



DuPont Motorsports Post-Race Report  
Carfax 400  
Michigan International Speedway  
August 16, 2009

**Gordon Now Second After Second Second-Place Finish at Michigan in 2009**

In a finish eerily similar to June's event at Michigan International Speedway, Jeff Gordon conserved just enough fuel during the closing laps to secure a second-place finish in the Carfax 400 at the two-mile speedway on Sunday. Jimmie Johnson, who ran out of fuel while leading late in the race in June, did so again during the 200-lap event. Brian Vickers won his first race of the season while Gordon's finish -- coupled with Johnson's 33rd-place finish -- allowed the DuPont driver to reclaim second-place in the standings.

Gordon, who started 21st, was inside the top-10 by lap 29. He informed crew chief Steve Letarte that the No. 24 DuPont was "just a little too tight" as he approached a round of green flag stops at lap 44. Once the pit stop cycle was completed, the four-time NASCAR Cup Series champion was up to seventh.

When a caution waved eight laps later, Letarte elected to bring Gordon onto pit road for right-side tires only. The strategy allowed him to restart third, but Gordon began losing positions when the "tight" condition returned.

Letarte called for chassis adjustments during the next green flag, four-tire stop at lap 96 with Gordon down in seventh. The adjustments helped and he quickly moved up to fourth just past the halfway mark.

Gordon was up to second when a caution waved at lap 149. After a quick four-tire stop by the No. 24 crew on lap 149, he exited pit road 10th. Gordon was forced to restart 18th, though, behind drivers that did not pit, drivers that stopped for fuel only, and those that stopped for fuel and right-side tires only.

"I need you to save me a lot of fuel because we're not going to see you again," Letarte radioed Gordon. "We're three-to-four laps short."

The race restarted on lap 152, and Gordon was up to 13th when the day's final caution waved at lap 157. He gained five more positions when drivers ahead of him peeled off the track for fuel during the caution period.

On lap 161, Gordon restarted eighth. He bypassed Jamie McMurray and Carl Edwards after the restart, and he maneuvered by Matt Kenseth for fifth on lap 165. On lap 167, Gordon passed Kevin Harvick for fourth and, four laps later, he passed Mark Martin for third.

But Gordon was in "conserve" mode, and he patiently waited for first and second -- who were battling hard -- to run out of fuel. Leader Johnson obliged with two laps to go, but Vickers was able to stretch his fuel mileage to secure the victory.

"I really thought we were going to win that race," Gordon said. "Congratulations to Brian Vickers. I know how bad he's been wanting to win and he did a great job. He had a fast car all day and he put himself in position and obviously saved enough fuel. You know I thought I saved quite a bit on those cautions and I thought those guys used more than we did.

"One did, but the other one didn't.

"We'll take another second place here at Michigan. It was another great effort by the DuPont Chevrolet team."

An effort that has them on the brink of securing a spot in the 2009 edition of the "Chase for the NASCAR Sprint Cup." At the conclusion of next Saturday night's Sharpie 500 at Bristol Motor Speedway, Gordon needs to hold at least a 391-point advantage over 13th-place to secure a berth. Currently, that gap is 437.

Tune in at 6:30 p.m. EDT to ESPN or 7 p.m. EDT to PRN Radio for live coverage of the event.

Carfax 400 results (unofficial)

1. Brian Vickers
2. **Jeff Gordon**
3. Dale Earnhardt, Jr.
4. Carl Edwards
5. Sam Hornish, Jr.
6. Casey Mears
7. Joey Logano
8. Clint Bowyer
9. David Reutimann
10. Denny Hamlin

Point standings (unofficial)

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