



DuPont Motorsports Post-Race Report  
Subway Fresh Fit 500  
Phoenix International Raceway  
April 18, 2009

**Pit Road Penalty Results in 25th-Place Finish for Team DuPont at Phoenix; Gordon Still Leads Standings**

"It was just one of those crazy nights," said Jeff Gordon following a 25th-place finish in the Subway Fresh Fit 500 at Phoenix International Raceway on Saturday night. "We struggled with the car, Michael Waltrip and Robby Gordon spun out in front of me, Denny Hamlin and I got together, and the No. 34 got into me when he didn't know I was passing him. And then we had the pit road penalty that put us a lap down.

"It just wasn't our night."

Gordon, who started fourth, ran in the top five for the first 100 laps. But the four-time NASCAR Cup Series champion was not feeling well while also battling a car that was tight in the middle of the corner and loose on exit.

After stopping for new tires, fuel and chassis adjustments on lap 139, Gordon's troubles on the track began. On lap 147, the No. 24 DuPont Chevrolet suffered left-front fender damage after contact with the No. 11 Toyota driven by Hamlin. Gordon was able to stop during a caution four laps later so the crew could repair the fender, but he was forced to restart 31st on lap 155.

On lap 165 while battling for position, the cars of Waltrip and Robby Gordon made contact and spun. The 82-time race winner narrowly avoided the spinning cars, and the ensuing caution actually helped Gordon gain track position. When the leaders stopped for service, Gordon remained on the track and restarted third.

While the move gave him much needed track position, Gordon's "older" tires were no match against "new" rubber -- he was down to eighth when a round of green-flag stops began at lap 226. Gordon stopped seven laps later for fuel, tires and a chassis adjustment, but only four of the five lug nuts were on the left-front wheel when he exited the pit stall. NASCAR required him to stop again on lap 235 to replace the "missing" lug nut, and Gordon rejoined the race one lap down in 33rd. He was able to gain eight spots before the checkered flag waved at 312.

"There were a lot of things that were unfortunate tonight," Gordon said. "I haven't been feeling good this weekend and my back is hurting. When you're feeling like that, you can't really give good information and feedback to the team. We had some issues in the pits and it was just all around a tough night."

If there was a bright side to the night, it was 50-year old Hendrick Motorsports teammate Mark Martin grabbing the victory.

"I'm really excited about Mark winning tonight -- I think that's so cool," said Gordon. "We're so excited about having him at Hendrick Motorsports, and I know how bad he wanted to win. He's got a car and a team that can do it, and he's one driving fool."

Next Sunday, the NASCAR Sprint Cup Series visits Talladega Superspeedway for the Aaron's 499. Fox's live coverage begins at 1 p.m. EDT while MRN Radio's coverage begins at 1:15 p.m. EDT.

Subway Fresh Fit 500 results (unofficial)

1. Mark Martin
2. Tony Stewart
3. Kurt Busch
4. Jimmie Johnson
5. Greg Biffle
6. Denny Hamlin
7. Martin Truex, Jr.
8. David Reutimann
9. Sam Hornish, Jr.
10. Carl Edwards
- 25. Jeff Gordon**

Point standings (unofficial)

- 1. Jeff Gordon**
2. Jimmie Johnson
3. Kurt Busch
4. Tony Stewart
5. Denny Hamlin
6. Clint Bowyer
7. Kyle Busch
8. Carl Edwards
9. David Reutimann
10. Kasey Kahne