



DuPont Motorsports Post-Race Report  
Coca-Cola 600  
Lowe's Motor Speedway  
May 25, 2009

**Team DuPont Finishes 14th in Rain-Shortened Coca-Cola 600 at Lowe's Motor Speedway**

The difference was, well, night versus day.

Jeff Gordon's No. 24 Chevrolet was set up for a night race, and Sunday night's Coca-Cola 600 at Lowe's Motor Speedway was postponed to Monday afternoon due to a persistent rain. The nighttime setup -- during a day race -- meant Gordon battled a 'tight' condition during the early stages of the event and fell from his third starting position to 29th after only 115 of the scheduled 400 laps.

But crew chief Steve Letarte called for major chassis adjustments during each pit stop and the handling changed dramatically on the DuPont Chevrolet. Gordon battled back into the top 10, but he fell to 14th after a four-tire pit stop on lap 221. That pit stop was followed by a red flag due to rain -- a rain that did not stop until after NASCAR officially ended the race just past 6 p.m. EDT. David Reutimann's gamble to not stop during the caution period allowed him to secure his first career victory.

"We were ridiculously tight in traffic during the first 100 laps," said Gordon. "I was actually worried there was a chance we would get lapped."

"But Steve made a great adjustment during a green-flag stop (at lap 129) and the car just took off."

After the stop, Gordon maneuvered from 29th to 20th before a caution flag waved at lap 163. Letarte gained his driver 12 more positions on pit road by electing to change only two tires during the ensuing caution, and Gordon restarted eighth. He remained there until a light rain interrupted the race at lap 220.

"We're tight on gas so I need you to pit," Letarte told Gordon. "The radar looks good after this rain cell, so we should be back to racing soon."

Gordon returned to the track in 14th after the four-tire stop, but Reutimann and two other drivers elected to stay out while others stopped for only two tires. The race was red-flagged due to the rain and called "official" approximately three hours later with rain still falling.

"We won a race at Pocono a few years back playing the rain strategy," said Gordon, who remained the points leader. "(The three teams that did not pit) were at the tail end of the lead lap and could take that gamble -- a gamble that none of us closer to the front could take."

"I wish the race would have resumed. The car was incredible after the adjustment, and I think we could have battled for the win."

Next Sunday, the NASCAR Sprint Cup Series visits Dover International Speedway for the Autism Speaks 400. FOX begins their live coverage at 1:30 p.m. EDT while MRN Radio's coverage begins at 1:15 p.m. EDT.

Coca-Cola 600 results (unofficial)

1. David Reutimann
2. Ryan Newman
3. Robby Gordon
4. Carl Edwards
5. Brian Vickers
6. Kyle Busch
7. Kasey Kahne
8. Juan Montoya
9. Joey Logano
10. Matt Kenseth
- 14. Jeff Gordon**

Point standings (unofficial)

- 1. Jeff Gordon**
2. Tony Stewart
3. Kurt Busch
4. Jimmie Johnson
5. Denny Hamlin
6. Kyle Busch
7. Ryan Newman
8. Jeff Burton
9. Matt Kenseth
10. Greg Biffle