



Media Information

IMSA WeatherTech SportsCar Championship

11<sup>th</sup> September 2019

### **BMW Team RLL returns to historic ground at Laguna Seca.**

- **Tenth round of the IMSA WeatherTech SportsCar Championship season.**
- **Laguna Seca plays an important role in BMW's racing history.**
- **BMW Team RLL aims to build on previous successes at the Californian race track.**

**Munich. BMW Team RLL travels to California's Laguna Seca Raceway (USA). The iconic 2.238-mile, 11-turn circuit will host the tenth and penultimate round of the IMSA WeatherTech SportsCar Championship season at the weekend.**

Laguna Seca has an important place in BMW racing history. It was the site of BMW Motorsport's second victory in 1975, the first year of IMSA competition for the brand in the US as well as the start of BMW of North America. Hans-Joachim Stuck (GER) won there with the now iconic BMW 3.0 CSL.

BMW Team RLL also has an enviable record at Laguna Seca Raceway with three victories in four years: a one-two BMW Z4 GTLM finish in 2015, a win in 2017 for the #24 BMW M6 GTLM driven by John Edwards (USA) and Martin Tomczyk (GER) and the 2018 victory for the #25 BMW M8 GTE, piloted by Connor De Phillipi (USA) and Alexander Sims (GBR). This year, De Phillipi shares the #25 cockpit with Tom Blomqvist (GBR) while Edwards is partnered by Jesse Krohn (FIN) in the #24 BMW M8 GTE.

This weekend's race will see a change of liveries for the first time this season; the #24 BMW M8 GTE of Edwards/Krohn will race in an all-black livery continuing the tradition begun in 2017 while the #25 BMW M8 GTE, of De Phillipi and Blomqvist, will remain in the traditional BMW Motorsport white.

The penultimate race of the 2019 IMSA season will start at 3:05 p.m. local time on Sunday, 15<sup>th</sup> September.

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## Quotes ahead of the race at Laguna Seca.

**Bobby Rahal (Team Principal BMW Team RLL):** "I believe we should feel good anytime BMW Team RLL heads to Laguna Seca. We have won three times in the previous four years. A good strategy and the ability to get through traffic is usually key to success."

**Tom Blomqvist (#25 BMW M8 GTE):** "Laguna Seca is one of those tracks that you grow up as a kid knowing about. It's synonymous with racing in the US and has one of the most famous corners in racing. Again, it's new to me, but I'm excited to drive around there. Hopefully, we can bounce back from a difficult weekend in Virginia with a positive showing at Laguna."

**Connor De Phillippi (#25 BMW M8 GTE):** "Laguna Seca is one of the iconic highlights of the calendar each year and one of the most interesting events from a strategic point of view. I'm looking forward to catching some air at the corkscrew and getting our BMW M8 GTE back on the podium where it deserves to be."

**John Edwards (#24 BMW M8 GTE):** "We're back in black and hopefully will have a little more luck on our side. Laguna Seca seems to treat me either extremely well or extremely poorly, never in between. I've won championships there in formula cars and the GTLM race in 2015 and 2017, but equally have shown up with no pace and no results in other years. After some bad luck there last year, hopefully it's time to turn around again and Jesse and I can get back the podium."

**Jesse Krohn (#24 BMW M8 GTE):** "Laguna Seca is one of my favourite places to go in the US. Last season, we had a good weekend there, with a win for Connor and Alex and fourth place finish for John and me. I don't see any reason we should not expect a similar performance."

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A vertical graphic element consisting of the BMW kidney grille logo at the top, followed by a thick grey bar, and the word "Motorsport" in a bold, sans-serif font.