



PORSCHE

Press Release

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Tudor United SportsCar Championship, round 1: 24 Hours of Daytona, USA

Porsche returns to Florida sports car classic as record winner

Stuttgart. As the most successful manufacturer in the history of the 24 Hours of Daytona, Porsche heads to the 53rd edition of the sports car classic on 24 January with a large contingent. No less than eight factory drivers tackle the Daytona International Speedway at the wheel of the Porsche 911 RSR. This race also marks the start of the Tudor United SportsCar Championship season. The Porsche North America works squad travels to Florida as the defending champions to contest the second season of this popular race series. Porsche's record at Daytona includes 22 overall and 76 class victories.

The race

Aside from Le Mans, the 24 hour race at Daytona is the second greatest long distance classic in international motor racing. The race is contested on the 5.729 kilometre Daytona International Speedway, one of the most famous race tracks in the world. Created from a combination of the original oval and the infield, the circuit features twelve corners, two of them banked.

The Porsche drivers

For the Porsche North America factory squad, which fields a pair of Porsche 911 RSR in the GTLM class at Daytona and in other rounds of the Tudor United SportsCar Championship, Porsche works drivers Nick Tandy (Great Britain), Patrick Pilet (France) and Marc Lieb (Germany) share the cockpit of the vehicle with the starting number 911. Their factory pilot colleagues Jörg Bergmeister (Germany), Earl Bamber (New Zealand) and Frédéric Makowiecki (France) tackle the most famous

endurance race in the USA at the wheel of the number 912 Porsche. Competing for the Porsche customer team Falken Tire in the third Porsche 911 RSR (#17) are works drivers Wolf Henzler (Germany) and Patrick Long (USA) together with Bryan Sellers (USA). In the GTD class, Porsche junior Connor de Phillippi (USA) drives the Porsche 911 GT America for the Muehlner Motorsports America customer team. All in all, nine Porsche 911 GT America race cars will be fielded by customer teams at Daytona.

The Porsche cars

The Porsche 911 RSR and the Porsche 911 GT America run in the Tudor United SportsCar Championship which includes the 24 Hours of Daytona. Both are based on the seventh generation of the iconic 911 sports car. As the successor to the winning 911 GT3 RSR, the 470 hp 911 RSR celebrated its race debut in 2013 with a brilliant double victory at the Le Mans 24 Hours and last year won the three most prestigious sports car races in the USA: the 24 Hours of Daytona, the Sebring 12 Hours and Petit Le Mans. The Porsche 911 GT America was built specifically for the GTD class of the Tudor United SportsCar Championship and was campaigned for the first time in 2014. The vehicle is a modified version of the Porsche 911 GT3 Cup, the most successful and most produced race car in the world.

Porsche's successes

Porsche has celebrated many great victories at Daytona. The first outright victory went to Vic Elford, Jochen Neerpasch, Rolf Stommelen, Jo Siffert and Hans Herrmann in 1968 with the Porsche 907. The most recent overall win in 2010 went to Joao Barbosa, Terry Borcheller, Ryan Dalziel and Mike Rockenfeller with the Porsche-Riley. In the traditionally very competitive GT classes, Porsche has notched up a record 76 wins. 2014 yielded the most recent victory with Richard Lietz, Nick Tandy and Patrick Pilet clinching GTLM class honours.

The schedule

The 24 Hours of Daytona starts on Saturday, 24 January, at 14.30 hrs local time (20.30 hrs CET).

Comments before the race

Dr. Frank-Steffen Walliser, Head of Porsche Motorsport: "The Daytona race is a sports car classic with fans all over the world. Porsche has celebrated some of its greatest victories at this famous race. To continue this streak of unforgettable successes is truly motivating for our drivers and teams."

Jens Walther, President/CEO Porsche Motorsport North America: "The 24 Hours of Daytona is the longest and most traditional sports car race in North America. It's a real classic that lures many of the world's best race car drivers to Florida every year."

Nick Tandy (911 RSR #911): "To win at Daytona is every race driver's dream. I was able to turn this dream into reality with Porsche last year. It was a great experience."

Patrick Pilet (911 RSR #911): "To kick off the season with a classic like Daytona is a very special challenge for every race driver."

Marc Lieb (911 RSR #911): "This classic is an excellent start to the new season. We have a good car and a good team and, if everything runs according to plan, we should be in a position to go for victory."

Frédéric Makowiecki (911 RSR #912): "Our lap times at the Daytona pre-season tests have underlined that we're definitely competitive. If we want to deliver this performance over the entire distance we need to work perfectly as a team over 24 hours. Then we have a chance to win."

Jörg Bergmeister (911 RSR #912): "This race is a real challenge. I'm contesting the entire Tudor United SportsCar Championship season in 2015, so a good result in Daytona is critical if you want to stay in the running for the title."

Earl Bamber (911 RSR #912): "To contest my first race as a Porsche works driver in Daytona is brilliant. It's a dream come true."

Wolf Henzler (911 RSR #17): "This is the first time that my Falken Tire team competes at Daytona. It's a huge challenge because this track puts additional stresses on

the tyres, especially in the two banked curves. I actually think we might be good for a surprise.”

Patrick Long (911 RSR #17): “The more often you contest this race, the better you understand what really matters: Don’t try to make up positions in every corner, but instead pull back sometimes and conserve the car. Then shortly before the finish you’re ready and in a good position to fight for victory.”

This is the Tudor United SportsCar Championship

The Tudor United SportsCar Championship is a sports car race series contested in the USA and Canada since 2014, that was formed from the merger of the American Le Mans Series and the Grand-Am Series. Sports prototypes and sports cars start in four different classes: GTLM (GT Le Mans), GTD (GT Daytona), P (Prototype) and PC (Prototype Challenge). The Porsche 911 RSR runs in the GTLM class, with the Porsche 911 GT America contesting the GTD class.

The 2015 races

- 24/25.01 Daytona International Speedway, Daytona/Florida *
- 21.03. Sebring International Raceway, Sebring/Florida *
- 18.04. Long Beach Street Circuit, Long Beach/California
- 03.05. Mazda Raceway Laguna Seca, Monterey/California
- 30.05. Detroit Belle Isle, Detroit/Michigan (only GTD/P)
- 28.06. Watkins Glen International, Watkins Glen/New York *
- 12.07. Canadian Tire Motorsport Park, Bowmanville/Ontario
- 25.07. Lime Rock Park, Lime Rock/Connecticut (only GTD/PC)
- 09.08. Road America, Elkhart Lake/Wisconsin
- 23.08. Virginia International Raceway, Danville/Virginia
- 19.09. Circuit of the Americas, Austin/Texas
- 03.10. Petit Le Mans, Road Atlanta, Braselton/Georgia *

* These races count towards the North American Endurance Cup.

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Please note: Photo and video material of the Daytona 24 hour race and the Tudor United SportsCar Championship is available for accredited journalists from the Porsche Press Database under the internet address <https://presse.porsche.de>. On this website you can also activate the **Porsche Motorsport SMS Info Service** to receive the latest news and information. The Twitter channel @PorscheRaces provides live updates with the latest information and photos from race tracks around the world. Journalists also have access to the 2014 Porsche Motorsport Media Guide on <https://presse.porsche.de/motorsport>. Porsche Communication provides a new service for journalists, bloggers and online multipliers under www.newsroom.porsche.com.