

Records Fall at Rolex 24

Brumos Team Ends 31-year Drought at Daytona by David O'Neal

David Donahue and the #58 Brumos Porsche Riley (co-driven with Garcia/Law/Rice) crossed the finish line 0.16 seconds ahead of Juan Pablo Montoya in the #01 Lexus Riley (Dixon/Pruett/Rojas), teammate Joao Barbosa in the #59 Brumos Porsche Riley (Borcheller/France/Haywood) and Max Angelelli in the #10 Ford Dallara (Frisselle/Lamy/Taylor) to win the 47th Rolex 24 in front of a record crowd. The DP class and overall victory marked the closest in race's history, Brumos' first win at Daytona since 1978, and came 40 years after David's famous father Mark Donahue won the event.



The race remained close for its entire 24-hour duration, thanks to a record number of full-course cautions (25) that allowed the leaders to pit together. The last two hours featured the DP leaders running nose-to-tail, with a record four cars on the lead lap – less than 8 seconds apart - at the end of the event. These top four cars (2 Porsches, 1 Lexus, 1 Ford) were evenly matched for most of the race. At least three lead changes occurred in the pits, with the Lexus Team consistently 1 or 2 seconds quicker in servicing their car. But shortly after the 23-hour mark, Donahue took control of the #58 during the last pit stop and cruised past JPM for the lead that he never surrendered.



In GT, Porsche GT3 Cup cars finished 1-2-3 in class and 9th, 10th and 11th overall. The #67 TRG Porsche GT3 driven by Bergmeister/Lally/Long/Marks/Valentine finished a lap ahead of teammates Ballou/Collard/George, Jr./Lietz/Pompelly in the #66 TRG Porsche GT3 and four laps ahead of #33 Wright Motorsports Porsche GT3 driven by Massen/Martien/Pilet/Zacharias. The three Farnbacher Loles GT3 entries finished 5th, 7th and 8th in class, reinforcing Porsche's dominance of the event over Ferraris, Corvettes, Pontiacs, and Mazda.



The 2009 Rolex 24 at Daytona will be remembered for many record-setting achievements. Driving the #58 Brumos Porsche Riley, David Donahue set a new track record of 1 minute 40.540 seconds during qualifications on the 3.56-mile road course. A mere .001 seconds behind #58, was the #16 Penske Porsche Riley piloted by a team of factory drivers (Bernhard/Brisco/Dumas) that have moved from the ALMS series for the next two seasons. They finished 18 laps down, 6th in class after having to replace the rear end. The V8-powered Porsche Coyote #09 ended up 11th in class. A record 735 laps were completed covering a distance of 2,616.6 miles.

