

24 HEURES DU MANS

15-16 JUIN 2002



Press release #17

Sunday, June 16th, 2002

02:05

second red flag

The track has gone red a second time due to an oil leak between the Michelin Chicane and the pits made by Eric Helary's #18 Courage-Peugeot... The three Audis are still on top in the 70th edition of the 24 Hours of Le Mans.

A10th hour that starts off with problems for Audi. Johnny Herbert's #2 R8 fell victim to a flat. An event that cost him 2nd place.

On top, the three Audis are setting an intense pace for the other competitors. Subsequently, the #8 Bentley is already 4 laps from the previous leader Christophe Tinseau's #6 Cadillac and the #15 Dallara-Oreca driven by Olivier Beretta.

In the LMP675 category, Kevin McGarrity's #27 MG is running in 12th place. In the LMGTS category, the war is waging on between Rickard Rydell's #58 Maranello Ferrari 550 (14th) and the #63 works Corvette driven by Johnny O'Connell (15th). Two laps separate the two cars. Finally in the GT category, Freisinger's GT3 Porsche (#80) is leading the dance in 26th place.

1:15 am: A new alert at Audi. The #3 returned to its pit with a dashboard problem. Patrick Goueslard's #50 GTS-R Viper is also stopped in the pits with starter problems. Auto Palace's 360 Modena Ferrari (#74) is slowed down on the track with alternator problems.

Stopped in its pit since 10:18 pm, Bryan Herta's #11 Panoz-Elan has still not rejoined the race. Suffering from an overheated engine, the gasket is heavily damaged. The Panoz Motor Sports team is still reserving its prognosis.

15 minutes later, Eric Helary (#18 Courage-Peugeot) earned his best car time lapping in 3:41.391, while at that very moment, the 7th retirement was confirmed for Walter Brun's #67 Saleen S7R.

1:57 am, oil on the track at the Indianapolis curve leaked by Eric Helary's #18 Courage-Peugeot, and the track goes red for the second time. "I spun out in the Michelin Chicane because of oil on my rear tires. They can say that it's over for us" explained Eric Helary who was driving the French car. The Sodemo V6 died.

As the red flag continued, the standings are as follows after 11 hours of racing: The three Audis (#1, #2, and #3) are steadily moving towards their objective of the top three slots ahead of the #8 Bentley, the #6 Cadillac, and the #15 Dallara-Oreca.

In the GTS category, the #58 Ferrari is in control at 14th place ahead of both works Corvettes (#63 and #64).

La course en direct sur le 0892 3500 24 *

* 0,34 €/minute



SYNDICAT MIXTE
DU CIRCUIT DES
24 HEURES DU MANS



COMMUNIQUE PRESSE - PRESS RELEASE