

IMSA: Best 911 RSR narrowly misses out on podium

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07/05/2017 After a successful start to the season in the USA, the new Porsche 911 RSR narrowly missed out on securing its third podium result in the IMSA SportsCar Championship on the Circuit of the Americas at Austin.

With the 911 racing car, which is a totally new development of Porsche Motorsport in Weissach, Patrick Pilet (France) and Dirk Werner (Germany) secured fourth in the GTLM class after holding the lead at one point. In the second 911 RSR (#912) fielded by the Porsche GT Team, Laurens Vanthoor (Belgium) and Wolf Henzler (Germany) took the flag in eighth place. Shortly after the start, the pair became entangled in a collision which threw them back down the field. At the season-opening round in Daytona, the new 911 RSR had finished second, and recently followed up with a third place at Long Beach.

Finally saw the flag in fourth place

Patrick Pilet (France) got off the line well on the 5.513-kilometre Grand Prix circuit near the capital of Texas. When several cars became entangled during the sprint to the first turn, Pilet managed to avoid the melee and launch a pursuit race from fourth place. First he snatched third and several laps later he overtook another competitor. After almost an hour of racing he was in the lead. This pace, however, could not go on. His teammate Dirk Werner, who took the wheel of the 911 RSR, was first shunted by a GTD car, and was then handed a 60-second penalty which he served in the pit lane. As a result, all hopes for a possible podium finish were dashed. After two hours and forty minutes, Patrick Pilet finally saw the flag in fourth place.

An accident put an early end to the race for the second 911 RSR with the starting number 912 shortly after the start. Wolf Henzler, who replaced Kévin Estre (France) at Austin so that the Frenchman could contest the WEC round in Spa, rejoined the race in fifth after the first stop for repairs. However, associated damages required longer repairs in the team workshop. When Laurens Vanthoor finally returned to the racetrack with 911 RSR, he was too far behind to make up any positions.

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