



For **IMMEDIATE**
Release:

Contact: **Thomas Plucinsky**
BMW of North America Motorsport Communications
201-406-4801 (cell) / thomas.plucinsky@bmwna.com

Bill Cobb
BMW of North America Motorsport Press Officer
215-431-7223 (cell) / billcobbcommunications@yahoo.com

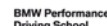
Oleg Satanovsky
BMW of North America Product and Technology Spokesperson
201-414-8694 (cell) / oleg.satanovsky@bmwna.com

Kathi Lauterbach
Rahal Letterman Lanigan, VP of Communications
317-297-8064 (office) / 317-447-4337 (cell) / klauterbach@rahal.com

**Watkins Glen International and Canadian Tire Motorsport Park
up next for BMW Team RLL; Bill Auberlen and Tom Blomqvist to drive
at Watkins Glen.**

Woodcliff Lake, N.J. – June 26, 2018... Last year, the two IMSA WeatherTech SportsCar Championship races at Watkins Glen International and at Canadian Tire Motorsport Park resulted in two wins for BMW Team RLL - the first two of four victories for the BMW M6 GLTM racing program. This year, the team is looking to repeat those results with the all-new BMW M8 GTE at the Sahlen's Six Hours of The Glen and at the Mobil 1 SportsCar Grand Prix.

During the first four races of the 2018 season, the BMW M8 GTE scored a second place finish at the 12 Hours of Sebring by the No. 25 car of Bill Auberlen, Connor De Phillippi and Alexander Sims after starting from De Phillippi's first GTLM class pole. A second pole at the most recent race at the Mid-Ohio Sports Car Course in early May by



John Edwards in the No. 24 M8 GTE showed the program's continuing competitiveness as De Phillippi and Sims raced to another second place finish in the No. 25 M8 GTE.

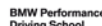
No. 25 M8 GTE fulltime co-drivers De Phillippi and Sims stand sixth in GTLM driver points, while No. 24 M8 GTE fulltime drivers Edwards and Jesse Krohn stand eighth. BMW holds the fourth spot in GTLM manufacturer points.

BMW NA Ambassador Bill Auberlen rejoins the No. 25 team at Watkins Glen, bringing with him his vast knowledge and success at The Glen back to assist the M8 GTE program. The veteran has three career pole positions and three victories in the Six Hours of The Glen and is in the hunt for his 59th career IMSA win. Currently, he stands second in all-time IMSA victories, two behind leader Scott Pruett.

BMW Motorsport driver Tom Blomqvist will co-drive the No. 24 M8 GTE at Watkins Glen; the 24-year old is making his first start in the United States. The well-rounded British-New Zealand driver has experience in DTM and Formula E in addition to his GT driving. He drove the No. 82 BMW Team MTEK M8 GTE at Spa-Francorchamps in the opening round of the 2018 FIA World Endurance Championship.

During the break in IMSA action since Mid-Ohio the BMW Team RLL drivers have been very busy behind the wheel of other BMW racing cars. Bill Auberlen co-drove a Turner Motorsport BMW M6 GT3 at the Detroit Grand Prix. Connor De Phillippi, John Edwards and Jesse Krohn drove for ROWE Racing in a BMW M6 GT3 at both the Nurburgring 24 and Silverstone in Round Four of the Blancpain GT Endurance Series. Krohn drove for ROWE again at Paul Ricard in Round 5 along with Tom Blomqvist. Alexander Sims co-drove a BMW Motorsport M8 GTE at the 24 Hours of Le Mans.

"In general we have had good qualifying performances over the years at Watkins Glen whether it was the BMW M3, Z4 or M6," said **Bobby Rahal, Team Principal**. "Our finishing positions are kind of inconsistent although we won last year for the first time after a good qualifying performance. It's an extremely fast circuit and it really comes down to handling on fast corners and I think the M8 GTE is quite good at that so that could certainly help. The BoP will obviously play into how we perform so I'm not quite sure how we will be at Watkins Glen. We did win last year so we go in hoping we



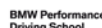
can do it again. Mosport is another one where we have had reasonably good qualifying year in and year out but have had difficulty in finishing. Early in our relationship with BMW, we were on a different tire manufacturer, which certainly had an effect on the consistency. But since the switch has been made to Michelin we have had good qualifying performance but inconsistent finishes. And if you think Watkins Glen has fast corners, then Mosport really has a lot of fast corners! I think the new car's long wheel base is made for that kind of a corner. We will just hope we have as good of a performance as we did last year at both tracks."

Bill Auberlen, driver No. 25 BMW M8 GTE: "I can't wait to get started with the Watkins Glen six hour race. We are coming off a victory last year and knowing how amazing the all new M8 GTE is I hope we can hit the ground running and start the drive to Victory Lane!"

