



DuPont Motorsports Post-Race Report
Irwin Tools Night Race
Bristol Motor Speedway
August 21, 2010

Gordon and Team DuPont Clinch 'Chase' Spot with 11th-Place Finish in Bristol

Jeff Gordon clinched a spot in the 12-driver "Chase for the NASCAR Sprint Cup" field with an 11th-place finish in the Irwin Tools Night Race at Bristol Motor Speedway on Saturday. Kyle Busch won the 500-lap event to sweep NASCAR's top-three series events at the track this weekend.

Gordon, who started 26th on the high-banked short track, battled a loose condition during the early stages of the event.

"I'm swinging the back end around in the middle of the corner," Gordon said while running 23rd on lap 22. When a caution waved at lap 56, the driver of the No. 24 DuPont Chevrolet visited pit road for a change of tires and a chassis adjustment.

After restarting 21st, Gordon maneuvered through traffic up to 15th before another caution flag slowed the field at lap 125. Team DuPont did their part during the four-tire stop, gaining four positions in the race off pit road.

Once again, Gordon began to pick off positions once the race restarted. He was up to eighth at lap 178 but reported the handling was "gone all of sudden" before another caution waved at lap 192.

More adjustments were made to the brightly-painted No. 24 DuPont Chevrolet, and Gordon moved up to sixth during the next green flag run. But the "loose, loose, loose" condition returned halfway through the run at lap 230.

"I took a big swing (on chassis adjustments)," Letarte reported to Gordon after the 82-time winner had stopped for new tires and chassis adjustments during a caution period just past the halfway mark. The big changes dropped Gordon to 14th for the restart, but helped move him up through the field after the restart.

On lap 277, Gordon moved into 10th, and he was up to fifth by lap 393. The four-time NASCAR Cup Series champion led the event at 401 during a sequence of green-flag pit stops, and he returned to the track in fifth before the day's final caution waved on lap 408.

But that position meant he was forced to start in the bottom lane with 86 laps to go. With the top being the preferred line, Gordon fell to 11th before he was able to move up into the higher groove. And while he tried to pass Matt Kenseth for position in the waning laps, Gordon was not able to make it into the top 10 before the checkered flag waved.

"I'm glad we were able to make it into the Chase, but I would have preferred to have been a little bit stronger during the race," said Gordon. "We've struggled here since the track was reconfigured, but we seem to make gains each and every race and we're getting closer at Bristol.

"We've got some good tracks coming up and, now that we've got our spot in the 'Chase' secured, maybe we can get a win at Atlanta or Richmond."

The NASCAR Sprint Cup Series takes next weekend off before visiting Atlanta Motor Speedway on September 5 for the Emory Healthcare 500. ESPN and PRN Radio will broadcast the 7:30 p.m. EDT race live.

Irwin Tools Night Race results (unofficial)

1. Kyle Busch
2. David Reutimann
3. Jamie McMurray
4. Clint Bowyer
5. Kasey Kahne
6. Ryan Newman
7. Juan Montoya
8. Greg Biffle
9. Kurt Busch
10. Matt Kenseth
11. **Jeff Gordon**

Point standings (unofficial)

1. Kevin Harvick
2. **Jeff Gordon**
3. Kyle Busch
4. Carl Edwards
5. Denny Hamlin
6. Tony Stewart
7. Jeff Burton
8. Matt Kenseth
9. Jimmie Johnson
1. Kurt Busch