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**BMW Team RLL Finishes Seventh and Eighth in Sahlen's Six Hours of The Glen; Turner Motorsport BMW M6 GT3 scores GTD class win.**

**Woodcliff Lake, N.J. – July 1, 2018...** BMW Team RLL finished the Sahlen's Six Hours of The Glen in seventh and eighth positions in GTLM class. The No. 25 BMW M8 GTE finished seventh with Bill Auberlen, Connor De Phillippi and Alexander Sims sharing the driving duties after a problem-free race. The No. 24 BMW M8 GTE, of Tom Blomqvist, John Edwards and Jesse Krohn, finished 27 laps down in eighth after a challenging race. The race was won by the No. 66 Ford GT.

BMW Customer Racing Team Turner Motorsport fought through a tough and competitive field in IMSA's GTD class to take the top podium spot after qualifying in 13<sup>th</sup> position. The winning Turner BMW M6 GT3 was co-driven by Dillon Machavern, Markus Palttala and Don Yount.

Tom Blomqvist, driving the No. 24 BMW M8 GTE, and Connor De Phillippi, driving the No. 25 BMW M8 GTE, took the green flag to begin the fifth round of the IMSA



WeatherTech Sportscar Championship from their seventh and eighth place GTLM class starting positions.

Both crews were prepared for a very hot day that had been forecast and the team was ready for everything but the bad luck that struck the No. 24 M8 GTE on the very first pit stop, 27 laps into the race. Running over a piece of pit equipment at the end of the stop, Blomqvist was returned to the pits by the stewards for a drive-through penalty. He returned to the race one lap down, completing his second stint 33 laps later. Jesse Krohn took over, but the car refused to start and was ultimately pushed to the paddock twice for repairs, dropping another 25 laps to the GTLM field after the replacement of the starter motor. Now 27 laps in arrears the car completed the remainder of the race in the eighth position.

The No. 25 M8 GTE drivers put in a workmanlike day, cycling from De Phillippi to Bill Auberlen to Alexander Sims to race in the seventh position for almost every lap of the race.

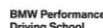
“We knew it was going to be a tough race for us before we came, so we did everything we could to operate as cleanly as we could.” said **Brandon Fry, BMW Team RLL Technical and Racing Operations Director**. “If any opportunities for a good result opened up for us we wanted to be there to take advantage but unfortunately the race didn’t work out that way. It turned out to be a long race for us, but in the end, we tried out some different things and I think we learned a little bit as a team.”

**Bill Auberlen, driver No. 25 BMW M8 GTE (P7):**

“It was great to be back behind the wheel of the BMW Team RLL M8 GTE. The team did a really great job, but today was obviously not our day.”

**Connor De Phillippi, driver No. 25 BMW M8 GTE (P7):**

“Obviously, during the first stint of the race you’re just trying to play it safe. Six hours is a long one so we just tried to keep a clean car. The race developed as expected; the first lap was a little crazy with some crashes but we made it through. It was clear that we were missing pace compared to our competitors. We tried to run a strategic race and that went as planned but we weren’t able to capitalize on it in the end. All the guys on the team worked really hard and we move on to Mosport looking for a better result.”



**Alexander Sims, driver No. 25 BMW M8 GTE (P7):**

"We clearly didn't have the pace today, we experimented with strategy at the end and had to do some fuel saving.. Credit to the team for working as hard as they could, and trying to find any possible advantage, but yeah, this was not our weekend."

**Tom Blomqvist, driver No. 24 BMW M8 GTE (P8):**

"Watkins Glen was a fun experience! It is obviously a great shame we never had the pace to fight for a proper position in this race, and we ran into some troubles that hindered our end result, but the track was fun. I enjoyed racing with the BMW Team RLL guys, everyone was really welcoming, and I hope to be back here racing sometime in the not too distant future."

**John Edwards, driver No. 24 BMW M8 GTE (P8):**

"We weren't really fighting for a podium position so it was just a matter of lapping to finish the race after we had the issue with the starter early on. We tried to make the time useful however, practicing some fuel saving measures, but ultimately it is hard to look at the positives on a day like today."

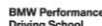
**Jesse Krohn, driver No. 24 BMW M8 GTE (P8):**

"It's a shame about being out of it because of early problems when there's nothing you can really do but finish the race and get the points. Even if we wouldn't have had problems today, we did not have the pace. You just need to improve and there's not much we can do with what we have but hopefully it will change."

Next up for the IMSA WeatherTech SportsCar Championship is a trip north of the border to the Canadian Tire Motorsport Park in Bowmanville, Ontario for the Mobil 1 SportsCar Grand Prix on July 8<sup>th</sup>.

**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 27<sup>th</sup> 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.

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