

Honda Power Seizes Rolex24 Win

IMSA >> 2016 Rolex 24 Hours at Daytona

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Daytona Beach, FL - January 31, 2016 - Luis Felipe Derani turned in a dominant final driving stint on Sunday, delivering a Rolex 24 at Daytona victory to Tequila Patrón ESM Racing in the No. 2 Honda Ligier JS P2. He was joined in victory lane by co-drivers Scott Sharp, Johannes van Overbeek and Ed Brown. It marked the first win in the Rolex 24 for a Honda-powered car.

Derani crossed the finish line 26.166 seconds before the No. 10 Corvette DP of Wayne Taylor Racing driven by Max Angelelli. Brothers Jordan and Ricky Taylor of Apopka and Rubens Barrichello. Finishing third was the No. 90 Corvette DP of VisitFlorida Racing, co-driven by Ryan Dalziel of Orlando, Ryan Hunter-Reay and Marc Goossens.

It was the first sports car race in America for Derani, a 22-year-old from São Paulo, Brazil.

"I want to thank my team for the amazing car they gave me," said De-



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rani, who ignored an in-car alarm during the last hour, racing on and hoping for the best, "I was just asking the car to not give up on me."

In the GTLM class, a back-and-forth duel between familiar Corvette Racing entries produced a spectacular last hour in a class that is both production-based and exotic. At the finish, Oliver Gavin, driving the No. 4 Corvette C7.R, nipped teammate Antonio Garcia in the No. 3 by a scant .034 seconds to secure Rolex 24 glory in one of the most breathtaking class finishes in the race's history.

Earl Bamber missed out on a GTLM class victory by just twelve seconds. Driving the 470 hp No. 912 Porsche 911 RSR, the overall 2015 24 Hours of Le Mans winner held a narrow lead up to the last pit stop. Shortly after re-entering the track, both Corvettes overtook him. A fierce battle with gripping wheel-to-wheel duels ensued, but Bamber and his teammates Frédéric Makowiecki and Michael Chris-



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tensen took the flag in third-place.

“Until shortly before the finish, I tried everything to fend off the Corvettes. We had a great fight, but they were simply faster today. Third place is a great result for the team. The GTLM class is so competitive,” said Earl Bamber.

In the sister No. 911 Porsche 911 RSR, Le Mans winner Nick Tandy started from pole and took the GTLM lead. He and his teammates, Patrick Pilet and Kévin Estre, managed to defend the lead, but with five hours remaining, their Porsche was hampered by a faulty driveshaft. They were relegated to eighth place.

Porsche debuted the newest 911 GT3 R at the Rolex 24 under GTD class rules that, for the first time, complied with international GT3 “class” specifications. They faced the rule challenge with shiftness by producing a second place GTD class finish. The No. 540 Black Swan Racing Porsche came within three-seconds of taking the GTD Rolex watch by nearly passing the leading, but fuel constrained, No. 44 Magnus Racing Audi on the final straight of the last lap. **AA**



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