



DuPont Motorsports Post-Race Report  
Amp Energy 500  
Talladega Superspeedway  
October 5, 2008

**Accident and Blown Engine Relegate Gordon to 38th-Place Finish at Talladega**

Jeff Gordon was shuffled out of the lead draft at the wrong time during Sunday's Amp Energy 500 at Talladega Superspeedway and was collected in a multi-car accident on lap 53. After lengthy repairs to the No. 24 DuPont Chevrolet, Gordon returned to the track 33 laps down but a blown engine shortly thereafter ended his day early with a 38th-place finish. He is now eighth in the standings, 232 points behind leader Jimmie Johnson with six races remaining in the 2008 season. Tony Stewart won the 500-mile race when Regan Smith's last lap move for the win was disallowed by NASCAR because he drove below the "out of bounds" yellow line on the inside of the track.

Gordon, who started 26th on the track where packs of 30 or more cars are separated by less than two seconds, gained 11 spots in the first two laps. But when he crossed the start/finish line on lap 3, the four-time NASCAR Cup champion was running 34th.

He patiently worked the draft in the early stages, and was up to 10th by lap 15. When the field completed lap 19, Gordon was up to fifth. When the day's first caution waved at lap 33, he was running third.

"The car's good," Gordon reported to the crew prior to his pit stop on lap 34. A very fast four-tire stop by the DuPont crew allowed Gordon to exit pit road with the lead.

After restarting first on lap 38, Gordon was drafted out of the lead one lap later. He managed to stay in the top 10, though, when the day's second caution waved on lap 45. Crew chief Steve Letarte called Gordon onto pit road for fuel only one lap later, and the driver of the No. 24 DuPont Chevrolet restarted fourth on lap 49.

But he was once again shuffled out of the lead draft, and he crossed the start/finish line in 31st position on lap 52. On lap 53, he was nursing a very badly damaged car to the garage area.

"I got shuffled out of the pack and could not get back into line," Gordon said from the garage area. "I finally got back into line at the end of the draft and was beginning to work my way back to the front.

"The 44 car (driven by David Reutimann) cut a tire and he slid across the track right in front of me. I tried to avoid him, but I ended up sliding nose first into the wall."

The DuPont crew worked hard to repair the damage, but Gordon expressed concern about the engine during the repair work.

"I was spun around backwards," Gordon said. "The engine was 'turned' backward during the spin, and that may have damaged the engine."

Although Gordon was able to return to the track in 42nd position and gain four spots due to attrition, the engine was damaged and expired after he had completed only 104 laps.

Next Saturday night, the NASCAR Sprint Cup Series visits Lowe's Motor Speedway for the Bank of America 500. ABC begins their live coverage at 8 p.m. EDT while PRN Radio's coverage begins at 7:25 p.m. EDT.

Amp Energy 500 results (unofficial)

1. Tony Stewart
2. Paul Menard
3. David Ragan
4. Jeff Burton
5. Clint Bowyer
6. Bobby Labonte
7. Scott Riggs
8. Robby Gordon
9. Jimmie Johnson
10. Elliott Sadler

**38. Jeff Gordon**

Point standings (unofficial)

1. Jimmie Johnson
2. Carl Edwards (-72)
3. Greg Biffle (-77)
4. Jeff Burton (-99)
5. Clint Bowyer (-152)
6. Kevin Harvick (-171)
7. Tony Stewart (-203)
- 8. Jeff Gordon (-232)**
9. Matt Kenseth (-245)
10. Dale Earnhardt, Jr. (-249)
11. Kyle Busch (-331)
12. Denny Hamlin (-335)