



DuPont Motorsports Post-Race Report
Checker O'Reilly Auto Parts 500
Phoenix International Raceway
November 9, 2008

Blown Engine Results in 41st-Place Finish at Phoenix for Team DuPont

With a few more chassis adjustments, Jeff Gordon believed that he could battle for the win in the Checker O'Reilly Auto Parts 500 at Phoenix International Raceway on Sunday. Unfortunately for Team DuPont, a blown engine in the No. 24 Chevrolet relegated the four-time NASCAR Cup Series champion to a 41st-place finish. Gordon fell to seventh in the standings, 410 points behind points leader and race winner Jimmie Johnson.

Gordon, who qualified seventh, was up to fifth when the first caution waved at lap 19. Although several teams elected to change only two tires, Gordon stopped for four new tires. He restarted ninth on lap 24, and was once again up to fifth by lap 80.

"I have no drive off the corners," Gordon radioed the No. 24 crew in advance of his green-flag pit stop. That four-tire stop occurred on lap 99, and he was up to fourth once stops cycled through on lap 112. But his next radio transmission signaled the beginning of the end.

"I just lost a little bit of engine," Gordon radioed the crew on lap 115, referring to a loss of horsepower in the No. 24's powerplant.

However, he was able to maintain a good pace and remained fourth until a caution waved at lap 140. After a quick four-tire stop by the No. 24 crew gained him a spot on pit road, Gordon restarted third on lap 148.

But, 18 laps later, his hopes of a victory were dashed.

"There goes the motor," Gordon radioed the crew. He was able to nurse the car on seven cylinders for another 100 laps, but the engine finally expired with Gordon completing only 266 laps.

"The Hendrick Engine Department provides great engines that last, and I think this is our first blown engine this year," said Gordon from the garage area. "I'm sure they will look into the cause and address it so it doesn't happen again for quite a while.

"We had a great car, and I think we could have been better with a few more adjustments. It was tough back there in traffic, but we were still able to pass some cars and run in the top five.

"I hope we have another strong car next weekend and can be there at the end to battle for the victory."

Next Sunday, the NASCAR Sprint Cup Series visits Homestead Miami Speedway for the season finale. The Ford 400 will be broadcast live on ABC and MRN Radio beginning at 3 p.m. EST.

Checker O'Reilly Auto Parts 500 (unofficial)

1. Jimmie Johnson
2. Kurt Busch
3. Jamie McMurray
4. Carl Edwards
5. Denny Hamlin
6. Dale Earnhardt, Jr.
7. Kevin Harvick
8. Kyle Busch
9. Jeff Burton
10. David Ragan

41. Jeff Gordon

Point standings (unofficial)

1. Jimmie Johnson
2. Carl Edwards (-141)
3. Greg Biffle (-203)
4. Jeff Burton (-269)
5. Kevin Harvick (-328)
6. Clint Bowyer (-335)
- 7. Jeff Gordon (-410)**
8. Matt Kenseth (-470)
9. Denny Hamlin (-471)
10. Dale Earnhardt, Jr. (-474)
11. Kyle Busch (-481)
12. Tony Stewart (-502)