



DuPont Motorsports Post-Race Report
Coca Cola 600
Charlotte Motor Speedway
May 30, 2010

Gordon Moves Up to Fourth in Standings After Sixth-Place Finish at Charlotte

"It was definitely a long, long 600 miles for us," Jeff Gordon told the media after a sixth-place finish at Charlotte Motor Speedway on Sunday night. The event was won by Kurt Busch while Gordon's sixth top-10 finish of the season moved him up two positions to fourth in the NASCAR Sprint Cup Series standings.

After starting 15th in the 400-lap event, Gordon was mired in 21st as the race approached lap 75. "We're not that bad," Gordon radioed crew chief Steve Letarte as the sun began to descend behind the grandstands of the 1.5-mile track. "It's just way too tight whenever I get behind two or more cars.

"It's good in 'clean' air."

So Letarte attempted to fix that problem during the next caution flag stop at lap 91 by changing only right-side tires. The strategy allowed Gordon to restart ninth.

A cooling track meant Letarte was constantly adjusting on the No. 24 DuPont Chevrolet – all while trying to gain track position through pit strategy. As the race approached the halfway mark, Gordon was fighting a tight condition but running in the top five.

While running fifth after a two-tire stop on lap 301, the four-time NASCAR Cup Series champion noticed more intense racing on the North Carolina track.

"Business has picked up," he informed the crew with less than 100 laps to go.

But Gordon had fallen to eighth – still battling a tight condition on the faster, cooler track – when the night's final caution waved on lap 379. Letarte chose track position over new tires, and Gordon remained on the track as the leaders hit pit road for new Goodyear rubber.

Although he restarted first, the night's dominant driver Busch bypassed him quickly after the restart. Gordon lost four more positions before the checkered flag waved at lap 400.

"The finish wasn't bad," Gordon said after the race. "I feel like that was the best we'd been. We struggled at the beginning in the daytime and luckily stayed on the lead lap. We fought hard, got some track position and did our best to maintain it.

"We just never really had 'it' tonight.

"It was a good points night for us, though, but I want to compete for the win. We'll need to work on that before we return here in October."

Next Sunday, TNT begins their coverage of the NASCAR Sprint Cup Series with the 1 p.m. EDT start of the Gillette Fusion ProGlide 500. MRN Radio will also broadcast the event live.

Charlotte 600 results (unofficial)

1. Kurt Busch
2. Jamie McMurray
3. Kyle Busch
4. Mark Martin
5. David Reutimann
- 6. Jeff Gordon**
7. Clint Bowyer
8. Paul Menard
9. Ryan Newman
10. Matt Kenseth

Point standings (unofficial)

1. Kevin Harvick
2. Kyle Busch
3. Matt Kenseth
- 4. Jeff Gordon**
5. Denny Hamlin
6. Kurt Busch
7. Jimmie Johnson
8. Jeff Burton
9. Greg Biffle
10. Mark Martin