



DuPont Motorsports Post-Race Report
Autism Speaks 400
Dover International Speedway
May 16, 2010

Team DuPont Battles Hard to Finish 11th at Dover

"It was a struggle every corner of every lap," Jeff Gordon told the media after the Autism Speaks 400 at Dover International Speedway on Sunday. "But it was great effort by this DuPont team to finish 11th."

Gordon, who qualified 15th, fought a tight condition during the early stages of the 400-lap event. However, the four-time NASCAR Cup Series champion steadily moved his way up the leaderboard and was running eighth when a caution waved on lap 163.

"It's the same old thing," Gordon informed the crew. "I'm good until we hit traffic, then I'm plowin' (tight)."

In an effort to improve the handling on the No. 24 DuPont Chevrolet, crew chief Steve Letarte called for spring rubbers to be pulled from the left rear spring during a lap 165 four-tire stop. But while the change loosened up the car, Gordon began to experience 'zero grip' in the rear of the No. 24 Impala.

After falling to 12th, the spring rubbers were reinserted and Letarte attacked other areas – tire pressure and spring pressure – during a pit stop just past halfway. But the tightness returned, and the condition was aggravated when Gordon attempted to pass cars.

"The car's good," Gordon radioed the team. "It just gets too tight when I pull up behind someone."

On lap 286 during a yellow flag period, more chassis adjustments were made during a four-tire stop. Gordon restarted 12th but was only able to gain one position over the remaining 114 laps run caution free.

"We would struggle on new tires," said Gordon after the race won by Kyle Busch. "Then it would come in really good and I'd think, 'okay here we go, we're going to go to the front.' I'd catch somebody and just stop. It just seemed like it was really hard to pass today."

"It was challenging and tough for everybody, but we're glad to stay on the lead lap and at least come out of here with a decent finish."

Gordon, who fell to sixth in the point standings, and the NASCAR Sprint Cup Series will take a night off from points racing next Saturday night for the Sprint All-Star Challenge at Charlotte Motor Speedway. Speed and MRN Radio will broadcast the event live beginning at 7 p.m. EDT.

Autism 400 results (unofficial)

1. Kyle Busch
2. Jeff Burton
3. Matt Kenseth
4. Denny Hamlin
5. David Reutimann
6. Greg Biffle
7. Kevin Harvick
8. Carl Edwards
9. Tony Stewart
10. Joey Logano
11. **Jeff Gordon**

Point standings (unofficial)

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