



DuPont Motorsports Post-Race Report
Lenox Industrial Tools 301
New Hampshire Motor Speedway
June 27, 2010

At New Hampshire, Team DuPont Grabs Eighth Top-Five of 2010 Season

"We had a strong car at the start of the race and I thought we had a shot at the win," Jeff Gordon said after finishing fourth in the Lenox Industrial Tools 301 at New Hampshire Motor Speedway on Sunday. "I don't know if it was the track conditions or cloud cover or what.

"We just lost the 'handle' later in the race."

Gordon, who started 16th, methodically worked his way through traffic in the early stages of the 301-lap event. By lap 21, he was up to 10th. When a round of green-flag pit stops began just past the 100-lap mark, Gordon was scored sixth.

"I need to rotate the middle (of the corner) better so I can drive straight off," Gordon radioed the crew. Crew chief Steve Letarte called for chassis adjustments during the lap 108 four-tire stop.

Despite driving a Chevrolet that was "sideways as soon as pick up the throttle" on exit, Gordon maneuvered up to fourth before another round of green-flag stops at lap 178. The stop could not have come at a better time for Team DuPont.

"We had a right front tire going down," Letarte informed the four-time NASCAR Cup Series champion after he had returned to the track.

But Gordon once again reported handling issues with the No. 24 Impala. "It won't turn the middle, and I'm sideways as soon as I step on the gas. We've lost whatever we had earlier."

When a caution finally waved on lap 238, quick pit work by the No. 24 crew allowed Gordon to exit pit road fourth. But it was not the handling that was an issue in the closing laps – it was the competition.

With 53 laps to go, Juan Pablo Montoya's No. 42 car slid up the track and collected Gordon's brightly-painted No. 24 Impala. Gordon recovered but fell to seventh. He regained one of those spots before a caution waved with 20 laps to go.

Another lightning fast two-tire stop by Team DuPont allowed Gordon to gain two spots on pit road, but he was once again dodging cars when the race returned to green flag racing. Jeff Burton and Kyle Busch wrecked to bring out the day's final caution on lap 288, and Gordon narrowly avoided the spinning pair.

On the final restart with eight laps to go, Gordon quickly bypassed Kevin Harvick for third. But Tony Stewart passed him one lap later and Gordon trailed winner Jimmie Johnson, Stewart and Kurt Busch across the line.

"I thought we were one of the best cars in the first half of the race," said Gordon, who remained fifth in the point standings. "We started 16th and drove all the way up to the top five.

"But somewhere along the way -- I don't know if it was the cloud cover, track conditions or how it changed -- we just really lost the handling on it and could just never get the car to turn in the middle quite like it had earlier.

"From that point, we weren't charging and moving forward and able to battle guys like we were earlier in the race."

Next Saturday, the NASCAR Sprint Cup Series visits Daytona International Speedway for a 400-miler. TNT and MRN Radio will broadcast the 7:30 p.m. EDT race live.

Lenox Industrial Tools 301 results (unofficial)

1. Jimmie Johnson
2. Tony Stewart
3. Kurt Busch
4. **Jeff Gordon**
5. Kevin Harvick
6. Ryan Newman
7. Clint Bowyer
8. Dale Earnhardt, Jr.
9. Joey Logano
10. A. J. Allmendinger

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. Tony Stewart
10. Greg Biffle