



DuPont Motorsports Post-Race Report
LifeLock.com 400
Chicagoland Speedway
July 11, 2009

Gordon Grabs Bonus with Second-Place Finish at Chicagoland

Hendrick Motorsports teammates Mark Martin and Jeff Gordon finished 1-2 at Chicagoland Speedway Saturday night which earned the duo a \$1 million bonus from the race sponsor. Following his 10th top-five of the 2009 season, Gordon remained second in the standings and now trails leader Tony Stewart by 175.

In June at Michigan, Martin and Gordon claimed the top-two spots in a race sponsored by LifeLock. The pair were the only drivers eligible for the bonus in Saturday night's LifeLock.com 400, but to claim the loot they first had to claim the top-two spots again. And that appeared to be a long shot as the race approached the halfway mark.

On lap 137 of the 267-lap race, Gordon was running eighth while battling Carl Edwards for position. Edwards' car got loose in turn 3 and traveled up the race track, clipping the No. 24 DuPont/National Guard Chevrolet. Gordon narrowly avoided the turn 4 wall, but he lost six positions in the skirmish.

"I think I overheated the right rear tire when Edwards got into me," said Gordon after dropping to 14th. "I'm just hanging on."

The four-time NASCAR Cup Series champion was able to hang on until the next four-tire pit stop which occurred during green-flag conditions at lap 186. Fast work by the DuPont crew enabled Gordon to return to the track in 12th-place -- a position he held until a caution waved on lap 210.

"I'm pretty decent in (turns) 1 and 2," Gordon said prior to a four-tire stop on lap 212. "I'm too tight in (turns) 3 and 4."

Another fast stop by the 24 team moved Gordon up the running order to 10th. And although he had battled his way up to eighth with 20 laps to go, crew chief Steve Letarte called him onto pit road during a caution period on lap 248 while the leaders stayed on the track. After the four-tire stop, Gordon restarted 10th with 17 laps to go -- but with the benefit of new rubber.

And the benefit paid dividends quickly. In two laps he had maneuvered up to fourth. One lap later, he bypassed Denny Hamlin for third. With nine laps to go, he passed Kasey Kahne for second and set his sights on catching Martin. But a caution waved on lap 260 setting up a double-file restart with two laps to go.

With Gordon on the inside, Martin 'jumped' the restart as Kahne jumped to the outside of Gordon's Chevrolet. Kahne passed Gordon as the white flag waved, but Gordon was able to secure the bonus for the Hendrick Motorsports teammates with his final lap pass of Kahne.

"On that last restart, Mark (Martin) went a little early and I just spun the tires when I tried to get it going," said Gordon after the race. "Then Kasey Kahne -- who was really strong on the outside -- got to the outside of me and I had to fight hard to get back by him just to finish second.

"We had a good car. Carl Edwards and I got racing really hard and he got loose underneath me. We about wrecked, so we had a long battle from that point on.

"The pit crew just did a fantastic job getting us off pit road tonight, and what an incredible call (crew chief) Steve Letarte made. That four tire stop there at the end made the difference. I really thought we were going to win the race.

"It's still a great 1-2 finish for Hendrick Motorsports, though."

The NASCAR Sprint Cup Series will have this weekend off before returning to action on July 26 at Indianapolis Motor Speedway in the Allstate 400 at The Brickyard. ESPN and IMS Radio Network's live coverage is scheduled to begin at 1 p.m. EDT.

LifeLock.com 400 results (unofficial)

1. Mark Martin
2. **Jeff Gordon**
3. Kasey Kahne
4. Tony Stewart
5. Denny Hamlin
6. Ryan Newman
7. Brian Vickers
8. Jimmie Johnson
9. Clint Bowyer
10. Juan Pablo Montoya

Point standings (unofficial)

1. Tony Stewart
2. **Jeff Gordon**
3. Jimmie Johnson
4. Kurt Busch
5. Denny Hamlin
6. Carl Edwards
7. Ryan Newman
8. Kasey Kahne
9. Juan Pablo Montoya
10. Kyle Busch