



DuPont Motorsports Post-Race Report
Toyota/Save Mart 350
Infineon Raceway
June 20, 2010

Fifth-Place Finish at Sonoma Moves Gordon Up to Fifth in Point Standings

Jeff Gordon battled hard to post a fifth-place finish in the first road course event of the 2010 season. Teammate Jimmie Johnson won the Toyota/Save Mart 350 at Infineon Raceway on Sunday while Gordon's second consecutive top-five finish moved him up to fifth in the NASCAR Sprint Cup Series point standings.

Gordon, who started fifth in the 110-lap race, was running third when the first round of green-flag pit stops began at lap 26. Gordon drove his No. 24 DuPont Chevrolet down pit road for a four-tire stop six laps later, and he returned to the track in 18th. When pits stops were completed, Gordon was scored fourth.

The four-time NASCAR Cup Series champion gained a spot just past the halfway point and prior to the day's second yellow flag at lap 57. Although quick pit work by Team DuPont allowed Gordon to exit pit road third, six drivers stayed out during the caution. Gordon restarted ninth on lap 60, and the "fun" began shortly thereafter.

While battling three wide in turn 7, Gordon's brightly painted Chevrolet was damaged in a multi-car accident. But Gordon quickly got back up to speed – but into the No. 56 car driven by Martin Truex, Jr. in turn 11.

"We're all beat up," Gordon told the crew during a caution period at lap 63. "But the car is driving okay."

Instead of losing valuable track position by pitting to fix the damage during the caution period, Gordon remained on the track. He did, however, pit for fuel, four tires, a chassis adjustment and a "pull" on the fenders on lap 77 while running fourth – his final stop of the day.

After returning to the track in 20th, Gordon was up to ninth by lap 87. When the day's final caution waved at lap 102, he was eighth.

On the final restart with five laps to go, the 82-time winner passed Marcos Ambrose and Kurt Busch to move up to sixth. One lap later, he passed Greg Biffle to secure the top-five finish.

"It was pretty wild and crazy," Gordon said after the race. "I got a little frustrated because we had a good race car and we got shuffled on some of those restarts, so we were playing catch-up.

"I certainly owe Martin Truex an apology. He was just racing as clean as he could. I was racing with Juan Pablo (Montoya) and I just got in there and took Martin out. I feel awful about that.

"You just had to race so hard there at the end. Guys were running people off the race track and running into the back of them. It was like being on a short, dirt track.

"We finished in the top five with a tore up race car, so we'll take it."

Next Sunday, the NASCAR Sprint Cup Series visits New Hampshire Motor Speedway for the Lenox Industrial Tools 301. TNT and PRN Radio will broadcast the 1 p.m. EDT race live.

Toyota/Save Mart 350 results (unofficial)

1. Jimmie Johnson
2. Robby Gordon
3. Kevin Harvick
4. Kasey Kahne
5. **Jeff Gordon**
6. Marcos Ambrose
7. Greg Biffle
8. Boris Said
9. Tony Stewart
10. Juan Montoya

Point standings (unofficial)

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