

24 HEURES DU MANS

15-16 JUIN 2002



Press release # 22

Sunday, June 16th, 2002

10:04

The standings are crystal clear

There is a new boss in the race. At least that is what Tom Kristensen aboard the #1 Audi has set out to prove. At 8:14 am, he clocked the fastest race time: 3'33"4832. The two-time winner of the 24 Hours of Le Mans is firmly seated in 1st place.

The #38 Saleen experienced another mishap. This time, it's serious! The RML team needs to swap gearboxes. In the LM GT class, the war is still raging on between the #80 Porsche (Freisinger Motorsport) and the #81 Porsche (Racers Group). The latter is losing time due to a rear left flat at 8:34am. The car was still able to take over the lead when the Porsche pitted for brake work (new rotors and calipers).

The mechanical problems continue for the Panoz cars, as the #12 now has clutch trouble. The #73 Morgan is also in bad shape, as it has slowed on track. The #3 Audi, on the other hand, is far from slowing! Marco Werner just posted the team's quickest lap time (3:34.751). At the end of the 17th hour, the Audis are still in the same order. The Bentley, still 4th, is now 10 laps behind the leader, but two laps in front of the #14 Oreca and another two over the #15 Oreca. Strangely enough, the three top LM GTS cars (the #63 and #64 Corvettes and the #52 Viper) are now closing the gap to the #25 WR which leads the LMP 675 class by 13 laps over the last remaining car in the class, the #29 Reynard.

The #2 Audi has had yet another incident at 9:13am. Another flat tire (the 4th for the team) occurred at high speed just before the Indianapolis turn. Rinaldo Capello was able to keep the R8 on track however, and brought it slowly back into the pits, handing the car over to Johnny Herbert. With a lead of only 1 minute and 30 seconds over the #3 Audi, he had no choice but to cede the 2nd position to his sister car.

Another setback for the #13 Courage. Having nearly come to a stop along the pit wall, the car has to complete an entire lap in order to make it back into the pits to again repair the ailing transmission.

The #6 Cadillac had a small fire during their last pit stop, but fortunately, with no serious consequences. Max Angelelli was able to rejoin the race with a minimal amount of time lost. Shortly thereafter, however, he violently hit the tire wall in the Tertre Rouge turn while in 9th place.

A small scare for the #3 Audi which forced the mechanics to change the starter after 271 laps. Just before 10:00am, the Racing for Holland Dome went off track twice. The first off was with Jan Lammers behind the wheel in the Ford chicane while running 7th. After pitting for repairs, Val Hillebrand took over, and went through the gravel trap in the Playstation chicane. The #5 Audi took advantage of the situation to pass the #16 Dome.

Nothing has changed up front. The three Audis (#1, #2 and #3) are still well ahead of the Bentley and the two Oreca's.

The two Corvettes look to be on top of the LM GTS class, while the #81 Porsche continues to lead in GT.

La course en direct sur le 0892 3500 24 *

* 0.34 €/minute



A.S.A. A.C.O. des "24 Heures du Mans"
CIRCUIT DES 24 HEURES DU MANS
SOCIÉTÉ SPORTIVE AUTOMOBILE DE L'A.C.O.
SOCIÉTÉ ANONYME SPORTIVE PROFESSIONNELLE



COMMUNIQUE PRESSE - PRESS RELEASE