

Boulogne-Billancourt, October 18th, 2020

IMSA WeatherTech Sportscar Championship 2020

Motul Petit Le Mans

MICHELIN KEEPS ITS COOL AT MOTUL PETIT LE MANS

- **A record performance and consistent lap times**
- **A high average speed and beautiful sporting battles**
- **Michelin faces significant temperature variations and winter cold at night**

The 23rd running of the Motul Petit Le Mans at Michelin Raceway Road Atlanta produced fast and fierce competition in the 10-hour event, the third of the four 2020 IMSA Michelin Endurance Cup events.

"We are very pleased by the consistent performance and lap times that our tires delivered throughout the entire event despite the big variations in track temperatures," said **Tony Ménard**, director of motorsport, Michelin North America.

Long green flag stints were the order of the day, as much of the race was run at a record pace on the fast, technically demanding 2.54-mile circuit. Lap speeds on the hilly, 12-turn circuit average just three miles-per-hour less than the high banked Daytona International Raceway road course.

The 12:40 p.m. race start put the final third of the race after sunset and produced a dramatic drop in both ambient (48F) and track (50F) temperatures for the final hour. Both the ambient and track temperatures swung by more than 20 degrees from the highest points in the race.

Always a highly popular event with an enthusiastic fan base, attendance was limited to 50 percent capacity, a goal that race officials said that they met.

Chaotic WeatherTech Race Finish

While most of Petit Le Mans was run under green flag conditions, the race ended behind the safety car after a controversial coming together between two DPi class contenders and a secondary incident with another car off course.

Contact between Ricky Taylor's Acura and Pipo Derani's Cadillac at Turn 6 knocked them both out of win contention and promoted the No. 10 Cadillac DPi-V.R of Renger van der Zande, Ryan Briscoe and Scott Dixon to an unexpected overall victory. It's their second in three Michelin Endurance Cup races this year (Rolex 24 At Daytona), and snaps the No. 7 Acura car's three-race win streak.

Meanwhile Porsche and Ferrari got on the board with their first two wins of the season in the GT classes. This means 14 of the 17 automotive brands in IMSA have won at least once in either the WeatherTech Championship or MICHELIN Pilot Challenge this season.



Porsche GT Team claimed the first U.S. race win for its the Porsche 911 RSR-19, shared by Nick Tandy, Fred Makowiecki and Matt Campbell in GT Le Mans. Scuderia Corsa Ferrari won GT Daytona with Alessandro Balzan, Cooper MacNeil and Jeff Westphal.

Tower Motorsport by Starworks won the four-car LMP2 class with two series debutantes (Job van Uitert, Mikkel Jensen) and veteran John Farano.

Michelin Post-Race Notes

- Michelin Tire Tech Tip Minute: Michelin Raceway Road Atlanta is the shortest of the four courses that make up the Michelin Endurance Cup. But as NBC Sports reporter Kelli Stavast notes, the average speed per lap is rapid and on par with other tracks, and traffic management is key to a tire's success.
- Record Laps: Dane Cameron (DPi), Antonio Garcia (GTLM) and Shinya Michimi (GTD) set new qualifying lap records for Motul Petit Le Mans. Additionally, Colin Braun (LMP2) and Kyle Kirkwood (LMP3) also set new race lap records. The five records set this weekend bring Michelin's total of qualifying and lap records to 122 since taking over as Official Tire of IMSA in 2019.

Championship Updates

- DPi: The chaotic finish referenced above swung the No. 10 car of van der Zande and Briscoe into a more significant points lead.
- LMP2: Despite a tough race today, Patrick Kelly (PR1/Mathiasen Motorsports) leads this class substantially as the only full-season entrant and a regular class race winner and polesitter.
- GTLM: Corvette Racing's pair of Antonio Garcia and Jordan Taylor finished second to the winning Porsche and continue to close on the title. Garcia nearly hunted down the Porsche in the final stint of the race.
- GTD: Second-place finishing Aaron Telitz (AIM Vasser Sullivan Lexus) now leads this class on his own after the previous points leaders, Meyer Shank Acura, incurred suspension damage. Telitz and usual co-driver Jack Hawksworth have separate points totals as they've run apart in several races.

Next Up:

The WeatherTech Championship and MICHELIN Pilot Challenge head to WeatherTech Raceway Laguna Seca, October 30-November 1, for the second-to-last race weekend of the season.

