



PORSCHE

Motorsport News

May 27, 2020

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**Dear Journalist:**

Early each week, Porsche Cars North America will provide a weekend summary or pre-race event notes package, covering the IMSA WeatherTech SportsCar Championship, SRO Blancpain GT World Challenge America, the FIA World Endurance Championship (WEC) or other areas of interest from the world of Porsche Motorsport. Please utilize this resource as needed, and do not hesitate to contact us for additional information.

- Porsche Cars North America Motorsports Public Relations Team

**Porsche Motorsport Weekly Event Notes: Wednesday, May 27, 2020**

**This Week.**

- Le Mans Esports. Porsche Esports Team Bridges Real and Virtual Racing.
- VIRtual Virginia. IMSA Series Draws 12 Sim Porsche Race Cars to VIR Round.
- TAG, You're It. Job Wins, Rogers Leads Porsche TAG Heuer Esports Supercup.
- Berlin Double. Lotterer and Jani Score Points at Virtual Home Event for Porsche.
- Porsche Legend. Porsche Congratulates Gérard Larrousse on his 80th Birthday.

**Porsche Profile.**

**Event Story Lines.**

**Le Mans Esports. Porsche Esports Team Bridges Real and Virtual Racing.**

The newly-established Porsche Esports team will tackle the virtual 24 Hours of Le Mans on June 13 – 14 with four 2017-spec Porsche 911 RSR simulated race cars. Like in real life, the cars will be fielded in the LMGTE-Pro class. Professionals from the online and real racing worlds will join forces to fight for top class honors at the digital race on the legendary Circuit des 24 Heures in the France. Porsche factory drivers, juniors and young professionals share driving duties with seasoned sim racers. A total of 16 drivers



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make up the Porsche Esports squad. The debut of the ultimate sim racing endurance event involving the works drivers is partnered by the online simulation platform rFactor2.

The virtual 24-hour race on the 8.47-mile (13.626-kilometer) circuit at Le Mans promises to be a lifelike and entertaining competition. Long before the coronavirus pandemic, Porsche had set its sights on the professionalization of online motorsport and last year expanded its motorsport activities to include sim racing. For the digital 24-hour event, the winningest marque in Le Mans history now combines its expertise from real and virtual motorsport for the first time. Among the sim racers joining the fulltime “works” drivers are California’s Mitchell deJong and Josh Rogers of Australia. In 2019, deJong finished the inaugural Porsche TAG Heuer Esports Supercup in fourth-place of the championship and was a 2018 Porsche Young Driver Academy graduate. Rogers won the TAG Heuer Esports Supercup championship last year and currently leads the 2020 sim racing series which utilizes virtual Porsche 911 GT3 Cup race cars.

In 2019, Porsche took home all four GT titles and a class win from Le Mans with the ca. 510 hp 911 RSR as part of the real FIA World Endurance Championship (WEC). With 108 class wins and 19 overall victories, Porsche is the most successful manufacturer in the almost 100-year history of the Le Mans endurance event. The first virtual edition of the classic marks the start of a new chapter in the growing book that is the grandfather of all endurance races.

**Drivers for the Porsche Esports team (all Porsche 911 RSR).**

**No. 91:**

André Lotterer (Germany) / Neel Jani (Switzerland) / Mitchell Dejong (Temecula, California) / Martti Pietilä (Finland)



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**No. 92:**

Jaxon Evans (New Zealand) / Matt Campbell (Australia) / Mack Bakkum (Netherlands) / Jeremy Bouteloup (France)

**No. 93:**

Nick Tandy (Great Britain) / Ayhancan Güven (Turkey) / Josh Rogers (Australia) / Tommy Ostgaard (Norway)

**No. 94:**

Patrick Pilet (France) / Simona de Silvestro Switzerland) / Martin Krönke (Germany) / David Williams (Great Britain)

**24 Hours of Le Mans Schedule.**

The virtual Le Mans 24-hour race will start on Saturday, June 13, 2020, at 9:00 a.m. EST (3:00 p.m. local time in France). Prior to this, a free practice will be held on Wednesday (June 10) and Thursday (June 11) from 4:00 a.m. EST (10:00 a.m. CEST) to 4:00 p.m. EST (10:00 p.m. CEST) each day. Friday (June 12) offers an additional free practice session from 4:00 a.m. EST (10:00 a.m. CEST) to 11:00 a.m. EST (5:00 p.m. CEST). The 15-minute qualifying session for the GTE class begins on Friday at 12:15 p.m. EST (6.15 p.m. CEST). Viewing details will be announced in coming weeks.

