



DuPont Motorsports Post-Race Report
Coke Zero 400
Daytona International Speedway
July 4, 2009

Team DuPont Perseveres to 28th-Place Finish at Daytona After Gordon Involved in Multi-Car Accident

Jeff Gordon was involved in a 13-car wreck just prior to the halfway mark of Saturday night's Coke Zero 400 at Daytona International Speedway. After numerous pit stops to repair the damage, Gordon was able to remain on the lead lap and secure a 28th-place finish in his damaged No. 24 DuPont Chevrolet. Gordon remained second in the point standings and is now 180 markers behind race winner Tony Stewart.

With rain canceling qualifying on Friday and the field lined up by points, Gordon started the 160-lap event from the second starting position. After leading the first lap, the four-time NASCAR Cup Series champion was shuffled out of the position -- and out of the draft. When he finally worked his way back into the drafting line on lap 3, he was down to 25th.

But he began methodically picking off positions and, when the day's first caution waved on lap 12, Gordon was up to 18th. The No. 24 pit crew did their part to assist -- gaining Gordon four positions on pit road after a lightning-quick four-tire pit stop.

Once the race restarted, Gordon's move to front continued. By lap 32, he was scored fourth. But a "loose" condition caused him to lose positions late in the run and he was down to 14th when a caution waved at lap 56. After stopping for four new tires and chassis adjustments, crew chief Steve Letarte provided an update.

"There are blisters on the right rear tire," Letarte explained to Gordon via the team radio. "It's not just us -- it looks like a lot of teams are blistering tires."

But those issues would soon take a backseat. On lap 77, Gordon was involved in a 13-car accident on the backstretch of the 2.5-mile track. Although Gordon was able to miss much of the carnage, the No. 24 DuPont Chevrolet suffered right-front damage during the incident.

The No. 24 crew worked to repair the damage during the caution period and they were able to keep Gordon on the lead lap during the process. But the damage was too severe for Gordon to overcome on the track, and the aerodynamic disadvantage led to a 28th-place finish -- the last car scored on the lead lap.

"It was just a tough night for us," Gordon said. "We got shuffled out early, but we worked hard to get back up there. And then we had the tire issue and the wreck.

"But the crew did a great job tonight -- before and after the wreck.

"It was just a frustrating night."

Next Saturday night, the NASCAR Sprint Cup Series visits Chicagoland Speedway for the LifeLock.com 400. TNT begins their live coverage at 7:30 p.m. EDT while MRN Radio's coverage begins at 7:15 p.m. EDT.

Coke Zero 400 results (unofficial)

1. Tony Stewart
2. Jimmie Johnson
3. Denny Hamlin
4. Carl Edwards
5. Kurt Busch
6. Marcos Ambrose
7. Brian Vickers
8. Matt Kenseth
9. Juan Pablo Montoya
10. Elliott Sadler
- 28. Jeff Gordon**

Point standings (unofficial)

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