



DuPont Motorsports Post-Race Report
Sylvania 300
Dover International Speedway
September 19, 2010

'Solid' Sixth-Place Finish at NHMS Moves Gordon Up to Fifth in Standings

Before Sunday's Sylvania 300 at New Hampshire Motor Speedway, Jeff Gordon said you cannot win the "Chase for the NASCAR Sprint Cup" in the first event, but you can lose it. Gordon claimed a 'solid' sixth-place finish to move up to fifth in the standings while Chase contenders Tony Stewart, Matt Kenseth and Jimmie Johnson finished 23rd or worse after either being involved in accidents or running out of fuel. Clint Bowyer won the 300-lap event.

Gordon, who started 17th in the No. 24 DuPont/National Guard Chevrolet, was running 15th when a caution waved on lap 39. Two laps later, he was one of a handful of drivers to pit for new right-side tires and fuel during the caution period. He restarted 23rd and began picking off positions after the lap-43 restart.

Although he could not "get into the gas in the middle of the corner" because he was so loose, Gordon had worked his way up to 15th by lap 60. When a round of green-flag stops began at lap 95, he was scored 12th. Gordon stayed out longer than the leaders and paced the field at lap 100 – picking up five valuable championship points for leading at least one lap during an event.

After stopping for four new tires and a chassis adjustment on lap 101, Gordon returned to the track in 13th. Once again, he began carving his way through the competition and was running eighth when a caution waved with 94 laps to go. A lightning fast four-tire stop by the No. 24 crew allowed Gordon to gain three more positions in the race off pit road.

By lap 222, Gordon had worked his way up to second when another caution waved for an accident involving Chase participants Johnson, Kyle Busch and Kurt Busch. Crew chief Steve Letarte called Gordon onto pit road for a "splash of fuel" – enough to ensure they could make it the remaining distance. Seven cars remained on the track including Stewart and Bowyer.

But Gordon fought a tight condition the final 74 laps and was unable to advance his position until leader Stewart and Jeff Burton ran out of fuel on the penultimate lap.

"We didn't have the car at the end," Gordon said after the race. "It was not our best, but it was a solid effort.

"The pit crew was awesome all day, and we fought to get a good finish. We have to take advantage of the experience we have and fight for every position.

"That's what we do best."

Next Sunday, the NASCAR Sprint Cup Series visits Dover International Speedway for the AAA 400. Gordon enters the 400-lap event fifth in the point standings, 75 behind leader Denny Hamlin. ESPN and MRN Radio will broadcast the 1 p.m. EDT race live.

Sylvania 300 results (unofficial)

1. Clint Bowyer
2. Denny Hamlin
3. Jamie McMurray
4. Dale Earnhardt, Jr.
5. Kevin Harvick
6. **Jeff Gordon**
7. David Reutimann
8. Ryan Newman
9. Kyle Busch
10. Sam Hornish

Point standings (unofficial)

1. Denny Hamlin
2. Clint Bowyer (-35)
3. Kevin Harvick (-45)
4. Kyle Busch (-62)
5. **Jeff Gordon (-75)**
6. Kurt Busch (-86)
7. Jimmie Johnson (-92)
8. Carl Edwards (-95)
9. Greg Biffle (-108)
10. Jeff Burton (-112)
11. Tony Stewart (-124)
12. Matt Kenseth (-136)