



DuPont Motorsports Post-Race Report
LifeLock 400
Michigan International Speedway
June 14, 2009

Jeff Gordon and Team DuPont Rally to Finish Second at Michigan

After starting from the rear of the field in Sunday's LifeLock 400 at Michigan International Speedway, Jeff Gordon conserved enough fuel in his No. 24 DuPont/National Guard Chevrolet over the final 47 laps to finish second behind teammate Mark Martin. Gordon remained second in the point standings and now trails leader Tony Stewart by 47.

On Friday, the No. 24 team was forced to change engines when the primary blew during a practice session. Because of that change, Gordon started the 400-mile event from the rear of the field – but he did not stay there long.

The four-time NASCAR Cup Series champion cracked the top 30 by lap 7, and he was up to 17th when a round of green-flag stops began at lap 37.

"The car is really good in turns 1 and 2," Gordon radioed the team. "But I'm tight getting into 3 and loose off 4."

With the sun beating down and the track temperatures rising, the track characteristics began to change. Although no changes were made to the No. 24 Chevrolet during their four-tire stop, Gordon began fighting a loose condition. But he continued to pass cars and was up to 10th just past the halfway mark of the 200-lap event.

"I'm real, real loose," Gordon explained to crew chief Steve Letarte during a caution on lap 120. "And I'm loose everywhere."

After stopping for tires, fuel and a chassis adjustment, Gordon restarted 10th on lap 125. When the day's final caution waved on lap 149, he was up to sixth.

After a quick four-tire stop by the No. 24 team on lap 153, Gordon exited pit road in fifth position. "Save fuel, save fuel, save fuel," Letarte radioed to Gordon as he left the pit stall. "We're short a few laps, but we're probably not going to stop again."

The race restarted with 44 laps to go, and Gordon conserved fuel early in the run. But, after drafting fourth-place Denny Hamlin for numerous laps to conserve fuel, Gordon bypassed him for the position on lap 194. He gained two more positions on the final lap when first and second-place drivers Jimmie Johnson and Greg Biffle ran out of fuel.

"What a great race by this No. 24 DuPont/National Guard team," Gordon said after the race. "To fight back from last to second was a great effort. The car was fast, the pit crew was on their game today and it was just a total team effort."

"I could see Jimmie and Greg battling hard for the lead, and it didn't appear they were saving fuel. I saved for a while, but Mark did a great job saving fuel and pushing it when he needed to."

Next Sunday, the NASCAR Sprint Cup Series visits Infineon Raceway for the Toyota/SaveMart 350. TNT begins their live coverage at 4:30 p.m. EDT while PRN Radio's coverage begins at 4 p.m. EDT.

LifeLock 400 results (unofficial)

1. Mark Martin
2. **Jeff Gordon**
3. Denny Hamlin
4. Carl Edwards
5. Greg Biffle
6. Juan Pablo Montoya
7. Tony Stewart
8. Kurt Busch
9. Brian Vickers
10. Clint Bowyer

Point standings (unofficial)

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