



DuPont Motorsports Post-Race Report  
Budweiser Shootout  
Daytona International Speedway  
February 6, 2010

**Gordon Finishes Sixth in Budweiser Shootout Despite Late-Race Accident**

With no points on the line in Saturday night's Budweiser Shootout at Daytona International Speedway and a new, "relaxed" NASCAR policy on bump drafting, the 75-lap affair was sure to have a thrilling finish. It did not disappoint, although Jeff Gordon would have preferred not to have a damaged No. 24 DuPont Chevrolet following a sixth-place finish in the race split up into two segments.

Gordon, who drew the 23rd-starting spot on Thursday night, was up to 11th when the first segment ended at lap 25.

"I'm a little loose in, a little tight in the middle and a little loose off," Gordon told crew chief Steve Letarte via the team radio. Letarte called for chassis adjustments during the 10-minute intermission and sent Gordon to battle with four new tires.

After restarting 11th on lap 26, the four-time NASCAR Cup Series champion had moved up to third by lap 51. Six laps later, though, Gordon was shuffled out of the draft -- and shuffled down to 16th in the running order.

But Gordon fought back and was up to eighth when a caution waved with less than five laps remaining. This time, Letarte elected to change only right-side tires on the No. 24 Chevrolet while other teams elected to change four -- or none.

And the differing tire strategies played a role in the outcome of the event. Greg Biffle, who did not stop during the caution period, restarted first with Gordon sixth. As the field exited turn 2, Gordon's No. 24 Impala was lined behind Biffle's Ford. Gordon pushed -- or bump-drafted -- Biffle down the long back straightaway but, as Biffle entered the corner, he spun out setting off a multi-car wreck that collected the No. 24 car.

"The DuPont Chevrolet was good all night," Gordon said after the race won by Kevin Harvick. "I got myself in position there a couple of times and I really thought we might have a shot at the win.

"Matt Kenseth was pushing me and we got a great run down the back straightaway. I got to Greg and I was just pushing and pushing and pushing. We went into the corner and he just spun right out. I don't know if he had a tire go down or just the fact that he was on old tires and couldn't take that kind of a push.

"NASCAR said that bump-drafting is okay now, and that's what it was going to take to win the race."

Next Sunday is "The Great American Race," the Daytona 500, and it will be broadcast live on Fox and MRN Radio beginning at 12 noon EST.

**Budweiser Shootout results (unofficial)**

1. Kevin Harvick
2. Kasey Kahne
3. Jamie McMurray
4. Kyle Busch
5. Denny Hamlin
- 6. Jeff Gordon**
7. Joey Logano
8. Brian Vickers
9. Tony Stewart
10. Juan Pablo Montoya