BMW U.S. Press Information



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BMW M8 GTE Completes Inaugural North American Season With Third and Fourth Place Finishes at Motul Petit Le Mans; Edwards, Krohn, Mostert - P3, Auberlen, De Phillippi, Sims - P4.

Woodcliff Lake, N.J. – Oct. 13, 2018... BMW Team RLL closed the inaugural North American season of competition for the BMW M8 GTE with third and fourth place GTLM class finishes at the IMSA WeatherTech SportsCar Championship Motul Petit Le Mans. John Edwards, Jesse Krohn and Chaz Mostert finished third in the No. 24 BMW M8 GTE, completing 419 laps of the 2.54-mile, 12-turn Road Atlanta circuit in the ten hour race after starting from the pole position. Bill Auberlen, Connor De Phillippi and Alexander Sims finished fourth in the No. 25 BMW M8 GTE, only 1.755 seconds behind their sister car after taking the green flag from the seventh spot. The race was won by the No. 911 Porsche 911 RSR.







Today's race saw BMW Team RLL execute flawlessly through ten hours of everchanging strategy to keep both BMW's on a podium pace, only the 25 machine falling from the lead lap for a few hours, but fighting to get it back. In addition to finishing only 1.755 seconds apart after 10 hours, the BMW's fastest laps were even closer - only .08 seconds apart. Edwards set the fast lap for the No. 24 M8 (1:18.185 minutes) on lap five and De Phillippi set the quick time for the No. 25 M8 (1:18.105 minutes) on lap 268.

By every account the 2018 season can be considered a great success. BMW's newest racing cars scored two victories (VIR, Laguna Seca), two runner-up finishes (Sebring, Mid-Ohio), two third place finish (VIR, Road Atlanta) and three pole positions (Sebring, Mid-Ohio, Road Atlanta). Drivers De Phillippi and Sims finished sixth in GTLM Driver points. Edwards and Krohn finished eighth. The No. 25 and 24 BMW M8 GTE finished sixth and eighth respectively in the GTLM Team standings. BMW finished fourth in GTLM Manufacturer points. This weekend also saw BMW Team RLL complete its 10th season of racing with BMW. Through four models, the BMW M3, BMW Z4, BMW M6 and BMW M8 the team has totaled 74 podium finishes, including 19 victories since 2009.

Developed along parallel tracks with the racing BMW M8 GTE, deliveries of the first new 2019 BMW 8 Series road car, the BMW M850i xDrive Coupe, is on the horizon.

"Both crews did great job today," **commented Bobby Rahal, Team Principal.** "In the end we did not have quite enough for a win, but P3 and P4 is an excellent result. Our enthusiasm for this M8 continues to grow every race."

On the 10 year partnership with BMW, "How fortunate we are to have earned BMW's trust and faith 10 years ago. In racing terms 10 years is a very long time. I think it's been a great partnership all the way around. We look forward to another 10 years and we certainly hope our relationship with BMW goes even beyond that."

John Edwards, driver No. 24 BMW M8 GTE (P3): "A podium is a great way to end the season. I thought this was going to be our first win of the season and my first win at Petit."







On the M8 GTE, "The team has done a great job. We've really started to figure out the car. Our results speak to all the work that went into the car this time last year by the guys back at the shop. All that work really started to pay off towards the end of this year and I'm sure that will continue next year."

Jesse Krohn, driver No. 24 BMW M8 GTE (P3): "Overall a really amazing job from the team all weekend. I don't know what more we could have done to secure the win today."

On the M8 GTE, "It's really a different beast now from what it was in the beginning of the year. The development of this car has been nothing short of incredible, the two race wins speak for themselves. It's been a close to perfect year in a progression sense and I'm really looking forward to next year."

Chaz Mostert, driver No. 24 BMW M8 GTE (P3): "I really didn't expect this kind of weekend. I just wanted to get in the car and do a good job. Not knowing a lot about this series I didn't know how the races really unfolded but with this being an endurance race anything can happen. When you think you're out of it you can get right back into it. I got carried today by John and Jesse, those guys are superstars. I was just along for the ride. I'm very grateful to BMW Motorsport and RLL for giving me the opportunity to be a part of this race."

Bill Auberlen, driver No. 25 BMW M8 GTE (P4): "You can't fault this team for trying so hard. BMW produced a great car. It was competitive all day long from the front to the back and back towards the front again. Today saw a great effort by everyone. You can't win every race, but we did the absolute best we could."

On the M8 GTE - "Any new car is a very challenging situation but to come out with two wins, two seconds, and now two thirds in the first season is a fabulous start."

Connor De Phillippi, driver No. 25 BMW M8 GTE (P4): "We had a tough start but we really pushed hard all race. We treated the last five hours as a sprint race. I'm really happy for the team - especially the 24 car. We all earned it today."







On the M8 GTE, "In the beginning we had a lot to learn and a lot to develop. We have to be very proud of two wins and both cars being on the podium twice. I'm really happy to be part of BMW and I think we can have nothing but a positive outlook on 2019."

Alexander Sims, driver No. 25 BMW M8 GTE (P4): "What a finish. That was a really exciting end to the race. The start was very difficult and to claw our way back into the race, be able to push hard and have good pace was really great. The team has worked hard all year and I think it's a credit to the engineers, mechanics, and BMW to get this car to where it is now. It's working better and better and the results show that."

On the M8 GTE, "Inevitably with a new car we have had a lot of learning to do, and we've done that during the year. Obviously we had an up and down start to the season, but in the second half to be consistently fast was really enjoyable."

BMW Customer Racing at Petit Le Mans -

The No. 96 Turner Motorsport BMW M6 GT3, of Dillon Machavern, Markus Palttala and Don Yount, - the winners at the Six Hours of The Glen this season - were the innocent bystanders in a multi car crash that caromed Machavern into the turn one wall, eliminating the car from the race on lap 68.

On Friday, BimmerWorld Racing finished the Continental Tire SportsCar Challenge Fox Factory 120 on quite a high. Drivers Devon Jones and Nick Galante captured the Street Tuner class Driver's Championship with a third place finish in their No. 81 BMW 328i. The duo paired for four victories this season to also secure BimmerWorld Racing the ST Team championship. To make the day even sweeter, BimmerWorld owner James Clay and Tyler Cooke captured the first North American overall race win for the BMW M4 GT4, winning the two-hour race in the Grand Sport class No. 82 machine.

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 Rolls-Royce Motor Cars; Designworks, a strategic design consultancy based in California; technology offices in Silicon Valley and Chicago, and various other operations throughout







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the country. BMW Manufacturing Co., LLC in South Carolina is the BMW Group global center of competence for BMW X models and manufactures the X3, X4, X5, and X6 Sports Activity Vehicles. 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.

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