



DuPont Motorsports Post-Race Report
Kobalt Tools 500
Phoenix International Raceway
November 14, 2010

Gordon Remains Sixth in Standings After Team DuPont Finishes 11th at Phoenix

Jeff Gordon believes a 'tightening' race track may have halted Team DuPont's march forward in Sunday's Kobalt Tools 500 at Phoenix International Raceway resulting in an 11th-place finish. Carl Edwards won the 312-lap race while Gordon remained sixth in the point standings with one race remaining in the 2010 NASCAR Sprint Cup season.

Gordon, who qualified 22nd, was up to 17th before a caution waved on lap 59. After stopping for four tires and an air pressure adjustment, he continued his climb once the race resumed.

"I'm a little bit too tight getting to the center of the corner," the 82-time winner reported to the crew while running 11th. But an issue during a lap-102 pit stop dropped him back five places to 16th.

Mired in traffic, Gordon struggled to advance through the competition like he had earlier in the race. He made it up to 13th by lap 200 even though Gordon said he was "...not bad by myself, but plowing tight as soon as I get near someone."

Crew chief Steve Letarte called for major changes to the chassis during a lap 224-stop. After falling to 16th with Gordon still battling a "tight in the middle" condition, Letarte called him back onto pit road only 13 laps later during a caution for more adjustments during a four-tire stop.

Gordon restarted 15th on lap 239, and he advanced four positions over the final 73 laps.

"[The setup] at the end of the race was close to how we had it at the beginning," Gordon said after the race. "We adjusted on it and adjusted on it, and then we brought it back close to what we started with when those changes didn't work.

"It was fast at the start, but I guess the track just tightened up too much and we could get a hold of it."

Next Sunday, the NASCAR Sprint Cup Series visits Homestead-Miami Speedway for the Ford 400 – the 2010 season finale. ESPN and MRN Radio will broadcast the 1 p.m. EST race live.

Kobalt Tools 500 results (unofficial)

1. Carl Edwards
2. Ryan Newman
3. Joey Logano
4. Greg Biffle
5. Jimmie Johnson
6. Kevin Harvick
7. Matt Kenseth
8. Mark Martin
9. Kurt Busch
10. Jamie McMurray
11. **Jeff Gordon**

Point standings (unofficial)

1. Denny Hamlin
2. Jimmie Johnson (-15)
3. Kevin Harvick (-46)
4. Carl Edwards (-264)
5. Matt Kenseth (-311)
6. **Jeff Gordon (-338)**
7. Kyle Busch (-347)
8. Greg Biffle (-349)
9. Tony Stewart (-388)
10. Kurt Busch (-429)
11. Clint Bowyer (-434)
12. Jeff Burton (-504)