**Pascal Zurlinden, Director Factory Motorsport at Porsche.**

“Under the current circumstances, the virtual 24 Hours of Le Mans offers an excellent opportunity to reach many fans around the world. Le Mans is considered the most traditional long-distance race and the digital version can now attract a completely new target group to professional motor racing. I’m curious to see how the combination of works drivers and elite sim racers will work.”



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**Marco Ujhasi, Manager Esports at Porsche Motorsport.**

“With the virtual 24 Hours of Le Mans, two worlds converge. The passion for racing now builds the bridge between the real and virtual worlds. The know-how from the racetracks and the skills required on simulation platforms come together in the newly-founded Porsche Esports team. This unique synergy opens up new possibilities for everyone involved. Just like in real-life racing, the virtual motorsport marathon requires not only a perfect setup and decent pace but also a little bit of luck.”

**VIRtual Virginia. IMSA Series Draws 12 Sim Porsche Race Cars to VIR Round.**

Twelve virtual Porsche 911 RSR race cars have been entered for the fifth race of the IMSA iRacing Pro Invitational, scheduled for May 28, at the simulated VIRginia International Raceway (VIR) in Alton, Virginia. Porsche factory driver Nick Tandy (Great Britain) won round four of the simulator-based race series which uses the iRacing platform to virtually recreate the IMSA WeatherTech SportsCar Championship’s GTLM class cars of the four different automotive brands in contention. The previous round at Road America, held on May 14, was the first iRacing Pro Series win for Tandy and Porsche. The 90-minute VIR race on the digital 3.27-mile track will take the green flag Thursday at 6:00 p.m. EST. Live coverage and commentary by the voice of IMSA Radio, John Hindhaugh, can be found on the iRacing YouTube page (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wTqA3peSRbc>).

Tandy, the 2015 24 Hours of Le Mans overall winner for Porsche, will drive the No. 911 Porsche GT Team Porsche 911 RSR virtual race car. His 2015 Le Mans teammate Earl Bamber (New Zealand) will race the No. 91. In the No. 912 Porsche will be Bamber’s fulltime IMSA WeatherTech SportsCar Championship teammate Laurens Vanthoor



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(Belgium). 2020 IMSA Porsche Hurley Haywood Scholarship-winner Riley Dickinson (New Braunfels, Texas) will pilot the No. 53 Moorespeed Porsche 911 RSR. This is Dickinson's first race since graduating from high school earlier this month. The 2019 Porsche Young Driver Academy graduate will be joined on track by his fellow New Braunfels' resident Parker Chase in the No. 19 Porsche 911 RSR sim race machine.

Robert Wickens (Canada) returns for his second IMSA race in the No. 9 Pfaff Motorsports Porsche 911 RSR while Era Motorsport has Great Britain's Kyle Tilley in the No. 18. Longtime Porsche entrant Paul Miller Racing returns to the marque's stable in a virtual way with Corey Lewis (Nazareth, Pennsylvania) behind the sim rig steering wheel of the No. 48. Three drivers will drive Meyer Shank Racing entries with Misha Goikhberg (Canada) and Shinya Michimi (Cincinnati, Ohio) in the Nos. 57 and 86, respectively. Veteran sports car, IndyCar and NASCAR driver AJ Almendinger (San Jose, California) steps from the NBC Sports booth to compete in the No. 60 for Meyer Shank. Former IMSA GT3 Cup Challenge USA and Canada champion Scott Hargrove will race the No. 92 Porsche 911 RSR virtually from his home in Canada.

The VIR round is the penultimate race of the inaugural IMSA iRacing Pro Invitational. The season finale at Watkins Glen International on June 11 will lead into the "Return to Racing" for IMSA on July 4 at Daytona International Speedway.

