



Press Release

February 2, 2019

Qualifying, Intercontinental GT Challenge, round 1, Bathurst/Australia

Good starting position for Porsche at the Bathurst 12 Hour

Stuttgart. Porsche will tackle the 12-hour race in Bathurst (Australia) from the fourth grid row. Porsche Young Professional Matt Campbell set the seventh quickest time in the Top 10 shootout on the Mount Panorama Circuit. The young Australian tapped virtually the full potential of the Porsche 911 GT3 R, which he shares with factory driver Dirk Werner (Germany) and Porsche Young Professional Dennis Olsen (Norway). Up against stiff opposition from seven other GT3 manufacturers, Campbell took just 2:03.186 minutes to lap the 6.213-kilometre racetrack in the No. 912 Porsche.

In the previous two qualifying sessions, Frenchman Mathieu Jaminet narrowly missed out on being eligible to fight for a top ten grid spot in the sister car run by the EBM (Earl Bamber Motorsport) customer team. On his hottest lap, the Porsche Young Professional was just 0.08 seconds shy of a top ten place. The No. 911 Porsche 911 GT3 R, which Jaminet shares with the works drivers Romain Dumas (France) and Sven Müller (Germany), takes up the race from twelfth on the grid. Factory driver Kévin Estre planted the identical ca. 500 hp car fielded by the Competition Motorsports/McElrea Racing customer squad on 13th place. The Frenchman is joined in the cockpit of the No. 12 vehicle by Porsche Junior Jaxon Evans (New Zealand) and David Calvert-Jones (USA).

The Porsche 911 GT3 R campaigned by the North American customer team Black Swan Racing sustained irreparable damages in an accident during Friday's free practice and is unable to take part in any further race activities. After the incident, Tim Pappas (USA), who shared the vehicle with works driver Marc Lieb (Germany) and

Jeroen Bleekemolen (Netherlands), was transported to a hospital in Sydney for treatment. He suffered fractures to his right humerus and pelvis.

In the B Class, the Porsche 911 GT3 Cup run by the experienced Grove Racing squad, will tackle the endurance race from the best starting position. Britain's Ben Barker dominated the hunt for top times against the identical cars run by the customer teams Ashley Seward Motorsport and Team Carrera Cup Asia.

The Bathurst 12 Hour gets underway on Sunday, 3 February, at 05:45 hrs local time (Saturday, 19:45 hrs CET). The race can be watched live on the Internet outside Australia on www.bathurst12hour.com.au. At the opening round of this year's Intercontinental GT Challenge, the 2018-spec GT3 vehicle will be fielded for the last time, as stipulated by the regulations. For round two of the season at Laguna Seca (USA), contested over eight hours, customer teams will field the new Porsche 911 GT3 R, which celebrated its race debut last weekend at Daytona (USA).

Qualifying quotes

Pascal Zurlinden (Director GT Factory Motorsport): "We witnessed an exciting and very close shootout. Just a quarter of a second lay between seventh and second place. I'm certain that we're well positioned with our Porsche 911 GT3 R. Anything is possible for this car's last outing at a major endurance race. We aim to go all-out and fight for victory."

Sebastian Golz (Project Manager 911 GT3 R): "This is a really solid result that we certainly don't need to hide from. We are up against strong teams and drivers here. The local guys are always particularly fast on this unique racetrack in Bathurst. Matt turned a good lap. Our starting position is absolutely fine. The pace of the car should be consistent throughout the race, and by now the fledgling EBM team is working flawlessly. We're looking great in the twisty sections, which speaks for the Porsche's great driveability. If we could now get some more speed on the straights then it's bound to be a strong race."

Earl Bamber (EBM team principal): "Our performances were good. We set our sights on getting the car into the top 10 shootout, and we succeeded. We'd secretly hoped to do a little better than seventh, but it's okay. Our Porsche 911 GT3 R is fast, constant and comfortable to drive over the distance, and the drivers are first-class. These are key factors in a long-distance race. If we can make the most of our chances in the race, then we should be able to fight for a podium spot."

Mathieu Jaminet (Porsche 911 GT3 R #911): "The qualifying was okay. P12 is not bad for a Bathurst rookie. Still, it would have been good to start a little further up the grid. In my first attempt I made a mistake, even with the second set of tyres I could have gone faster in one or two places. Ultimately we were only a half a tenth of a second off the top ten. On the one hand this is a pity, but still, our starting position for this long event is really good."

Matt Campbell (Porsche 911 GT3 R #912): "Our tyre temperatures weren't quite in the optimal range, so it didn't go 100% there. In the second and third sectors we were really fast. Perhaps a little more would have been possible over the lap, but still we should be happy with this. Our grid spot is okay, the car feels really good, and the race will be long and strenuous."

Kévin Estre (Porsche 911 GT3 R #12): "We'd decided to turn only one hot lap. I made this attempt early in the session and set third place after a clean lap. The team thought it would be enough to qualify for the top 10 shootout. Unfortunately, it wasn't. We were relegated to 13th place. It's a pity, because more would definitely have been possible. Nevertheless, our starting position is absolutely fine."

Qualifying result

1. Dennis/Vaxiviere/Kirchhöfer, Aston Martin #62, 2:02.495 minutes
2. Buhk/Marciello/Götz, Mercedes #999, 2:02.935 minutes
3. Engel/Stolz/Paffett, Mercedes #77, 2:03.042 minutes
7. Werner/Olsen/Campbell, Porsche 911 GT3 R #912, 2:03.186 minutes
12. Dumas/Müller/Jaminet, Porsche 911 GT3 R #911, 2:02.879 minutes
13. Estre/Evans/Calvert-Jones, Porsche 911 GT3 R #12, 2:02.912 minutes
26. Grove/Grove/Barker, Porsche 911 GT3 Cup #4, 2:06.452 minutes
28. Stutterd/Fillmore/Muscat, Porsche 911 GT3 Cup #43, 2:07.297 minutes
31. Tresidder/v.d. Drift/ Bao/Hamprecht, Porsche 911 GT3 Cup #23, 2:08.538 minutes

This is the Intercontinental GT Challenge

The 2019 Intercontinental GT Challenge calendar is made up of five endurance race on five continents. While the teams are only permitted to field 2018-spec GT3 cars at the season-opening round in Bathurst (Australia), the latest generation is allowed at the following races in Laguna Seca (USA), Spa-Francorchamps (Belgium), Suzuka (Japan) and at the season finale in Kyalami (South Africa). Porsche will not compete with a factory squad in the international racing series for GT3 vehicles, but will instead support different customer teams in their campaign.

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