

Consistency Rewards Porsche A Win

IMSA Tudor USCC >> 2015 Oak Tree GP

By: Kevin Sims
Photos: Fred Sims, Kevin Sims, David Gibbs



The No. 911 Porsche 911 RSR of Porsche North America took the overall first place victory.



Atton, VA – August 23, 2015 - Nick Tandy and Patrick Pilet piloted the No. 911 Porsche North America Porsche 911 RSR in a dominating fashion to take the checkered flag in Sunday's Oak Tree Grand Prix at VIRginia International Raceway, the duo's third consecutive season victory.

Tandy began the day by taking the green flag from pole position. On lap 30, Pilet took over the helm. With consistency and a mindful eye on tire consumption, he maintained the lead during his stint. Tandy took back over on lap 61 and saw the campaign through until the end.

The Porsche North America team captured their second consecutive 1-2 finish for the season. An accomplishment made possible with the team's No. 912 Porsche 911 RSR, driven by Earl Bamber and Joerg Bergmeister, finishing close behind in second.

The No. 62 Risi Competizione Ferrari, driven by Pierre Kaffer and



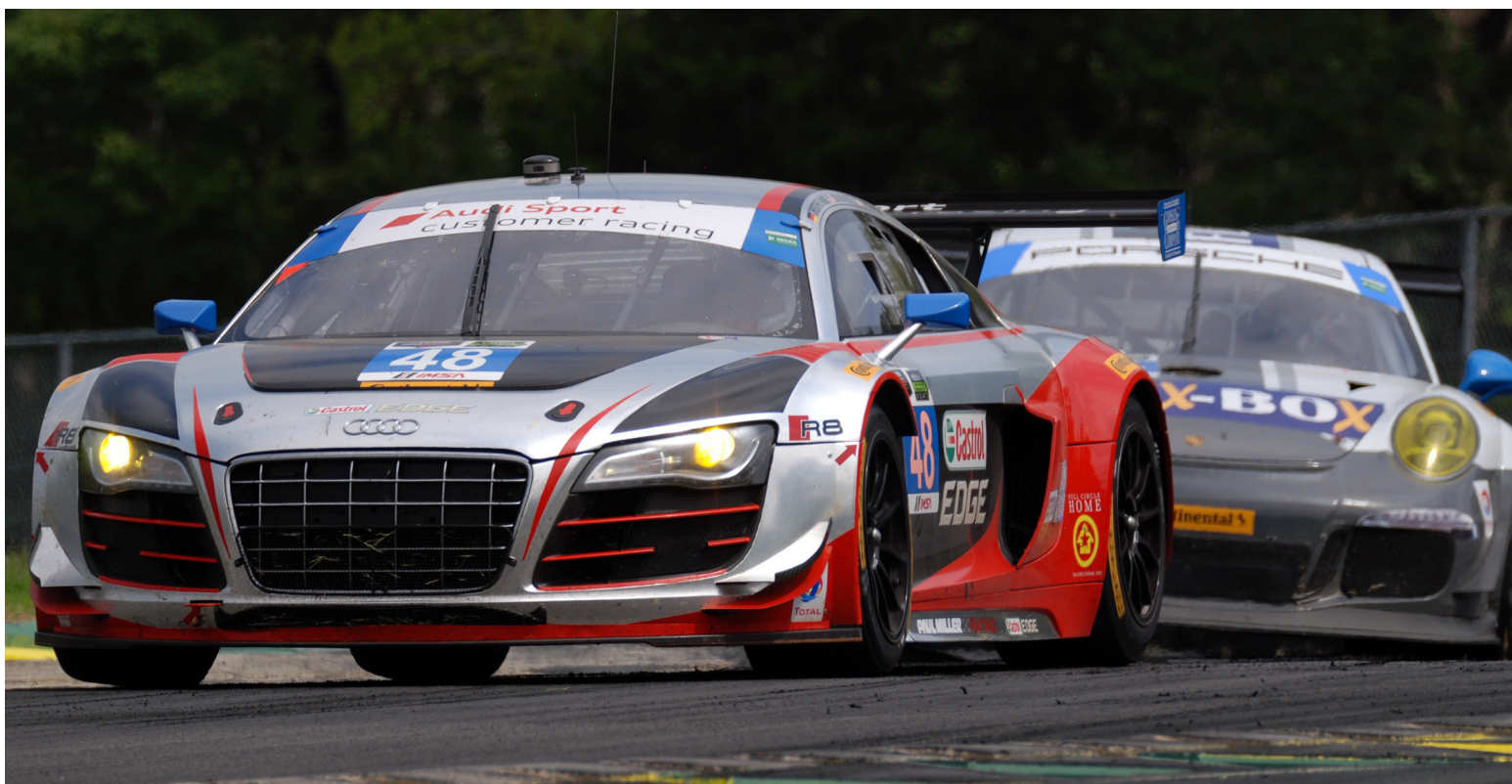
Giancarlo Fisichella, did not quietly yield victory as they orchestrated a late race hard-charge to attempt to snatch second place. Despite gaining some real estate on No. 912, they fell short by some 0.575 seconds to take up third place.

“It might have looked easy, and there at the end it might have been, but the first two stints were really tough. We were counting on a caution period, but we had to manage the fuel and the tire use. We knew we had to stay in front of the Risi Ferrari, but in the end they had to stop earlier than us. So they were pushing just as hard as us with their tires and their fuel consumption. We were pushing hard when Patrick came out, he did a great job with his pace and fuel consumption, so when I got in it was about not making mistakes and taking it down to the flag,” commented Nick Tandy.

GTD Class

The Prancing Horse had improved fortunes in the GTD class. Scuderia Corsa’s #63 Ferrari 459 Italia driven by Bill Sweedler, with co-driver Townsend Bell, secured the team’s first class victory for the season.

Sweedler fought with pole-sitter Dion von Moltke in the No. 48 Castrol EDGE





Audi R8 LMS from the drop of the green flag. Determination proved valor with Sweedler taking the lead 27 minutes into the contest. Since that time, the Ferrari only relented the lead twice during pit stops when the Audi briefly held it for three laps and the No. 007 TRG-AMR for one. During his stint, Bell regained the lead and the team never looked back.

"It was just a fantastic day. The Ferrari was terrific from the first session. The full credit goes to the team on the preparation. Bill gave me a great car and all I had to do was steer it around. I had a bit of an issue with the No. 48 on cold tires. We had a little 'rubbity-rub' with them. But once we settled in, the car was flawless. We settled in and just had to manage the car until the end," elaborated Townsend Bell.

Team Seattle/Alex Job Racing drivers Mario Farnbacher and Ian James in Porsche No. 23 captured the team's third podium finish of the season, placing third in Sunday's race. **AA**