### **TAG, You're It. Job Wins, Rogers Leads Porsche TAG Heuer Esports Supercup.**

British sim racer Sebastian Job (Red Bull Racing Esports) won both rounds of the Porsche TAG Heuer Esports Supercup at his home event on the Donington Park Circuit in Great Britain. The two action-packed races on the iRacing online simulation platform



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saw several changes in the series points table. Last year's champion Joshua Rogers (Australia), driving for VRS Coanda Simsport, finished the main race in second-place at the wheel of his virtual 485 hp Porsche 911 GT3 Cup race car moving to the top of the championship after three races.

2019 was the inaugural season of the Porsche esports race series. Created from inception as a virtual race championship, it was the first one-make series created by a manufacturer and pays a combined purse of \$200,000 USD.

In the overall 2020 standings, Rogers (161 points) is the new series leader. While the esports racer is still waiting for his first win of the season, he has finished four of the six races across three event weekends, in the top-five. Job ranks second overall with 155 points.

The next Porsche TAG Heuer Esports Supercup double-header event will be contested on the virtual Circuit de la Sarthe at Le Mans. The legendary racetrack in the northwest of France hosts the fourth event of the 2020 global Porsche Esports Championship on June 20.

**Sebastian Job, Driver, Red Bull Racing Esports Virtual Porsche 911 GT3 Cup.**

“After experiencing a bit of bad luck in Barcelona, this double victory feels very great. My lap times were very consistent in both races, and that proved to be the key to success. Next up on the racing calendar is Le Mans. I’m very much looking forward to it, particularly the long straights and the slipstream duels that happen there.”

**Joshua Roger, Driver, VRS Coanda Simsport Virtual Porsche 911 GT3 Cup.**



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“Today, it was very important for me to earn points. I’m really happy with how the main race played out. After overtaking Alejandro Sánchez and moving into second, I would’ve loved to have gone for the lead. But Sebastian Job was strong and drove fast, steady laps at the front.”

**Berlin Double. Lotterer and Jani Score Points at Virtual Home Event for Porsche.**

At the debut appearance of the Berlin, Germany race course in the ABB Formula E “Race at Home Challenge”, André Lotterer (Germany) and Neel Jani (Switzerland) scored championship points for the TAG Heuer Porsche Formula E Team. Lotterer finished in seventh-place to claim six points in the drivers’ standings. His teammate Jani was classified in tenth-place and was awarded one point.

In contrast to the events of last week, Lotterer managed to steer clear of any accidents in the opening phase and subsequently experienced a largely incident-free race. Jani lost a few places when a car ahead of him spun but battled his way back up through the field.

Jani remains the best-placed representative of the TAG Heuer Porsche Formula E Team in the sim racing series. Holding 25 points, Jani is in eighth-place in the championship standings. Lotterer has a total of twelve points and is in thirteenth-place. In the team standings, the duo is in sixth position with 37 points.

**Marco Ujhasi, Manager, Esports Porsche Motorsport.**

“It is nice to have finished with both drivers in the points at our virtual home race in Berlin. André and Neel were in the top-ten in qualifying, which ensured good starting positions



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for the race. The race proceeded without any significant events. Neel fell back by a few positions in the scramble at the start but then showed some fighting spirit. The point was a reward for that. André gave an error-free performance to finish in seventh-place. Marius Golombeck once again demonstrated his talent with a strong fifth-place finish in the 'Challenge Grid' category. It is great that Berlin is now part of the virtual Formula E calendar. The drivers had a lot of fun on the circuit."

**Neel Jani, Driver, No. 18 TAG Heuer Porsche Formula E Team Porsche 99X Electric.**

"I started the race from ninth-place and scored one point. The first turn is decisive in any Formula E race. After the start, things did get tight at that point. I got stuck behind Oliver (Turvey) after his car spun out in front of me. That pushed me down a few places, but I was able to work my way back up."

**André Lotterer, Driver, No. 36 TAG Heuer Porsche Formula E Team Porsche 99X Electric.**

"We finished seventh to score some more points. The first few laps of the race were quite chaotic, but I came through pretty well. As the race proceeded, I had a few battles with Max (Günther) but then I just concentrated on the race. I was able to defend that seventh place to the finish. Overall, it was a good performance."

