

= 2009 Samsung 500 =

The 2009 Samsung 500 was the seventh stock car race of the 2009 NASCAR Sprint Cup Series . It was held on April 5 , 2009 at Texas Motor Speedway in Fort Worth , Texas before a crowd of 176 @, @ 300 people . The 334 @-@ lap race was won by Jeff Gordon of the Hendrick Motorsports team after starting from second position . His teammate Jimmie Johnson finished second and Greg Biffle came in third .

David Reutimann won the pole position , and maintained his lead going into the first corner to begin the race , but Gordon took over the lead before the first lap was over . Afterward , Reutimann took back the lead , holding it until Matt Kenseth passed him on lap 47 . Gordon led after the final pit stops . In the final laps , Johnson was gaining on Gordon , but Gordon maintained his position to win . There were six cautions and twenty @-@ eight lead changes among thirteen different drivers during the race .

The race was Gordon 's first win of the 2009 season , and the eighty @-@ second of his career . The result kept Gordon in the lead of the Drivers ' Championship , one @-@ hundred and sixty @-@ two ahead of Johnson , and one @-@ hundred and eighty ahead of Kurt Busch . Chevrolet increased its lead in the Manufacturers ' Championship , ten points ahead of Ford , who bumped Toyota to third place , with twenty @-@ nine races remaining in the season remaining . The race attracted 7 @. @ 4 million television viewers .

= = Report = =

= = = Background = = =

Texas Motor Speedway is one of ten intermediate to hold NASCAR races , the others being Atlanta Motor Speedway , Kansas Speedway , Chicagoland Speedway , Darlington Raceway , Homestead Miami Speedway , New Hampshire Motor Speedway , Kentucky Speedway , Las Vegas Motor Speedway , and Charlotte Motor Speedway . The standard track at Texas Motor Speedway is a four @-@ turn quad @-@ oval track that is 1 @. @ 5 miles (2 @. @ 4 km) long . The track 's turns are banked at twenty @-@ four degrees , and both the front stretch (the location of the finish line) and the back stretch have a five degree banking .

Before the race , Jeff Gordon led the Drivers ' Championship with 959 points , followed by Clint Bowyer with 870 . Kurt Busch was third with 827 points , Jimmie Johnson was fourth with 817 and Denny Hamlin was fifth with 811 points . Kurt 's younger brother Kyle Busch , along with Tony Stewart , Carl Edwards , Kasey Kahne and Kevin Harvick rounded out the top ten . In the Manufacturers ' Championship , Chevrolet was leading with 39 points , five points ahead of their rival Toyota . Ford , with 32 points , was five points ahead of Dodge in the battle for third place . Edwards was the race 's defending champion .

= = = Practice and qualifying = = =

Three practice sessions were before the Sunday race ? one on Friday , and two on Saturday . The first session lasted 90 minutes , while the second session lasted 45 minutes . The third and final practice session lasted 60 minutes . During the first practice session , Mark Martin was fastest , placing ahead of David Reutimann in second and Kurt Busch in third . Greg Biffle was scored fourth , and Johnson placed fifth . Jeff Gordon , Edwards , Dale Earnhardt , Jr . , David Stremme and David Ragan rounded out the top ten fastest drivers in the session .

Although forty @-@ eight drivers were entered in the qualifier ; according to NASCAR 's qualifying procedure , only forty @-@ three could race . Each driver ran two laps , with the starting order determined by the competitor 's fastest times . Reutimann clinched his second pole position in the Sprint Cup Series , with a time of 28 @. @ 344 . He was joined on the grid 's front row by Jeff Gordon . Matt Kenseth qualified third , Ragan took fourth , and Paul Menard started fifth . Kahne ,

Tony Stewart , Kyle Busch , Johnson and Joey Logano rounded out the top ten qualifiers . The five drivers who failed to qualify were Joe Nemechek , Scott Speed , Jeremy Mayfield , Todd Bodine and Scott Riggs . After the qualifier Reutimann said , " We had a great car all day , right off the truck . This pole reminds me of how much things have changed for me in the past few years . I didn 't make the field here two years ago , during a bad time in my racing career . "

On Saturday morning , Reutimann was fastest in the second practice session , ahead of Johnson in second , and Hamlin in third . Edwards was fourth quickest , and Jeff Gordon took fifth . Stewart , Kurt Busch , Kenseth , Bobby Labonte and Jeff Burton rounded out the top ten . Later that day , Johnson paced the final practice session , with Hamlin and Kyle Busch followed in second and third respectively . Jamie McMurray was fourth fastest , ahead of David Gilliland and Burton . Martin placed seventh , Edwards eighth , Juan Pablo Montoya ninth , and Martin Truex , Jr. tenth .

== Race ==

Television coverage for the race , the seventh of a total of thirty @-@ six in the 2009 season , began at 1 : 30 p.m. EDT live in the United States on Fox . Roger Marsh of Texas Alliance Raceway Ministries began pre @-@ race ceremonies with the invocation . Pianist Lewis Warren , Jr. performed the national anthem , and Contest Winner Mark Fredde commanded the drivers to start their engines . No driver had to move to the rear of the grid at the start of the race .

The race began at 2 : 17 p.m. Jeff Gordon passed Reutimann almost immediately by the end of the first lap . Three laps later , Kurt Busch collided with Robby Gordon , with the latter sustaining minor damage and both drivers managed to continue . On lap 8 , Reutimann took back the lead from Jeff Gordon . One lap later , Jeff Gordon dropped a further position when he was passed by Kenseth . By lap 20 , Reutimann had a lead of about 1 @.@ 6 seconds over Kenseth . Kurt Busch , who began the race in twenty @-@ sixth , had moved up seven positions to nineteenth by lap 24 . On lap 29 , Stewart claimed fifth from Menard .

