyle Busch
5. Jamie McMurray
6. Jimmie Johnson
7. Greg Biffle
- 8. Jeff Gordon**
9. Mark Martin
10. David Ragan

Point standings (unofficial)

1. Jimmie Johnson
2. Jeff Burton (-69)
3. Greg Biffle (-86)
4. Carl Edwards (-168)
5. Clint Bowyer (-185)
6. Kevin Harvick (-207)
7. Tony Stewart (-228)
- 8. Jeff Gordon (-245)**
9. Kyle Busch (-326)
10. Dale Earnhardt, Jr. (-354)
11. Matt Kenseth (-360)
12. Denny Hamlin (-380)