**Porsche Legend. Porsche Congratulates Gérard Larrousse on his 80th Birthday.**

Gérard Larrousse, former Porsche factory driver, celebrated his 80th birthday on Saturday, May 23. Gérard Gilles Marie Armand Larrousse was born in 1940 in Lyon, France where his father ran a textile factory. "I was fascinated by motorbikes and sports





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cars from a young age, but my family had other plans for me. For my father, cars were mainly a means of transport,” he reminisces. When Larrousse was 21 and still a student, he attended the Ecole Supérieure de Commerce de Paris and took part in his first rally in France. After completing his studies and military service, Larrousse decided in 1966 to make racing his career. “My first job was as official works driver at NSU France. After that, I drove for Automobiles Alpine for two successful years,” he says of his early days as a professional racing driver.

In 1968, Gérard Larrousse almost prevented the first Porsche win at the Monte Carlo Rally. With a Renault Alpine 1300, he was a major opponent of Porsche works driver Vic Elford in a 911 T. Only when spectators shoveled snow onto the track on a special stage did Gérard lose control of the car and have to give up. However, in some way, Larrousse still won. When Porsche chief engineer Peter Falk approached Elford a little later and asked him who the best French racing driver was, he answered: “That would be Gérard Larrousse.” This is how the fast man from Lyon was appointed to the Porsche “works” team in November 1968.

The 1969 season started with the Monte Carlo Rally. In his first race, Larrousse finished in second-place behind Björn Waldegaard. In the end, he not only won the Tour de Corse in the Porsche 911 R that year, but also the Rallye Neige de Glace and the Tour de France d'Automobile stage race, where he proved his all-round talent together with Maurice Gélín. Gérard Larrousse: “The race took eight days. It was a mix of rally and hill climb, and drivers had to be skilled in both disciplines. But only a very few were skilled in both, among them Vic Elford who opened the door to Porsche for me.”



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G rard Larrousse also lived up to his reputation as a fast all-rounder when he finished in second-place at Le Mans in 1969. Together with Hans Herrmann, he lost the tightest finale of all time by a mere 131-yards (120-meters) at Le Mans. In 1970, he was again placed second in the endurance classic in Sarthe, this time with Willi Kauhsen and behind Herrmann and Richard Attwood. In the same year, he finished in third-place in the Tour de France Automobile with the Porsche 911 S 2.4 "Tour de France" in the yellow and red hippie livery just behind two Matra Simca prototypes. "I drove the lightest 911 ever built by the factory. It weighed 789 kilograms (1,739 lbs.)," says Larrousse. Originally, the 911 weighed 800 kilograms but Larrousse offered the mechanics a bottle of champagne for every kilogram they could save in a bet.

Larrousse enjoyed his greatest successes at the side of Vic Elford who became a long-time friend. In 1971, they won the 12 Hours of Sebring in a Porsche 917 as well as the 1,000-kilometer race at the N rburgring in a Porsche 908/03 Spyder. At Porsche, Larrousse became known as a genuine all-rounder with the nickname of "the gentleman from Lyon" – straightforward, correct and one of the fastest in the world.

In the end, G rard Larrousse earned two well-deserved victories at Le Mans. In 1973 and 1974, he won the race for Matra-Simca with his French compatriot, Henri Pescarolo. As the Renault racing team manager, he led the French car manufacturer to victory in the 24 Hours of Le Mans ahead of Porsche and then in the Formula 1 where Renault won its first Grand Prix in 1979. In 1986, in collaboration with French lawyer Didier Calmels, he established his own Formula 1 team under the name Team Larrousse Calmels.



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G rard Larrousse has continued his close involvement with Porsche and became President of the 24 Hours of Le Mans Drivers' Club in 2008. As an ambassador of the Porsche brand, he is a sought-after contact for journalists, in particular for historic driving events. For instance, in 2017, he and his friend Vic Elford competed at the 17th "Tour de Corse Historique" in a Porsche 911 SC RS for the Porsche Museum. G rard Larrousse is now retired and lives in Marseilles, France, active and happy dividing his time between riding his bike, playing golf and his automobile activities.

