



DuPont Motorsports Post-Race Report  
Sylvania 300  
New Hampshire Motor Speedway  
September 20, 2009

**Gordon 10th in Standings After 15th-Place Finish at New Hampshire**

"That wasn't how we wanted to start the 'Chase,'" Jeff Gordon said after a 15th-place finish in the Sylvania 300 at New Hampshire Motor Speedway on Sunday. "But it could have been so much worse." Gordon is now 10th in the standings, 102 behind race winner and points leader Mark Martin.

After starting 10th, Gordon began picking off positions in the 300-lap event. By lap 13, he was running fifth. When the day's first caution waved at lap 66, the No. 24 DuPont/National Guard Chevrolet was up to third.

"The car is pretty tight in the middle," Gordon told the No. 24 team. "I've got (turns) 1 and 2 figured out, but I'm tight in (turns) 3 and 4."

Crew chief Steve Letarte called for a minor chassis adjustment -- a half pound of air pressure in a tire -- during the four-tire stop on lap 68. But the change -- or the four new tires -- severely affected the handling on the No. 24 Chevrolet Impala SS. After restarting fifth on lap 74, Gordon slid to seventh by the time another caution waved at lap 85. Following the next restart at lap 91, Gordon dropped five more positions to 12th in three laps.

"I just can't get going on new tires," Gordon radioed the crew. "I have no drive off of the corners." But the longer he ran, the more competitive the car became. By lap 142, the 82-time winner had moved his way back up to eighth.

When another caution waved at lap 160, teams began utilizing very different strategies. Letarte called Gordon onto pit road for gas only, and he restarted ninth behind drivers that did not stop. Other teams elected to change right-sides or four tires during their stop, and they restarted deeper in the field.

Although he lost two positions quickly, Gordon managed to move back into the top 10 by the time Letarte called him back onto pit road for right-side tires only during a lap-194 caution period. Eight drivers remained on the track, and Gordon restarted 14th with just over 100 laps to go.

But he was unable to gain positions due to a "tight in the middle, loose off the corner" condition during the next run. Letarte requested changes during a green-flag four tire stop on lap 250 and more chassis adjustments during a yellow-flag stop on lap 277 with Gordon running 18th. Although Gordon fell to 20th with 12 laps to go, he was able to battle his way to a 15th-place finish before the race ended at lap 300.

"I was concerned about our restarts because we fought that condition -- being really loose -- last time we were here," said Gordon after the race, referring to a second-place finish here in June. "If you're on the front row, you can get away with it a little bit but being fifth or sixth we just really struggled with the grip on the restarts. We'd lose three or four spots every restart.

"It just wasn't a good day for us. It's one we've just got to put behind us, and we'll try to rebound at Dover."

Next Sunday, the NASCAR Sprint Cup Series visits Dover International Speedway for the AAA 400. ABC begins their live coverage at 1 p.m. EDT while MRN Radio's live coverage begins at 1:15 p.m. EDT.

Sylvania 300 results(unofficial)

1. Mark Martin
2. Denny Hamlin
3. Juan Pablo Montoya
4. Jimmie Johnson
5. Kyle Busch
6. Kurt Busch
7. Ryan Newman
8. Elliott Sadler
9. Greg Biffle
10. Clint Bowyer

**15. Jeff Gordon**

Point standings (unofficial)

1. Mark Martin
2. (tie) Jimmie Johnson (-35)
2. (tie) Denny Hamlin (-35)
4. Juan Montoya (-55)
5. Kurt Busch (-65)
6. Tony Stewart (-74)
7. Ryan Newman (-79)
8. Brian Vickers (-90)
9. Greg Biffle (-92)
- 10. Jeff Gordon (-102)**
11. Carl Edwards (-110)
12. Kasey Kahne (-161)