



DuPont Motorsports Post-Race Report
Lenox Industrial Tools 301
New Hampshire Motor Speedway
June 28, 2009

Team DuPont Just Misses Victory in Rain-Shortened New Hampshire Event

The No. 24 DuPont Chevrolet was fast. The No. 24 crew may have been even faster. Crew chief Steve Letarte made excellent calls in the pits. And Jeff Gordon drove a flawless race.

Yet it was only good enough for second place as Joey Logano and the No. 20 team stole a victory in the rain-shortened Lenox Industrial Tools 301 at New Hampshire Motor Speedway on Sunday. Gordon, who led 64 of the 273 completed laps, remained second in the point standings.

With rain canceling qualifying on Friday, the field was lined up by points for Sunday's scheduled 301-lap affair. The four-time NASCAR Cup Series champion started second, but he quickly passed points leader Tony Stewart on lap 1 and led the first six laps.

"I'm loose," Gordon radioed Letarte while running second. "I'm real loose, and it's all getting into the middle of the corner."

Gordon regained the lead at lap 20, but Kurt Busch bypassed him for the position 12 laps later. When a caution flag waved on lap 45, Letarte called Gordon onto pit road for service. A late decision to change right-side tires only allowed Gordon to win the race off pit road.

That advantage was lost on the restart, but Gordon remained second behind teammate Jimmie Johnson as the field approached a round of green-flag pit stops just past the 100-lap mark. Once pit stops cycled through, Gordon was again chasing his teammate around the 1.058-mile track.

When another caution waved at lap 151, another quick stop by the No. 24 DuPont pit crew allowed Gordon to restart as the leader. He held that position through a lap-182 caution flag -- brought out by the spinning car of Logano -- and through a lap-189 caution -- a caution period where NASCAR awarded Logano with the "free pass" onto the lead lap. But these caution periods allowed the No. 20 team the opportunity to "top off" their fuel cell. Logano -- and several other drivers who stopped during the caution period -- could now run approximately 40 more laps than the leaders.

The race restarted with Gordon ahead at lap 195, but Stewart jumped to the inside and passed Gordon for the lead. Stewart, Gordon and many of the leaders then made their final scheduled stop during green-flag conditions on lap 235. Once again, quick pit work by the No. 24 crew allowed Gordon to win the race off pit road -- but he was still scored 18th on the track.

But drivers began making their final stops, and Gordon began climbing the scoring monitor. When leader Bobby Labonte stopped on lap 246, Gordon was up to eighth. When leader Ryan Newman stopped on lap 264, that moved Gordon up to second. But a caution waved two laps later for rain, and the race was called due to a persistent rain at lap 273 with the rookie scoring his first Cup Series victory.

"It was a great day for us," Gordon said after the race. "It was just a phenomenal day in the pits by this whole crew. Yesterday we weren't very good, but Steve Letarte and all those guys really went to work last night and brought an awesome race car to the track today. It wasn't good on the restarts but, other than that, it felt like we had the best car.

"The guys were really getting it done in the pits today, and they had an incredible last stop -- but it just got us out in front of all the guys that we were racing.

"You've got to give credit to the guys on the No. 20. That was a gutsy call that paid off for them."

Next Saturday night, the NASCAR Sprint Cup Series visits Daytona International Speedway for the Coke Zero 400. TNT begins their live coverage at 7:30 p.m. EDT while MRN Radio's coverage begins at 7:15 p.m. EDT.

Lenox Industrial Tools 301 results (unofficial)

1. Joey Logano
2. **Jeff Gordon**
3. Kurt Busch
4. David Reutimann
5. Tony Stewart
6. Brad Kezelowski
7. Kyle Busch
8. Sam Hornish, Jr.
9. Jimmie Johnson
10. Kasey Kahne

Point standings (unofficial)

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