



DuPont Motorsports Post-Race Report  
Budweiser Shootout  
Daytona International Speedway  
February 9, 2008

**Team DuPont Finishes Fourth in Budweiser Shootout -- in a Backup Car**

Jeff Gordon was forced to start Saturday night's Budweiser Shootout at Daytona International Speedway in a backup car after being involved in a practice crash Friday night, and he drove the No. 24 DuPont Chevrolet Impala SS to a fourth-place finish in the non-points event. Dale Earnhardt, Jr., won the 70-lap event in his first race for Hendrick Motorsports.

Without any practice in the backup car, Gordon decided to play it safe and run near the end of the 23-car field during the first 20-lap segment.

"The car is driving good," Gordon reported to the crew during the early stages. "I'll have to get into the pack during the next segment and mix it up with them."

And that's exactly what he did. After restarting 22nd on lap 20, the four-time NASCAR Cup Series champion moved up to 11th by lap 24. By lap 37, Hendrick Motorsports drivers Earnhardt, Gordon, Casey Mears and Jimmie Johnson were lined up first to fourth.

Five laps later, Gordon battled past Earnhardt to take the lead. One lap later, Earnhardt was back in front. Gordon remained in the top five until the night's final caution waved on lap 63.

In this "special" race there are special rules, and one of those is all restarts are double-file. On the final restart with three laps to go, Gordon was third with the Toyota of Tony Stewart lined up ahead of him in the inside line. On the outside were his three teammates -- Earnhardt, Johnson and Mears. Gordon tried several times to make a move to challenge for the win but came up short as the field crossed under the checkered flag.

"It was fun," Gordon said after the race. "It's just really wild how you get momentum in these cars and you have to maintain that momentum. You get in one line and you think that one is going to work and then you get in another line and see if that one is going to work."

"Obviously, handling is going to be an issue over the long runs, but I had a lot of fun pushing my teammates and I had a lot of fun passing them. So it's just one of those things where it's the Bud Shootout and you've got to go for it and go for the win. And we were going for it as well as everybody else out there."

"I'm really happy for Dale, Jr. It's awesome to have him at Hendrick Motorsports and I'm real proud of those guys to do that in their first race out."

Next Sunday, Gordon will attempt to capture his fourth victory in the Daytona 500, NASCAR's Super Bowl. The 50th running of "The Great American Race" will be broadcast live on Fox and MRN Radio beginning at 2:30 p.m. EST.

**Budweiser Shootout results (unofficial)**

1. Dale Earnhardt, Jr.
2. Tony Stewart
3. Jimmie Johnson
- 4. Jeff Gordon**
5. Reed Sorenson
6. Casey Mears
7. Dave Blaney
8. Mark Martin
9. Denny Hamlin
10. Kasey Kahne