



Press release #8

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Audi driving at an incredible pace

As expected, the Audis have adopted an extremely quick pace to allow them to open up a large gap over the rest of the pack.

During the first few laps, Johnny Herbert, who started the race in his #2 R8, completed a lap in 3:34.626. The winner of the 1991 24 Hours of Le Mans has thus pulverized the lap record set by Ukyo Katayama with the GT One (3:35.032).

While the #1 and #2 Audis have taken the lead of the race with little difficulty, the same can not be said for the #3 car, which suffered a flat tire during the formation lap, forcing Michael Krumm to change all four tires.

Although the R8s are pulling ahead of the competition at a rate of 6 seconds per lap, the battles mid-pack are fierce between the Orecas, MGs, Cadillacs and Bentleys.

The troubles have already begun for a number of teams.

The first team to meet with misfortune was the FFSA #52 Viper which was forced to pit at the end of the warm-up lap in order to disconnect the pit speed limiter which is used to keep the cars under 60 km/h while in the pits.

The #85 Spyker also had to start the race from the pits because of a battery problem.

Just like Michael Krumm, Jan Magnussen also had to pit to change the left front tire.

Mechanical problems continue to hamper the GT and GTS cars. The #71 Ferrari was the first to have to pit when the water pump failed, followed by the Morgan for a rear axle change and the #67 Saleen for a damaged undertray. The #24 Autoexe stopped on track near the Mulsanne turn.

After the first hour of racing, Johnny Herbert aboard the #2 Audi is in the lead, followed by the #1 Audi and the astonishing #5 Team Goh Audi. The #8 Bentley is the top non-Audi.

In LMP 675, the MGs continue to hold strong and the #27 driven by Mark Blundell is in 6th place overall. No change in the LM GTS class where the #58 Prodrive Ferrari continues to lead. The #81 Racers Group Porsche is at the front in GT.

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