



DuPont Motorsports Post-Race Report  
Chevy Rock and Roll 400  
Bristol Motor Speedway  
September 7, 2008

**Team DuPont Secures Spot in "Chase" with Eighth-Place Finish at Richmond**

With their eighth-place finish in the Chevy Rock & Roll 400 at Richmond International Raceway on Sunday, Jeff Gordon and Team DuPont earned one of the 12 coveted spots in the "Chase for the NASCAR Sprint Cup." Following the event won by Jimmie Johnson, the points were reset and Gordon now trails leader Kyle Busch by only 80 with 10 races remaining in the 2008 season.

Rain canceled qualifying on Friday, and the threat of Hurricane Hanna moving through the region on Saturday postponed the race one day. After starting 10th on Sunday, Gordon quickly moved through the field.

"I'm real loose in and real loose off," Gordon radioed the crew on lap 26 while running fourth. "But I'm real good through the middle."

Due to the severe rain on Friday and Saturday, NASCAR called for a mandatory caution at lap 35 so the teams could monitor tire wear. Crew chief Steve Letarte called for only the right-side tires to be changed during the caution period pit stop, and Gordon exited pit road first.

Although he paced the field for six laps, the four-time NASCAR Cup Series champion began losing positions.

"I have no drive off (the corner)," Gordon explained to the crew on lap 49 while running fourth.

He had fallen to seventh by lap 88 when he informed the crew of another matter.

"By the way, I forgot to tell you I got into the wall a little earlier," Gordon said over the team radio. "And I just got it again."

During a lap 96 caution period, Team DuPont changed four tires, fixed the minor quarterpanel damage and made chassis adjustments to the No. 24 Chevrolet. Due to the extra time needed for the repairs and changes, Gordon exited pit road 12th. But, once the race restarted, it brought a new set of challenges.

"It's typical back here in traffic," Gordon said. "The 'dirty' air is making it very difficult to pass."

He was able to maneuver to ninth by lap 200 of the 400-lap race, and the No. 24 crew gained him two more positions after a quick four-tire stop on lap 203.

But when a caution waved on lap 242, Gordon and the leaders pitted again for new tires and fuel while many of those drivers behind them stayed out. The differing strategy meant Gordon was forced to restart 26th on lap 246, but he did not stay there long.

On lap 258, Gordon moved into 20th position. When another caution waved at lap 296, he was up to 14th.

Quick work by the No. 24 crew gained him two additional positions, and Gordon restarted 12th with less than 100 laps to go. Although he battled a "tight" condition through the final run, Gordon was able to pick off four positions before the checkered flag waved at lap 400.

"We accomplished what we set out to do, and that was to earn a spot in the Chase," Gordon told the media after the race. "It's a whole new ball game now."

"We entered the race 681 points behind and, with the points reset now, we're only down 80. It's 10 races to decide the champion, and I still think we have a team that can win it."

The 10-race "Chase" begins next Sunday with the Sylvania 300 at New Hampshire Motor Speedway. ABC begins their live coverage at 1 p.m. EDT while MRN Radio's live coverage begins at 1:15 p.m. EDT.

(more)

Chevy Rock & Roll 400 results (unofficial)

1. Jimmie Johnson
2. Tony Stewart
3. Denny Hamlin
4. Dale Earnhardt, Jr.
5. Mark Martin
6. Jeff Burton
7. Kevin Harvick
- 8. Jeff Gordon**
9. David Reutimann
10. Kurt Busch

Point standings (unofficial)

1. Kyle Busch
2. Carl Edwards (-30)
3. Jimmie Johnson (-40)
4. (tie) Dale Earnhardt, Jr. (-70)
4. (tie) Clint Bowyer (-70)
4. (tie) Denny Hamlin (-70)
4. (tie) Jeff Burton (-70)
- 8. (tie) Jeff Gordon (-80)**
8. (tie) Tony Stewart (-80)
8. (tie) Greg Biffle (-80)
8. (tie) Kevin Harvick (-80)
8. (tie) Matt Kenseth (-80)