

24 HEURES DU MANS

15-16 JUIN 2002



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MG joins the top three

The latest flat tire on the #3 Audi has allowed the #26 MG driven by Anthony Reid, Warren Hughes and Jonny Kane to take over the final podium position. The R8 that was already the victim of a flat left rear tire during the formation lap has again been slowed by the same problem. Michael Krumm decided to attack the small English car, and quickly posted the car's quickest lap time, 3:35.955. The MG immediately responded by turning its quickest lap time of 3:38.187.

Behind, the pack of cars continues to fall farther behind the battling Ingolstadt cars. The Bentley continues to go quicker, prompted by Andy Wallace's performance when he bested his quickest time with a 3:41.994 lap. The sole GTP car is in 8th place overall, behind the #16 Racing for Holland Dome/Judd.

As the track cools, the lap times continue to drop. The #58 Ferrari posted a quickest time of 3:57.685, nearly 3 seconds quicker than the #63 Corvette, which remains on the same lap.

After being handicapped by battery problems, the #7 Cadillac suffered from an overheating problem which required further intervention by the mechanics.

The #27 MG has once again pulled into the pits to check on the alternator. Fortunately, all was well, as Kevin McGarrity continues his battle with the cars up front.

The #80 Freisinger Porsche retains its lead over the #78 PK Sport Porsche.

First impressions:

Rinaldo Capello, winner of the pole position, explains: " Unfortunately, the flat tire occurred at the beginning of the lap, forcing Christian Pescatori to complete three fourths of the lap at an extremely slow pace, thereby losing a lot of time. We're still looking good, as the race is far from over, and anything can still happen ".

Nicolas Minassian, driver of the #14 Team Oreca Dallara/Judd, comments: " The track is very slippery, so it's imperative to be very careful to not make any mistakes. Now we just have to run consistently and we'll take it from there ".

Christophe Bouchut, driver of the #50 Larbre Competition Chrysler Viper: " We're happy with our performance thus far, we'll attack more later. The Ferrari is very strong, and it's running at the same pace as qualifying, so there's no reason to try to fight them now ".

La course en direct sur le 0892 3500 24 *