



DuPont Motorsports Post-Race Report  
Ford 400  
Homestead-Miami Speedway  
November 22, 2009

**Team DuPont Finishes Sixth at Miami; Gordon Third in Final Point Standings**

Jeff Gordon finished sixth in Sunday's Ford 400 at Homestead-Miami Speedway to secure a third-place finish in the 2009 NASCAR Sprint Cup Series final point standings. Teammate Jimmie Johnson won his fourth consecutive title while Mark Martin finished second in the standings -- a 1-2-3 finish for Hendrick Motorsports.

"I'm real happy we finished 1-2-3, but I want to be the champion," said Gordon after the race won by Denny Hamlin. "And this DuPont team is going to work hard over the offseason and address our weaknesses so that we can battle for the championship in 2010."

Gordon, who started 20th in the 267-lap event, quickly picked off positions during the early stages of the race. By lap 13, the four-time NASCAR Cup Series champion was up to 10th.

"I'm rolling real good into the corner," Gordon radioed the crew. "But I'm a little loose off turns 2 and 4." Crew chief Steve Letarte called for a minor chassis adjustment -- a half pound of air out of one tire -- during a four-tire green-flag pit stop on lap 52. When pit stops were completed, Gordon was up to sixth. But with the sun -- and track temperatures -- going down, speeds picked up on the cooling track surface.

"I'm getting tight now," Gordon told Letarte while running seventh when a caution waved on lap 80. Letarte called for more chassis adjustments during a stop one lap later, but Gordon lost numerous positions after the lap 85 restart.

"Get ready, I may have a flat," the driver of the No. 24 DuPont Chevrolet radioed the crew as he fell down the leaderboard. By lap 89, he was scored 17th. He did not have a flat tire but an extremely loose race car.

While the championship was out of their hands, Gordon and the No. 24 team were still battling to lock up a 1-2-3 HMS finish. Gordon made some moves on the track while Letarte made some calls in the pits to move the No. 24 Chevrolet back into the top 10 with just under 100 laps to go. The fight, though, continued until the end as Kurt Busch was putting pressure on the No. 24 team for their spot in the final standings.

"I know you're fighting the car, but Kurt is leading the race right now," Letarte informed Gordon on a restart with 47 laps to go. "You're ninth, so we're going to need a few more positions to get third (in the final standings) if he wins it."

And Gordon fought hard for those positions, moving into sixth on lap 236. But with Busch unable to keep the lead, Gordon comfortably crossed the finish line in sixth -- 27 points ahead of the Dodge driver in the final standings.

"We were good at the start of the race," Gordon said. "But we became real loose when the sun went down. It sure was a battle out there, and I'm glad we were able to fight back to post a decent finish and secure third in the final standings.

"But we'll work hard this winter in hopes of improving that by two (positions) next year."

Ford 400 results (unofficial)

1. Denny Hamlin
2. Jeff Burton
3. Kevin Harvick
4. Kurt Busch
5. Jimmie Johnson
- 6. Jeff Gordon**
7. Carl Edwards
8. Kyle Busch
9. Martin Truex, Jr.
10. A. J. Allmendinger

Point standings (unofficial)

1. Jimmie Johnson
2. Mark Martin
- 3. Jeff Gordon**
4. Kurt Busch
5. Denny Hamlin
6. Tony Stewart
7. Greg Biffle
8. Juan Pablo Montoya
9. Ryan Newman
10. Kasey Kahne