



DuPont Motorsports Post-Race Report  
Air Guard 400  
Richmond International Raceway  
September 11, 2010

**Gordon and Team DuPont Battle Back From Lap Down To Finish 12th at Richmond**

While a much needed caution moved Jeff Gordon back onto the lead lap with 175 laps remaining in Saturday night's Air Guard 400 at Richmond International Raceway, another was needed to pull him closer to the leaders. That additional caution flag never waved, but Team DuPont was able to battle back from that lap down to secure a 12th-place finish for Gordon in the final event before the 10-race "Chase for the NASCAR Sprint Cup" begins.

Gordon, who started 22nd, battled with the handling on his No. 24 Impala during the early stages of the 400-lap race.

"I'm loose in and tight in the middle," Gordon radioed the crew while running 25th on lap 49. "And the car jumps sideways off (the corner)."

After stopping for new tires and major chassis adjustments during a caution on lap 57, Gordon restarted 27th on lap 62. Although he had maneuvered up to 20th, leader -- and eventual winner -- Denny Hamlin put Gordon a lap down on lap 141.

Gordon continued to drive forward, though, and was running 18th -- the first car scored a lap down -- when a caution waved on lap 225. He was the recipient of NASCAR's "free pass" onto the lead lap, but that rule required Gordon to restart at the tail end of the field behind all of the lapped cars. If another caution waved, Gordon would have been able to restart with drivers he was battling with for position.

But that caution never came, and Gordon was forced to catch and pass lapped cars while also trying to gain positions during the final 159-lap green flag run. When the checkered flag waved on the 300-mile race, Gordon had worked his way up to 12th.

"It was a heck of a battle for us because, when the green flag dropped, we went backwards," said Gordon. "We lost the lap and had to make some major adjustments.

"By the end of the race, we had a really fast race car. We were really moving forward, and another caution could have really helped us out.

"It's 10 races to go, and I think we have a really good shot at winning the championship."

Next Sunday, The NASCAR Sprint Cup Series visits New Hampshire Motor Speedway for the Sylvania 300 -- the first race of the "Chase for the NASCAR Sprint Cup." Points have been reset for the 12 Chase drivers with 10 points awarded for each win through the Richmond event.

ESPN and PRN Radio will broadcast the 1 p.m. EDT event live.

Air Guard 400 results (unofficial)

1. Denny Hamlin
2. Kyle Busch
3. Jimmie Johnson
4. Joey Logano
5. Marcos Ambrose
6. Clint Bowyer
7. Juan Montoya
8. A.J. Allmendinger
9. Kevin Harvick
10. Carl Edwards
  
12. **Jeff Gordon**

Point standings (unofficial; **reset for final 10 races**)

1. Denny Hamlin
2. Jimmie Johnson (-10)
3. Kevin Harvick (-30)
4. Kyle Busch (-30)
5. Kurt Busch (-40)
6. Tony Stewart (-50)
7. Greg Biffle (-50)
8. **Jeff Gordon (-60)**
9. Carl Edwards (-60)
10. Jeff Burton (-60)
11. Clint Bowyer (-60)
12. Matt Kenseth (-60)