

First win for the Porsche 911 RSR

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17/04/2016 On the Long Beach street circuit, the reigning IMSA GT champion Patrick Pilet and outright Le Mans winner Nick Tandy have won the GTLM class at round three of the IMSA SportsCar Championship.

With the 470 hp Porsche 911 RSR, which is based on the seventh generation of the iconic 911 sports car, the pair beat strong opposition in a thrilling finale. This was the first win for a works-driver lineup in a 911 at Long Beach since 2010. With this, Porsche has made up ground in the manufacturers' classification of North America's most important sports car racing series and has closed the gap to sit just four points behind the leader in second place. Set against the postcard-perfect backdrop of sun, sea and palms, over 100,000 spectators witnessed the shortest race of the season over just 100 minutes.

Thrilling racing from start to finish

And with Hollywood just around the corner, there was no shortage of drama and excitement. With five car manufacturers battling for the fiercely competitive GTLM class title, the pilots treated fans to some action-packed, thrilling racing from start to finish. In lap 13 one of the Porsche North America 911 RSR was running in the lead. Overall Le Mans winner Earl Bamber (New Zealand) held position one ahead of his team colleague Patrick Pilet. Pulling in to the pits after one hour, they handed the cars off to Nick Tandy and Frédéric Makowiecki (France) – and they were promptly handed a stop-and-go penalty for exceeding the speed limit in the pit lane.

Clocking consistently fast lap times and aided by a safety car phase, the pair caught up and they grabbed their chance in the final stages of the race on the wall- and fence-lined track. Frédéric Makowiecki, however, missed a braking point shortly before the flag, hit the Corvette in front of him and was forced back into the pits with his damaged 911 RSR. He and Earl Bamber were ultimately classified as seventh. But Nick Tandy had the last laugh: The Briton snatched the lead and walked away with his first win of the season.

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