



DuPont Motorsports Post-Race Report
NASCAR Banking 500 only from Bank of America
Lowe's Motor Speedway
October 17, 2009

Gordon Now Third in Standings After Fourth-Place Finish

A gamble for two tires late in the NASCAR Banking 500 only from Bank of America gave Jeff Gordon much needed track position, and the four-time NASCAR Cup Series champion used the position to vault into the lead with less than 15 laps to go at Lowe's Motor Speedway. But teammate Jimmie Johnson -- with four new tires -- slipped back by Gordon to collect the win. Gordon finished fourth in the 500-mile event and moved up to third in the standings, now 135 behind leader Johnson.

Gordon, who started the 334-lap event from the ninth position, battled the handling on his No. 24 DuPont/Transformers Chevrolet during the early stages of Saturday night's event.

"I'm dead loose when I pick up the throttle," Gordon radioed the crew while running 11th on lap 95. When a caution waved on lap 119, crew chief Steve Letarte elected to change only two tires to give Gordon valuable track position -- and it worked.

Gordon, who exited pit road first, led 62 of the next 68 laps. But he lost the lead during an exchange of pit stops on lap 189, and the No. 24 Chevrolet Impala was down in seventh when a caution waved with 44 laps to go. Once again, Letarte elected to gamble and called for only right-side tires -- a move that gained Gordon four positions in the race off pit road.

On the track, the battle to gain positions continued for the 82-time winner. After several quick caution flags, Gordon was able to pass Kasey Kahne for second on lap 303. On a lap 317 restart, Gordon was on the outside of Johnson as the green flag waved and he 'cleared' him on lap 319. But Johnson used the four new tires on his Chevrolet to his advantage and passed Gordon back on lap 321. Matt Kenseth and Kasey Kahne -- both with four new tires -- also bypassed Gordon before the checkered flag waved.

"We put two tires on and that was a great call by Steve," Gordon said after the race. "I think Steve called this race perfectly tonight and we gave it a shot. I couldn't even believe I got the lead on the restart and was able to get by Jimmie.

"But I knew it was just a matter of time before my two tires gave up.

"It was a great battle by this DuPont team once again. We still have five races to go, and we'll battle that hard in each one."

Next Sunday, the NASCAR Sprint Cup Series visits Martinsville Speedway for the Tums Fast Relief 500. ABC will broadcast the race live beginning at 1 p.m. EDT while MRN Radio's live coverage begins at 12:15 p.m. EDT.

NASCAR Banking 500 only from Bank of America results (unofficial)

1. Jimmie Johnson
2. Matt Kenseth
3. Kasey Kahne
- 4. Jeff Gordon**
5. Joey Logano
6. Clint Bowyer
7. Casey Mears
8. Kyle Busch
9. Martin Truex, Jr.
10. Kurt Busch

Point standings (unofficial)

1. Jimmie Johnson
2. Mark Martin (-90)
- 3. Jeff Gordon (-135)**
4. Tony Stewart (-155)
5. Kurt Busch (-177)
6. Juan Pablo Montoya (-195)
7. Greg Biffle (-268)
8. Ryan Newman (-288)
9. Kasey Kahne (-331)
10. Carl Edwards (-341)