



DuPont Motorsports Post-Race Report
Allstate 400 at The Brickyard
Indianapolis Motor Speedway
July 26, 2009

Gordon Notches 350th Career Top-10 Finish with Ninth at Indianapolis Motor Speedway

After starting 22nd in Sunday's Allstate 400 at The Brickyard, Jeff Gordon battled tough 'air' and track conditions to post a ninth-place finish -- his 350th career top-10 finish. Jimmie Johnson won his third event at Indianapolis Motor Speedway to move ahead of Gordon in the point standings. Gordon is now third, 207 markers behind leader Tony Stewart.

Only three cautions waved during the 160-lap event, with the first occurring on lap 1.

"Wow, am I tight," Gordon radioed the crew during the caution period. "We are 'plowing' (the nose) back here in traffic."

After restarting 20th on lap 4, Gordon began methodically picking off positions. When he stopped for service on lap 29, he was up to 18th. After quick work by the No. 24 DuPont crew, Gordon returned to the track and was up to 16th once green flag stops were completed.

But the field was strung out on the flat 2.5-mile track, and positions were hard to come by. He maneuvered by Marcos Ambrose on lap 39 and gained another position when Kyle Busch hit the wall -- bringing out a caution -- on lap 56.

"We're definitely better," Gordon told crew chief Steve Letarte. "But I need more."

Once again, quick work by the No. 24 crew allowed Gordon to gain a position during the round of pit stops. He restarted 13th on lap 62 and moved into the top 10 three laps later. He remained in that position as the field approached another round of green-flag stops at lap 90. Another stellar stop by Team DuPont gained Gordon two more positions during the exchange.

But although he was quick on the track, the car 'slowed' when he pulled up on another car.

"It's unreal how bad traffic affects us," Gordon reported to the crew while running eighth following his last four-tire stop on lap 124. "I just 'stop' when I pull up behind another car."

The day's final caution waved three laps later and, due to the new double-file 'shootout' style restart rule where all lead lap cars restart side-by-side, Gordon restarted in the less desirable outside lane. He lost a position on the restart with 24 laps to go, and crossed under the checkered flag at lap 160 in ninth.

"It was an okay day and a decent finish for this DuPont team," Gordon told the media after the race. "The pit stops were incredible all day."

"But we just had trouble in traffic. The car was fast but it stalled out in the dirty air when I pulled up on someone. I would work and work and work just to make one pass."

"And that last restart in the outside lane didn't help us out either. But it was another top-10 finish, and we just need to improve a little before the Chase begins to be a real threat for the championship."

Next Sunday, the NASCAR Sprint Cup Series visits Pocono Raceway for the Sunoco Red Cross Pennsylvania 500. ESPN's live coverage begins at 1 p.m. EDT while MRN Radio's coverage begins at 1:15 p.m. EDT.

Allstate 400 at The Brickyard results (unofficial)

1. Jimmie Johnson
2. Mark Martin
3. Tony Stewart
4. Greg Biffle
5. Brian Vickers
6. Kevin Harvick
7. Kasey Kahne
8. David Reutimann
- 9. Jeff Gordon**
10. Matt Kenseth

Point standings (unofficial)

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