



DuPont Motorsports Post-Race Report  
Amp Energy Juice 500  
Talladega Superspeedway  
October 31, 2010

**Gordon Moves Up to Fourth After Top-10 Finish at Talladega**

"Man, I wish that caution hadn't come out (on the last lap to end the race)," Jeff Gordon said after finishing eighth in the Amp Energy Juice 500 at Talladega Superspeedway on Sunday. "We had a lot of momentum going and may have had a shot at it."

With close racing and multi-car accidents common at the 2.66-mile track, Gordon fell to the rear of the lead draft several times during the event to give him a better chance of avoiding the "big one." But with less than 50 laps to go and the driver of the No. 24 DuPont/National Guard Chevrolet running 22nd, he began his charge to the front. On lap 140, however, Gordon was nearly collected in an accident.

"Whew!" he radioed the crew after avoiding the spinning Toyota of Marcos Ambrose in turn 2. "That was close."

On lap 152 during a caution period, Gordon stopped for four new tires. He restarted 24th on lap 155, but had fallen to 29th before marching toward the front. First, he connected with Greg Biffle and the pair gained 12 spots in two laps. Then, with 12 laps to go, Gordon paired up with teammate Jimmie Johnson to move from 16th to the lead in two laps.

But Gordon reported a problem under the No. 24's hood, and he was quickly shuffled back to 19th before another caution waved with eight laps to go.

"There was smoke in the car, it smelled like oil and the car seemed to lose power," Gordon reported to the crew. "But it seems fine now."

Mired in 19th with only four laps to go, Gordon began a charge that resulted in six gained spots in one lap after the restart. A lap later, he caught a teammate shuffled out of the draft – points leader Johnson – and the pair fell outside the top 20 on lap 186. But they got back up to speed quickly and Gordon passed under the white flag in ninth with plenty of momentum. Unfortunately, a multi-car accident behind him brought out the caution and ended the race with Gordon scored eighth.

"I was out there leading – the No. 48 (driven by Johnson) pushed me to the front – and all of a sudden it just felt like the engine was blowing," said Gordon, who is now fourth in the NASCAR Sprint Cup standings. "I smelled oil and saw a lot of smoke inside the car."

"I think the No. 48 saw it too, so that is why I got shuffled out."

"There is just a lot of crazy stuff that goes on here, and I'm just happy to have a car that finished in one piece to be honest with you. On that last restart, I just couldn't get anybody to go with us."

"I was kind of stuck there in the middle three wide and the No. 48 got shuffled out. I didn't really think I had any choice, but certainly happy to help. I pushed him and we both went forward from that point on."

"I would really like not to have seen the [caution] because we had a lot of momentum at that point."

Next Sunday, the NASCAR Sprint Cup Series visits Texas Motor Speedway for the AAA Texas 500. ESPN and PRN Radio will broadcast the 3 p.m. EST race live.

Amp Energy Juice 500 results (unofficial)

1. Clint Bowyer
2. Kevin Harvick
3. Juan Montoya
4. David Reutimann
5. Joey Logano
6. Martin Truex, Jr.
7. Jimmie Johnson
8. **Jeff Gordon**
9. Denny Hamlin
10. Brad Keselowski

Point standings (unofficial)

1. Jimmie Johnson
2. Denny Hamlin (-14)
3. Kevin Harvick (-38)
4. **Jeff Gordon (-207)**
5. Kyle Busch (-230)
6. Carl Edwards (-247)
7. Tony Stewart (-317)
8. Matt Kenseth (-324)
9. Kurt Busch (-350)
10. Jeff Burton (-352)
11. Greg Biffle (-361)
12. Clint Bowyer (-367)