### **Social Media.**

Porsche.	@Porsche
Porsche GT Team (North America).	@PorscheNARacing
Porsche Motorsport – GT Cars.	@PorscheRaces
Porsche Racing.	@Porsche_Team
Porsche Motorsport North America.	@PorscheMotorsportNorthAmerica (Instagram)
Porsche Formula E.	@PorscheFormulaE (Twitter) @porsche.formulae (Instagram)
Porsche Newsroom.	@PorscheNewsroom (Twitter) @porsche_newsroom (Instagram)

### **Model Hashtags.**

Porsche 99X Electric.	#99XElectric
Porsche 911 RSR.	#911RSR
Porsche 911 GT3 R.	#911GT3R



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Porsche 911 GT3 Cup.	#911Cup
Porsche 718 Cayman GT4 Clubsport.	#GT4Clubsport
Porsche 935.	#Porsche935
Porsche 911 GT2 RS Clubsport.	#GT2RSClubsport

### Series Hashtags and Handles.

GT3 Cup Challenge USA.	#GT3USA
GT3 Cup Challenge Canada.	#GT3Canada
Porsche Sprint Trophy USA West.	@PirelliTrophyWestUSA (Instagram)
IMSA	@IMSA
SRO America	@SROAmerica
SRO GT4 America	#GT4America
FIA World Endurance Championship.	@FIAWEC
Intercontinental GT Challenge.	@IntercontGTC
FIA ABB Formula E Championship.	@FIAFormulaE

### Photography:

[https://press.porsche.com/prod/presse\\_pag/PressResources.nsf/WebResources?OpenView&level1id=4&hl=pcna-images-motorsport&level1tab=4&formtab=2](https://press.porsche.com/prod/presse_pag/PressResources.nsf/WebResources?OpenView&level1id=4&hl=pcna-images-motorsport&level1tab=4&formtab=2)

### Porsche Cars North America Media Site.

[https://press.porsche.com/prod/presse\\_pag/PressBasicData.nsf/press/PCNAenWelcome0?OpenDocument](https://press.porsche.com/prod/presse_pag/PressBasicData.nsf/press/PCNAenWelcome0?OpenDocument)



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### **Porsche Motorsports Media Information.**

Current news, images and notes relating to Porsche can be found in our press kit. Please contact Andrew Lennon or Tom Moore for the latest Porsche Motorsports media kit.

### **About Porsche Cars North America, Inc.**

One Porsche Drive, Atlanta, GA 30354 USA

Established in 1984, Porsche Cars North America, Inc. (PCNA) is the exclusive U.S. importer of the Porsche 911, 718 Boxster and 718 Cayman; Macan and Cayenne; Panamera; and Taycan. Headquartered in Atlanta, Georgia, since 1998, PCNA is also home to the first Porsche Experience Center in North America featuring a module-based 1.6-mile driver development track, business center, and fine dining restaurant, 356. The company operates a second Porsche Experience Center near Los Angeles. That 53-acre complex features a driver development track with eight educational modules totaling 4.1 miles, a business center, and Restaurant 917. PCNA supports 192 independently owned and operated Porsche dealerships in the U.S., including supplying parts, service, marketing, and training. They, in turn, work to provide Porsche customers with a best-in-class experience that is in keeping with the Porsche brand's 70-year history of leadership in the advancement of vehicle performance, safety, and efficiency. PCNA is an indirect wholly-owned subsidiary of Porsche AG, which is headquartered in Stuttgart, Germany. At the core of this success is Porsche's proud racing heritage that boasts some 30,000-plus motorsport wins to date.



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**Contacts.**

Andrew Lennon

Porsche Cars North America

Manager, Product Communications

Office. 770-290-3511

Mobile. 404-697-7926

**[andrew.lennon@porsche.us](mailto:andrew.lennon@porsche.us)**

Tom Moore

Motorsports Public Relations

Mobile. 615-509-5000

**[tom@darkhorseautosport.com](mailto:tom@darkhorseautosport.com)**