

TOYOTA GAZOO RACING: LE MANS 24 HOURS UPDATE 2

Saturday 17 June 2017

TOYOTA GAZOO Racing retained the lead of the Le Mans 24 Hours as the 85th edition of the race moved into its evening stage.

Pole position setter Kamui Kobayashi successfully completed his first stints behind the wheel, extending the lead over the #1 Porsche to more than half a minute for the #7 TS050 HYBRID he shares with Mike Conway and Stéphane Sarrazin.

Anthony Davidson in the #8 he drives along with Sébastien Buemi and Kazuki Nakajima was unfortunate in traffic and dropped to third position after losing time due to a local slow zone, when cars must drive significantly slower than racing speeds.

José María López performed impressively in his first racing stints at Le Mans and moved up to fourth position, helped by a technical problem for the #2 Porsche, which lost a lot of time in the pits.

After the second driver changes, Stéphane took over the leading #7, with Kazuki at the wheel of the #8. Yuji took the wheel of the #9 for his first racing laps of the Circuit de la Sarthe.

TS050 HYBRID #7 (Mike Conway, Kamui Kobayashi, Stéphane Sarrazin)
Grid position: 1st

Kamui Kobayashi: "The stint went well. At the beginning the traffic worked out okay for me but later that began more of a problem. But I could extend the lead and it looks positive so far. We are calm and the car feels good, as you can see by the lap times."

TS050 HYBRID #8 (Sébastien Buemi, Anthony Davidson, Kazuki Nakajima)
Grid position: 2nd

Anthony Davidson: "It was a really tough three stints. I just seemed to get all the bad luck in the traffic. My fastest lap times were competitive so the speed was there but I was just catching cars in the wrong places. Then I was unlucky to be the only leading car to pick up one of the slow zones, which cost me 30 seconds. The car was running well and feels good."

TS050 HYBRID #9 (Nicolas Lapierre, Yuji Kunimoto, José María López)
Grid position: 5th

José María López: "First of all I was really happy to complete my first stint ever at Le Mans. I was feeling more and more comfortable all the way through and it went quite well. It's a very long race and we are still there. I am looking forward to jumping in the car again."

A German translation of this press release is available on www.RacingByTMG.com. High-resolution copyright-free photos are available for editorial use at www.toyota-motorsport-photos.com.

About TOYOTA GAZOO Racing in the World Endurance Championship:

TOYOTA first competed in the World Endurance Championship (WEC) in 1983, marking the start of a long period of participation in endurance racing. Since 1985, TOYOTA cars have raced in 18 Le Mans 24 Hours races, achieving a best result of second place on five occasions. TOYOTA entered the revived WEC in 2012,



RAISING THE EXCITEMENT TOYOTA HYBRID

combining the expertise from TOYOTA Higashi-Fuji Technical Centre, where the hybrid powertrain is developed, with TOYOTA Motorsport GmbH's support and facilities for chassis development. The multi-national team is based in Cologne, Germany and includes engineers from TOYOTA's motorsport and hybrid department, who deliver technology and know-how back into road car development. Since 2012, TOYOTA has earned 12 pole positions and won 13 races, finishing on the podium a total of 34 times. In 2014, the team won the drivers' and manufacturers' World Championships with the TS040 HYBRID while a year later TOYOTA celebrated 30 years since its first Le Mans entry. TOYOTA Motorsport GmbH combines its role in the WEC project with its other activities, such as the supply of a World Rally Championship engine for TOYOTA's return to the category in 2017, as well as its engineering services business and customer motorsport activities.

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