



DuPont Motorsports Post-Race Report
Toyota/SaveMart 350
Infineon Raceway
June 21, 2009

Gordon Recovers from Pit Road Speeding Penalty to Score Top-10 Finish in Sonoma

Just past the halfway mark of Sunday's Toyota/SaveMart 350 at Infineon Raceway, Jeff Gordon was forced to restart at the rear of the field following a pit road speeding penalty. In the remaining 57 laps, he gained 30 positions to post a ninth-place finish and remain second in the standings. Kasey Kahne won the first road course event of the season.

Gordon, who qualified 13th, was running in that position as the race reached the 50-lap mark. Three laps later, Gordon entered pit road – a little too fast – for a four-tire stop during a caution period. Due to the pit road speed infraction, the four-time NASCAR Cup Series champion was forced to restart the event from the rear of the field.

"I'm sorry, guys," Gordon told the crew.

"We're in this together," crew chief Steve Letarte replied. "Now go get as many positions back as you can."

Gordon did his best to make amends on the track. After restarting 39th on lap 56, the nine-time road course event winner had maneuvered to 24th before his final "scheduled" stop of the day occurred on lap 68. However, the stop was slow because lug nuts -- that are glued onto the wheel -- "popped off" the stud during the tire change. The delay cost valuable time, and Gordon returned to the track in 34th.

Mired in traffic, Letarte called Gordon onto pit road again during lap-75 caution for four new tires. Gordon restarted 31st with 31 laps to go with new tires, and he began showing why he is NASCAR's all-time winningest driver on road courses.

By lap 93, Gordon had gained 10 positions. With nine laps to go in the event, he was up to 16th. And when the day's final caution waved on lap 108 – ensuring the race would end with a two-lap shootout, Gordon was running 13th.

Once the race restarted, Gordon bypassed three cars to break into the top 10 as the field received the white flag. One lap later, he crossed under the checkered flag in ninth.

"It was a real battle out there," said Gordon after the race. "I messed up with the pit road speeding penalty and that sent us to the back, and then we had an issue with the lug nuts.

"But that was one hard-fought ninth-place finish. Steve made some great calls with pit strategy, but the penalty really hurt that strategy.

"So I just had to battle hard for each and every position."

Next Sunday, the NASCAR Sprint Cup Series visits New Hampshire Motor Speedway for the Lenox Industrial Tools 301. TNT and PRN Radio will broadcast the race live beginning at 1:30 p.m. EDT.

Toyota/SaveMart 350 results (unofficial)

1. Kasey Kahne
2. Tony Stewart
3. Marcos Ambrose
4. Jimmie Johnson
5. Denny Hamlin
6. Juan Pablo Montoya
7. A.J. Allmendinger
8. Clint Bowyer
9. **Jeff Gordon**
10. Elliott Sadler

Point standings (unofficial)

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