



DuPont Motorsports Post-Race Report  
TUMS Fast Relief 500  
Martinsville Speedway  
October 24, 2010

### **Gordon Now Fifth in Standings After Wreck and 20th-Place Finish at Martinsville**

Jeff Gordon dropped six spots to 14th when he restarted in the outside lane – the non-preferred groove around Martinsville Speedway – with less than 130 laps remaining in Sunday's TUMS Fast Relief 500. Only 13 laps later, Gordon was 'drop-kicked' into the frontstretch retaining wall – resulting in a 20th-place finish – after contact with Kurt Busch's Dodge sent the No. 24 DuPont/National Guard Chevrolet spinning.

Gordon, who started 11th in the 500-lap event, was running eighth when a caution waved at lap 110. After stopping for four tires and adjustments to aid a "tight in the middle, loose off the corner" condition, the four-time NASCAR Cup Series champion restarted ninth. Gordon maneuvered up to fifth by lap 184. By lap 225 when a caution flag waved, he had gained another position.

"If the leaders pit, I want you stay out," crew chief Steve Letarte radioed the No. 24 driver. Gordon assumed the lead when the leaders hit pit road, and he paced the field until lap 285.

But the strong run began to lose steam when he lost five positions on pit road due to a pit road miscue on lap 350. With Gordon restarting eighth, he was forced to restart in the outside lane. When he finally was able to work his way down into the preferred lower lane, Gordon was scored 14th.

He passed Juan Pablo Montoya for 13th on lap 378, and Gordon made slight contact with the No. 2 Dodge driven by Busch as he bypassed him on lap 384. Busch "returned the favor" down the next straightaway, and the contact sent Gordon's Chevrolet into the inside retaining wall.

After numerous stops to ensure sheet metal would not cut a tire, Gordon restarted 25th. He gained five spots before the checkered flag waved. Denny Hamlin won the race.

"We got shuffled back on the pit stop and got shuffled back even more when I was stuck in the outside lane," said Gordon, who is now fifth in the standings and 203 behind the leader. "We ran [Kurt] down, though, and were quite a bit faster than him.

"I dove inside of him in turn three and I definitely over-shot it a little bit. Either he didn't know I was there or whatever and cut down on me and I got into him.

"Kurt Busch doesn't have a very long fuse, so either it was pay-back or he just got angry really quick and decided to wreck us.

"We just did what we could do to come home with the best finish we could."

Next Sunday, the NASCAR Sprint Cup Series visits Talladega Superspeedway for the Amp Energy Juice 500. ESPN and MRN Radio will broadcast the 1 p.m. EDT race live.

TUMS Fast Relief 500 results (unofficial)

1. Denny Hamlin
2. Mark Martin
3. Kevin Harvick
4. Kyle Busch
5. Jimmie Johnson
6. Joey Logano
7. Dale Earnhardt, Jr.
8. Carl Edwards
9. Jeff Burton
10. Brad Keselowski

**20. Jeff Gordon**

Point standings (unofficial)

1. Jimmie Johnson
2. Denny Hamlin (-6)
3. Kevin Harvick (-62)
4. Kyle Busch (-172)
5. **Jeff Gordon (-203)**
6. Carl Edwards (-213)
7. Tony Stewart (-236)
8. Jeff Burton (-246)
9. Kurt Busch (-277)
10. Matt Kenseth (-293)
11. Greg Biffle (-316)
12. Clint Bowyer (-406)