

# 24 HEURES DU MANS

15-16 JUIN 2002



Press release #7

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## Warm-Up: Audi continues its top form

By posting a time of 3:35.307 just minutes into the session, Frank Biela has further confirmed Audi's dominance over its competition. The #2 R8, which starts from the pole at 4:00pm for the 70th running of the 24 Hours of Le Mans, finished 2nd in the warm-up session with an impressive time of 3:36.642.

After a disappointing qualifying performance (11th place), partly caused by a lack of qualifying tires, the #8 Bentley reminded us of its abilities by completing a lap in 3:38.055. A promising sign for the return of the English team which finished 3rd last year.

The Cadillacs continue to impress by finishing with the 5th and 7th quickest times of the session, proving that they could well challenge the favorites. Mixed results for the MG team, with an encouraging 8th place for the #27, but clutch problems with the #26 forced the car to stop on track. Victim of two motor problems during qualifying, the English team seems to be susceptible to reliability problems just hours before the start of the 24 Hours.

Misfortune for the Panoz team as well. The #12 car driven by Bill Auberlen, Gunnar Jeannette and David Donohue stopped on track in the Mulsanne corner while the #11 spun out with Jan Magnussen behind the wheel. One has to remember that the Panoz LMP01 Evo had caught fire during the 2nd qualifying session, requiring an enormous amount of work by the whole team in order to return the car to like-new condition.

In the GTS class, the #58 Ferrari Prodrive confirmed its superiority, while the #82 Seikel Motorsport Porsche was quickest in GT.

Three teams will be starting the race with only two drivers. Peter Owen (#28 Roc), Rodney Mall (#67 Saleen) and Laurent Cazenave (#74 Ferrari) did not qualify for the race and will not be allowed to participate.

**La course en direct sur le 0892 3500 24 \***