



DuPont Motorsports Post-Race Report
NASCAR Sprint All-Star Race
Lowe's Motor Speedway
May 16, 2009

Late-Race Crash While Battling for the Lead Ends Team DuPont's Shot at All-Star Victory

With 10 laps remaining in Saturday night's \$1 million NASCAR Sprint All-Star Race at Lowe's Motor Speedway, Jeff Gordon was leading the non-points event. Three-wide and four corners later, a severely damaged No. 24 DuPont Chevrolet came to a stop just past the start/finish line. Gordon was credited with a 19th-place finish while Tony Stewart won the 100-lap event broken up into segments of 50, 20, 20 and 10 laps.

Gordon, who started sixth, was up to third when mandatory pit stops occurred on lap 26. A quick four-tire pit stop with adjustments allowed him to gain a position during the exchange, but the four-time NASCAR Cup Series champion had fallen back into third position by the end of the first 50-lap segment.

During this caution period, Letarte elected to change four tires and make additional chassis adjustments. With some teams electing to change only two tires, Gordon restarted eighth. He gained three positions during the second segment before the field was slowed again.

"No matter what the leaders do, stay out," Letarte told Gordon. "We didn't come here to run fifth. That clean air is magic."

After restarting fourth on lap 70, Gordon was pacing the field by lap 81. And the 'clean air' proved to be beneficial for the No. 24 Chevrolet as Gordon pulled away by over three seconds. But that advantage was wiped away when the red flag was displayed on lap 90 signaling the end of the third segment.

As the fourth and final segment began, Gordon and Kyle Busch battled side-by-side through turns 1 and 2 and down the backstretch. In turn 3, Ryan Newman joined the fray and the lead battle was three-wide exiting turn 4. The trio of cars touched, sending the No. 24 Chevrolet spinning through the grass and into the frontstretch wall.

"That's the All-Star event," Gordon told the media after a mandatory trip to the infield care center. "That's just a bunch of guys racing really, really hard."

"I heard 'three-wide' right at the last second and I was already wide open holding it down as much as I could. It wasn't anybody's fault -- we just ran out of racing room. We were all just racing hard for that big payday."

"Oh, well. It was a great night for us up until that point."

Next Sunday, the NASCAR Sprint Cup Series returns to Lowe's Motor Speedway for the 50th running of the Coca-Cola 600. FOX will broadcast the race live beginning at 5 p.m. EDT and PRN Radio's live broadcast begins at 4:30 p.m. EDT.

All-Star Race Results (unofficial)

1. Tony Stewart
2. Matt Kenseth
3. Kurt Busch
4. Denny Hamlin
5. Carl Edwards
6. Mark Martin
7. Kyle Busch
8. Joey Logano
9. Jamie McMurray
10. Dale Earnhardt, Jr.

19. Jeff Gordon