Press Release

IMSA WeatherTech SportsCar Championship, round 5 at Watkins Glen/USA

911 GT3 R on the first grid row

Stuttgart. The best Porsche 911 GT3 R takes up the six-hour race at Watkins Glen on Sunday from the first grid row of the GTD class. In the qualifying on the storied racetrack in the US state of New York, Mario Farnbacher (Germany) posted the second quickest time for his team Seattle/Alex Job Racing. With the former Porsche Junior Alex Riberas (Spain) he notched up the first victory for the new customer sports racer from Weissach in the IMSA SportsCar Championship in Laguna Seca. Ian James from Great Britain joins forces with the pair at Watkins Glen as the third driver.

In the GTLM class, the two 911 RSR run by the Porsche North America factory squad start from positions nine and ten. Nick Tandy (Great Britain) and Patrick Pilet (France) tackle the U.S. sports car classic with their team colleagues Earl Bamber (New Zealand) and Frédéric Makowiecki (France) from the fifth grid row. In 2015, Porsche celebrated a double GTLM victory here in the rain.

Qualifying quotes (GTD)

Mario Farnbacher (911 GT3 R #23): "My fastest lap was perfect – until the last corner. Still, we're very happy with this qualifying. We've continued to improve our 911 GT3 R during free practice. Yesterday was not good at all, but today everything suddenly went in the right direction. Unfortunately it wasn't quite enough for pole position, but for tomorrow's race we'll really go for it."

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Qualifying quotes (GTLM)

Steffen Höllwarth, Programme Manager IMSA SportsCar Championship: "This is not what we imagined. The gap to the front is quite big. We have a bit to do today to get our cars perfectly setup for tomorrow's race. Six hours are long. We also have to reflect on what we've excelled at so far this season: a zero-failure job in the race, fast pit stops and a clever strategy. Tomorrow we can then get the most out of what is available for us on this very special racetrack.

Nick Tandy (911 RSR #911): "Despite everything, that was a perfect qualifying. We drove the speed that we could on this track. The important thing is that we turned a lot of laps today with very consistent times. That's a good basis for a six-hour race."

Frédéric Makowiecki (911 RSR #912): "At first glance the result is not exactly encouraging but we have a car with which we can clock consistently fast lap times. That's not unimportant for such a long race. Still, it'll be difficult to get too much further ahead. But as a team we always do our best."

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Qualifying result

GTLM class

1. Briscoe/Westbrook (AUS/GB), Ford GT, 1:41.301 minutes

2. Auberlen/Werner (USA/D), BMW M6, + 0.349 seconds

3. Edwards/Luhr (USA/D), BMW M6, + 0.604

9. Pilet/Tandy (F/GB), Porsche 911 RSR, + 2.230

10. Bamber/Makowiecki (NZ/F), Porsche 911 RSR, + 2.602

GTD class

1. Liddell/Davis (GB/USA), Audi R8, 1:45.407 minutes

2. Riberas/Farnbacher/James (E/D/GB), Porsche 911 GT3 R, + 0.042 seconds

3. Aschenbach/Bell (USA/USA), Audi R8, + 0.187

6. Bergmeister/Lindsey/MacMurry (D/USA/USA), Porsche 911 GT3 R, + 1.054

The six-hour race starts on Sunday, 3 July, at 10.10 hours local time (16.10 hours CEST) and is broadcast live outside the USA on www.imsa.com.

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Please note: Photo and video material from the IMSA SportsCar Championship is available for accredited journalists from the Porsche Press Database on **https://presse.porsche.de**. 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 digital 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**. Up-to-date video news can be downloaded from **www.vimeo.com/porschenewsroom.**

911 GT3 RS: Fuel consumption combined 12.7 l/100 km; urban 19.2 l/100 km; extra urban 8.9 l/100 km; CO_2 emissions 296 g/km; efficiency class (Germany): G

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