

# Pruett Wins By Running On Vapors

IMSA Tudor USCC >> 2014 Lone Star LeMans

By: Fred Sims  
Photos: Fred Sims, Kevin Sims, John Sims



The #01 Telcel Ford EcoBoost Riley of Ganassi Racing took the overall first place victory.



Austin, TX – September 20, 2014 – Scott Pruett prevailed in a three-car shootout at Circuit of The Americas, showing speed when it counted to join Memo Rojas in scoring their third victory of the TUDOR USCC season for the No. 01 Telcel Ford EcoBoost/Riley. Pruett took the lead with 33 minutes remaining, and then held off a strong stretch run by both Joao Barbosa and Alex Brundle to win the Lone Star Le Mans for Chip Ganassi Racing with Felix Sabates.

“I took some big chances at the end,” said Pruett, who scored his 59th career victory in major sports car competition. “I knew they were coming, but when you see victory in your grasp, you take big chances. Sometimes they pay off.”

Pruett took the checkered flag 2.336 seconds ahead of Brundle, who joined Gustavo Yacamán in the debut of the No. 42 OAK Racing Ligier JS P2/Honda. Barbosa finished 11.016 seconds behind in third, ending a



two-race winning streak for the No. 5 Action Express Racing Corvette DP started by Christian Fittipaldi.

The race deciding moment came with six minutes remaining, when the leaders caught heavy GT class traffic. Pruett found a way through, while Barbosa and Brundle battled side-by-side caught in the pack. By the time Brundle passed Barbosa and they both cleared the pack of slower cars, Pruett had the advantage he needed to make his dash to the checkered flag. It was all he had, as the 54-year-old Californian ran out of fuel on his cooldown lap.

“Honestly, we had nothing for Pruett after our tussle with Barbosa near the end – he was too far away,” Brundle said. “I’m delighted by how the car ran this weekend.”

GT LeMans (GTLM): After a late race mechanical failure ended the day for the race-leading No. 911 Porsche RSR of Nick Tandy, the No. 93 Dodge Viper SRT GTS-R of Jonathan Bomarito capitalized by taking the GTLM class lead and finishing off a one-two finish for SRT Motorsports.

Enjoying a sizeable lead, Tandy in the No. 911 Porsche RSR seemed poised to pick up his second victory of the season, but lost drive with 18 minutes remaining.





Fortunately for Porsche, a third place finish by the No. 912 Porsche RSR helped the German marque retain the GTLM points lead. Starting in third-position, Michael Christensen drove the No. 912 car for the first hour and 45 minutes. He then turned the wheel over to Patrick Long for the final hour. With Porsche's third place result, the GTLM Championship will be determined at the Petit LeMans at Road Atlanta.

GT Daytona (GTD): Texas native Ben Keating joined co-driver Jeroen Bleekemolen in scoring the GTD victory. With 31 minutes remaining, Bleekemolen passed the GTD points leading No. 300 Turner Motorsport BMW Z4 of Dane Cameron and cruised to a one-lap victory over the No. 44 Magnus Racing Porsche 911 GT America of Andy Lally and John Potter. The No. 23 Team Seattle Alex Job Racing Porsche driven by Mario Farnbacher and Ian James held the lead in class during the middle of the race, but fell out of contention when their Porsche hit a barrier, damaging the radiator. **AA**







