



American Le Mans Series

BMW Team RLL wins Road America for the third time in four years.

Munich, 19th August 2012. For the third time in four seasons of American Le Mans Series competition, BMW Team RLL saw one of its BMW M3 GTs cross the Road America (US) finish line first to win the four-hour Road America Road Race Showcase. While the DTM event at the Nürburgring (DE) provides the back drop for the “40 Years of BMW M” celebrations this weekend, BMW Team RLL made the perfect birthday present by claiming GT victory in the sixth round of the ALMS.

On Saturday it was Bill Auberlen (US) and Jörg Müller (DE) who took the GT class victory in the no. 55 BMW M3 GT, racing past the chequered flag 2.63 seconds ahead of the no. 45 Porsche in second. The duo completed 97 laps of the 4.048-mile circuit. Auberlen, who took the programme’s very first win here with Joey Hand (US) in 2009, started the race from fourth. He drove the opening 21 laps before handing over to Jörg Müller just before the race’s first full-course caution period.

The German moved to the front as the balance of the field pitted and then drove 30 laps before pitting from the fifth spot to hand the no. 55 car back to Auberlen. The Californian was forced back to the pits only one lap later to tighten the left rear wheel. He returned to the race in 11th with only the BMW Team RLL mantra “Focus Forward” in mind as he stormed up to fourth-place in 17 laps. Auberlen pitted on lap 76 for new Dunlop tyres and fuel, returning in fifth and, as luck would have it, just before the race’s third full-course caution flags came out. With 38 minutes to go he was leading the race as it went back to green. One more yellow flag slowed the race, but Auberlen was not to be beaten.

The no. 56 BMW M3 GT of Dirk Müller (DE) and Jonathan Summerton (US) ultimately finished tenth after Müller was forced off course by a competitor two laps before the finish and was unable to continue. The incident dashed team hopes for a one-two BMW finish as the cars had been running in that order near the closing stage of the race.

With two wins and four additional podium finishes in the first seven races of the season, BMW stands second in the GT class manufacturer points and BMW Team RLL is second in team points. Dirk Müller falls to third in the driver points. Bill Auberlen and Jörg Müller move up one spot to fifth.

Bobby Rahal (BMW Team RLL, Team Principal):

“I am really thrilled for Bill and Jörg. In the last couple of years Bill has often been in the situation to win some races and had some bad luck. I am really very happy for Bill and really proud of the team. In Friday’s practice we were two seconds off the pace. Our engineers Jay O’Connell, Bruno Couprie, and Chris Yancher really went to work and made the right changes. I think we are still at a bit of a deficit against the Porsche particularly and the Corvettes, but today we had a really good strategy. When Bill had to go fast he did and he went really fast - kudos to him for doing a great job. I feel bad for Dirk and Jonathan as they were in a position to finish one-two and were hit by both Corvettes. They severely damaged the #56 car. Frankly I am not sure it’s repairable. On that side of the equation I am very, very disappointed, but in the end



we are one big team. Everybody worked really hard and we were able to bring it home.”

Jörg Müller (BMW M3 GT – No. 55):

“Bill did a fantastic job. The team did its job so well and that makes us all proud to be a part of this win. This is everyone on this team’s victory. It was fun to be at Road America for my first time and the victory makes it sweeter. Thank you to everyone.”

Bill Auberlen (BMW M3 GT – No. 55):

“These guys are awesome. It’s been a while since we were on top of the podium and we all deserve it. We were two seconds off the pace in practice and I knew the team would figure it out.”

Dirk Müller (BMW M3 GT – No. 56):

“I was running hard in P2 and was pushed right off the track. I hope the officials are aware of what happened. Congrats to Bill and Jörg for a very well deserved victory. We were on a one-two run and that would have been so fantastic for the championship.”

Jonathan Summerton (BMW M3 GT – No. 56):

“It was an exciting race. Dirk did a great job. I had a little mistake in the pit, but it is all part of the learning curve. It’s a shame the day ended the way it did.”

Press Contact: Jörg Kottmeier, Phone: +49 (0)170 5666 112, joerg.kottmeier@bmw.de
Ingo Lehbrink, Phone: +49 (0) 176 20340224, ingo.lehbrink@bmw.de
Thomas Plucinsky, Phone: +201 406 4801, thomas.plucinsky@bmwna.com

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