By lap 30 , Earnhardt had moved up eight positions to twelfth . Ten laps later , Reutimann had maintained a lead of 1 @.@ 7 seconds over Kenseth . On lap 42 , Marcos Ambrose moved into seventh . Five laps later , Kenseth claimed the lead off Reutimann who was blocked by Casey Mears . On lap 51 , green flag pit stops began , as Kenseth made a pit stop handling the lead to Stewart . On lap 54 , Kyle Busch became the new race leader after Stewart came into pit road . Kyle Busch made a pit stop one lap later , handing the lead back to Kenseth . By lap 60 , Kenseth had built up his lead over Reutimann by over two seconds . Eight laps later , Stewart passed Reutimann for second .

On lap 79 , Biffle passed Reutimann for third . Seven laps later , Stewart claimed the lead from Kenseth . During the 97th lap , debris was spotted on the track , prompting the first caution of the race . During the caution , all of the drivers on the lead lap made pit stops . Kenseth reclaimed the lead and maintained it at the restart . On the 109th lap , Kyle Busch 's car suffered a cut left front tire from contact with John Andretti , forcing Kyle Busch to come to pit road . Seven laps later , Biffle passed Kenseth for the lead , while Jeff Gordon passed Reutimann for fourth thirteen laps later . By the 135th lap , Biffle had built a lead over Kenseth to three seconds .

Green flag pit stops began on the 152nd lap ; Kenseth made his pit stop on the same lap . Johnson and Biffle made a pit stop the next lap , handing the lead to Jeff Gordon . After pit stops , Biffle reclaimed the first position . On lap 157 , Elliott Sadler spun out , causing the second caution . None of the leaders elected to pit under the caution . The race restarted on lap 162 with Biffle in the lead , ahead of Kenseth and Jeff Gordon . By the 190th lap , Biffle 's lead was three seconds .

Another round of green flag pit stops began on lap 203 when Truex made a pit stop ; Kenseth was the first of the leaders to pit the following lap . On lap 208 , Jeff Gordon became the new race leader after Biffle came into pit road . After pit stops , Biffle reclaimed the top position . On lap 220 , the third caution was given as Ambrose 's car suffered an engine failure . Jeff Gordon and Martin stayed out , while some of the leaders came to pit road .

Jeff Gordon led the field back up to speed on the restart . On lap 226 , Sam Hornish , Jr. spun and Labonte collided with the wall. prompting the fourth caution ; During the caution , Johnson ,

Earnhardt and Hamlin made pit stops . Jeff Gordon stayed out of pit road and the led the field to restart on lap 237 . Four laps later , Logano collided with the wall , but escaped with minor damage . On lap 247 , Edwards moved into sixth . Four laps later , a fifth caution came out when Robby Gordon 's car suffered an engine failure . All of the leaders elected to pit under caution , giving the lead to Earnhardt The race restarted on lap 259 . On lap 260 , Jeff Gordon moved back into the lead , while Earnhardt fell back to the seventh position . Three laps later , Edwards passed Brian Vickers to move into ninth .

On lap 290 , Earnhardt Jr was forced onto pit road after colliding with the wall at turn two . One lap later , Ragan drove to pit road because of overheating issues . On the 294th lap , Edwards reclaimed the lead off Gordon , while Ragan drove to the garage , three laps later . On lap 298 , Stewart moved into second after passing Jeff Gordon . Four laps later , a sixth and final caution came out , after Stremme collided with the wall and spun going into turn 3 . Jeff Gordon led on the restart . On lap 309 , Johnson passed Stewart for the second position , while Jeff Gordon built up a 1 @. @ 4 second lead four laps later . On the 314th lap , Biffle moved into the fourth position after passing Johnson . By lap 323 , Jeff Gordon had increased his lead to 1 @. @ 7 seconds over Johnson . Jeff Gordon maintained the lead to win his first race of the 2009 season . Johnson finished second , ahead of Biffle in third , Stewart in fourth , and Kenseth in fifth . Martin , Montoya , Kurt Busch , Burton and Edwards rounded out the top ten finishers .

== = Post @-@ race == =

Jeff Gordon appeared in victory lane to celebrate his first win of the 2009 season in front of 176 @, @ 300 who attended the race . He also earned \$ 541 @, @ 874 in race winnings . Gordon was delighted with his victory : " Incredible team effort . This whole year has been amazing . What a great car . I 've never had a car like this at Texas . We finally had one and put it in position . " Johnson was happy with his second @-@ place result , saying , " It was nice to get our car up front and get some clean air on it . We had to work really hard all day long to keep the car right . I 'm very proud of the team . " Third @-@ place finisher Biffle was candid with his performance : " We worked our way all the way back to fourth , third -- 15 more laps , would 've passed [runner @-@ up Jimmie Johnson] and then a little while longer we could 've gotten [Gordon] . But , I just ran out of time , lost track position and weren 't able to capitalize on it . "

The race results kept Jeff Gordon in the lead of the Drivers ' Championship with 1154 points . Johnson , who finished behind Gordon , moved to second on 992 , eighteen points ahead of Kurt Busch and twenty @-@ five ahead of Bowyer . In the Manufacturers ' Championship , Chevrolet increased their points total to 48 , while Ford advanced to second with 38 and Toyota was bumped to third with 37 . 7 @. @ 4 million people watched the race on television . The race took three hours , twenty @-@ five minutes and twenty @-@ two seconds to complete , and the margin of victory was 0 @. @ 378 seconds .

== Results ==

== = Qualifying == =

== = Race results == =

== Standings after the race ==