



PORSCHE

Press Release

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### **Joshua Rogers scores first double win of 2021**

**Stuttgart.** First place in the sprint and a lucky winner of the main race: at Road Atlanta, Joshua Rogers took a giant leap forwards in the fight for the Porsche TAG Heuer Esports Supercup (PESC). After five of ten rounds this season, the Australian has pulled away considerably from his pursuers. Title defender Sebastian Job from United Kingdom experienced a race day to forget in the virtual US state of Georgia. Mitchell deJong, who ranks second in the drivers' standings, lost all chances to win the main race of his home event just a few metres from the finish line. Second place went to Norway's Tommy Östgaard ahead of Kevin Ellis Jr. (Great Britain). The PESC with the digital version of the Porsche 911 GT3 Cup – 991.2 generation – is run on the iRacing simulation platform.

Points' leader Rogers had good reason to look forward to the Road Atlanta round: Last year, the 2019 champion had won the main race on the 4.088-kilometre roller-coaster racetrack and turned the fastest lap. This time, the ace qualifier had to make do with the second spot on the grid for the ten-lap sprint: His Virtual Racing School teammate Charlie Collins (Great Britain) had conquered pole position. However, in the first lap, Rogers snatched the lead and never looked back. Up until the eighth lap, Collins was able to fend off the attacks from Dayne Warren (DirectForce Pro), who ultimately passed the Briton to score second place. Behind the leading pair came Jeremy Bouteloup (France/Coanda Simsport), Mitchell deJong (Virtual Racing School), Kevin Ellis Jr. (Great Britain/Rahal Letterman Lanigan Esports), and David Williams (Great Britain/Coanda Simsport). Tommy Östgaard, another Coanda Simsport entry, finished eighth. Consequently, the driver from Norway took up the

main race from pole position – the first eight finishers of the sprint event start the main event in reverse order.

Östgaard was fastest off the line ahead of Ellis who had overtaken Williams after the first metres. DeJong, Bouteloup, Warren and Rogers chased the leading duo with DeJong clinching the third spot. Title defender Job botched the start, spun off the track and found himself amidst the backmarkers.

Meanwhile at the top, the leading group of eight displayed some disciplined racing. Ellis made the best use of the very long approach to curve 10 in the seventh lap and slipped by Östgaard who had given him a nice tow. But the Norwegian reclaimed his place in the next lap at exactly the same place. The pair would swap position another three times. Rogers had worked his way up the order to fourth place behind DeJong who watched the duel of the pair in front until lap 17. DeJong found a way past Östgaard and soon got by Ellis. Now Ellis found himself under pressure from Rogers who had slotted into third place.

This was how the trio entered the last lap, but the order would again be turned on its head. Braking for Curve 10, DeJong took an early inner line in an attempt to keep Ellis at bay. Door to door, the two turned into the left-hand kink. A slight contact sent DeJong into a spin. Now, Rogers sensed his chance and pulled alongside Ellis, who had lost a bit of momentum just a few metres from the finish line. Another nudge followed, with Ellis sliding off the track and touching the barrier. Rogers won with Östgaard inheriting second ahead of Ellis in third. The drivers saw the chequered flag in this order: Maximilian Benecke (Germany/Team Redline), Charlie Collins, Graham Carroll (Great Britain/Red Bull Racing Esports), Moreno Sirica (Italy/Mahle Racing Team), and Jeff Giassi (Brazil/Apex Racing Team). Mitchell deJong finished 14th, the title defender Sebastian Job was 18th.

Scoring the first double victory of the current PESC season, Joshua Roberts further expanded his lead in the points' table. After five of ten rounds, he has pulled clear of

his pursuers now holding 348 points. DeJong was able to defend second place with 259 points while Collins, Ellis Jr, and Warren moved up the leaderboard past Job.

This coming Saturday, the Porsche TAG Heuer Esports Supercup takes off into the second half of the season visiting Canada's Montreal. The Formula 1 city circuit is located on the Île Notre-Dame and partly uses roads which are open to the public traffic. The tight right-left chicane leading into the main straight is regarded as one of the most famous passages of the 4.361-km Grand Prix circuit. Even famous race drivers had to bury their dreams of victory after hitting the wall at the outside of this corner, which has consequently been dubbed the "Wall of Champions". The sim racers tackle a ten-lap sprint on the Circuit Gilles-Villeneuve, the main race goes over double this distance.

#### **Comments after the race**

**Joshua Rogers (AUS/Virtual Racing School):** "We expected it would get difficult on the last lap. We were all very quick, especially in qualifying. Slipstream plays a huge role in such entertaining races. That's why it was important to be in the right place at the right time. At first I wanted to take the lead on the penultimate lap, then I tried to position myself optimally for the final lap. In the penultimate corner things got pretty tight between me and Kevin Ellis, but I managed to squeeze next to him."

**Tommy Östgaard (N/Coanda Simsport):** "I'm happy with second place. After my tough start to the 2021 season, this is a great result. In the first few races I was plagued by a lot of bad luck and I got caught up in accidents too often – that's why I put in a lot of practice to get faster and avoid such situations using more race craft. I always take a good look at every incident to learn from it."

**Kevin Ellis Jr. (GB/Rahal Lettermann Lanigan Esports):** "It's a shame that the race ended like this. Mitchell and I actually gave each other enough space, but unfortunately it didn't go well and it shouldn't have happened that way. Josh then relegat-

ed me back to third, but maybe I gave in a little too early. All in all, I'm quite okay with another podium result."

## Result

### Road Atlanta, sprint race

1. Joshua Rogers (AUS/Virtual Racing School)
2. Dayne Warren (AUS/DirectForce Pro)
3. Charlie Collins (GB/Virtual Racing School)
4. Jeremy Bouteloup (F/Coanda Simsport)
5. Mitchell deJong (USA/Virtual Racing School)

### Road Atlanta, main race

1. Joshua Rogers (AUS/Virtual Racing School)
2. Tommy Östgaard (N/Coanda Simsport)
3. Kevin Ellis Jr. (GB/Rahal Letterman Lanigan Esports)
4. Maximilian Benecke (D/Team Redline)
5. Charlie Collins (GB/Virtual Racing School)

### Points' standings after 5 of 10 championship rounds

1. Joshua Rogers (AUS/Virtual Racing School), 348 points
2. Mitchell deJong (USA/Virtual Racing School), 259 points
3. Charlie Collins (GB/Virtual Racing School), 222 points
4. Kevin Ellis Jr. (GB/Rahal Letterman Lanigan Esports), 221 points
5. Dayne Warren (AUS/DirectForce Pro), 201 points

*Further information, film and photo material in the Porsche Newsroom: [newsroom.porsche.com](https://newsroom.porsche.com). The Twitter channel @PorscheRaces provides live updates from Porsche Motorsport with the latest information and photos from racetracks around the world.*