Connor De Phillippi, driver No. 25 BMW M8 GTE: "Watkins Glen is one of those great American tracks that every driver loves. It will be my first taste of 'The Glen' and the last new track for me to learn on this year's calendar. In recent years it has been a strong track for our BMW race cars, which means a win is most definitely possible with our new M8 GTE. Mosport is one of the events I've been most excited for on our calendar. It will be my first experience driving a GT car around this high commitment circuit which requires strong aerodynamics and engine power. With the M8 GTE delivering both of those things, I believe we are in a strong position to battle at the front!"

Alexander Sims, driver No. 25 BMW M8 GTE: "I'm extremely motivated for our return to both the Watkins Glen and CTMP races. It was a real highlight for us last year and I sincerely hope we can recreate some of those performances. Both circuits are unbelievably good to drive and I'm just eager to get the BMW M8 GTE out on track and get our teeth into the weekend."

Tom Blomqvist, driver No. 24 BMW M8 GTE: "I have never raced in the States before and I am very excited that Watkins Glen will be my first track. My teammates have told me about this old-school class circuit and I look forward to seeing it myself."



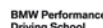
John Edwards, driver No. 24 BMW M8 GTE: “Watkins Glen and CTMP are two of my favorite tracks in North America, and IMSA schedules them back to back! So I guess you could say these are two of my favorite weekends in the year. Watkins Glen always suited the M6 so I expect the new M8 GTE will adapt quickly. After being quick at Mid-Ohio, we weren’t able to capitalize on a result so Jesse and I are hungry for redemption over the next couple of weeks.”

Jesse Krohn, driver No. 24 BMW M8 GTE: “I am looking forward to getting back in the car after a long summer break. Both tracks will be new for me but I have already done a few laps in the simulator to be as well prepared as possible. In the past Watkins and Mosport seemed to have suited BMW well so I am hoping the same will continue this year with the new and improved BMW M8 GTE.”

The Sahlen’s Six Hours of The Glen will drop the green flag at 9:45 a.m. ET on Sunday, July 1 and be broadcast on live on FOX Sports 1 beginning at 9:30 a.m. ET. The Mobil 1 SportsCar Grand Prix will start at 2:05 p.m. on Sunday, July 8 and be broadcast on FOX Sports 1 beginning at 4:00 p.m. ET. Follow BMW Team RLL on Twitter at [@BMWUSARacing](https://twitter.com/BMWUSARacing) for “from-the-pit-box” updates all weekend.

BMW Group in America

BMW of North America, LLC has been present in the United States since 1975. Rolls-Royce Motor Cars NA, LLC began distributing vehicles in 2003. The BMW Group in the United States has grown to include marketing, sales, and financial service organizations for the BMW brand of motor vehicles, including motorcycles, the MINI brand, and the Rolls-Royce brand of Motor Cars; Designworks, a strategic design consultancy based in California; a technology office in Silicon Valley and various other operations throughout the country. BMW Manufacturing Co., LLC in South Carolina is part of BMW Group’s global manufacturing network and is the exclusive manufacturing plant for all X5 and X3 Sports Activity Vehicles and X6 and X4 Sports Activity Coupes. The BMW Group sales organization is represented in the U.S. through networks of 346 BMW passenger car and BMW Sports Activity Vehicle centers, 153 BMW motorcycle retailers, 127 MINI passenger car dealers, and 36 Rolls-Royce Motor Car dealers. BMW (US) Holding Corp., the BMW Group’s sales headquarters for North America, is located in Woodcliff Lake, New Jersey.



Rahal Letterman Lanigan Racing

BMW's partner, Rahal Letterman Lanigan Racing, based in Hilliard, Ohio and co-owned by three-time IndyCar Champion and 1986 Indianapolis 500 winner Bobby Rahal, former CBS Late Show host David Letterman and Mi-Jack co-owner Mike Lanigan, has been competing for almost three decades. Prior to the start of their 27th season of competition in 2018, the team had compiled 42 victories, 53 poles, 162 podium finishes, three series championships (1992, 2010, 2011) and claimed an Indianapolis 500 victory (Buddy Rice in 2004). In 2009 the team joined BMW of North America to campaign the new BMW M3 in the American Le Mans Series. The following year the team won both the Manufacturer and Team Championships in the GT category and swept all three GT titles - Manufacturer, Team and Driver – in 2011. In 2012, the team finished second in the Team Championship and third in the Manufacturer Championship and in 2013, the team finished second in the Driver, Team and Manufacturer Championship. Since 2014, BMW Team RLL has competed in the GTLM class of the IMSA WeatherTech SportsCar Championship with a two car program and has brought their total to 17 wins, 23 poles and 68 podium finishes as well as a second place finish in the Manufacturer, Team and Driver championships in 2015 and 2017.

#

Journalist note: Information about BMW Group and its products in the USA is available to journalists on-line at www.bmwgroupusanews.com and www.press.bmwna.com.

#

