

null Jun 22, 2016

Unforgettable moments of motorsports

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1962 – Porsche in elite class: An unparalleled success

It is July 8th. In the French Grand Prix, the American Dan Gurney is on the third row of the grid with his 804/F1 Monoposto. A minor miracle. Because previously, neither the driver of the Porsche, nor the racing car especially constructed for Formula 1 had met expectations: Gearbox damage at the Grand Prix in the Netherlands. Did not finish after a collision during the race in Monaco. After these setbacks, initially the 804 takes a one month break. During this time, the Porsche works team improves the car according to Gurney's wishes. Among other things, the mechanics lower the racing car. A good decision. Gurney starts the race in sixth place. 42 laps later, the Porsche factory driver was leading the field. He remains there until the finish line and achieves the first – and so far the only – official victory in the elite class of a Formula 1 Porsche which had been built completely by Porsche.

1970 – The start of a success story: First overall victory at Le Mans

The racing cars are at a 20° angle to the direction of travel. A typical picture at Le Mans. The fact that two 917 cars of Porsche Salzburg are among them on this June 13th is thanks to Louise Piëch. She had unexpectedly had the cars transported to Le Mans. The starting flag falls, the race begins. The first hour passes without any great excitement. In the second hour, a real catastrophe occurs for Ferrari who are competing with Porsche: Three of their drivers collide. And that in the box of Scuderia Filipinetti. The fourth Ferrari driver is able to narrowly avoid an accident – but can't avoid dropping out. He brakes sharply and over-revs the engine. After one and a half hours, seven of the ten fastest cars in training are no longer in the race. Porsche also has to deal with breakdowns: Jo Siffert from the John-Wyer-Team over-revs his engine while in the lead. Until the eighteenth hour of the race, Vic Elford and Kurt Ahrens in their 917 are leading the field. Then the 4.9 litre engine fails. But one Porsche team stands firm in the race marred by breakdowns and accidents. Start number: 23. Drivers: Richard Attwood and Hans Herrmann. The team repeatedly changes the tyres on the 917/4.5 short tail to adapt the car to the weather conditions. At the end, 16 cars cross the finish line, only seven are ranked. Right at the front: the red/white 917 with start number 23. For Porsche it is the first win at Le Mans. For Herrmann the pinnacle of his career – and a fitting conclusion to it, as this was the day the man from Swabia retired from active racing.

1977 – Race to catch up in the 936/77 Spyder: The best race Jacky Ickx ever had

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