

Sahlen's Six hours at the Glen

Story by: Rose Ward, photos by: MSA Staff

It was a beautiful day for the 33rd running of the famed Sahlen's Six hours at the Glen at Watkins Glen International speedway. With temperatures at 76 degrees at the start with a nice breeze the fans were ready for action as skydivers fell from the sky.

There were 53 cars starting the race from four classes. That was a marked increase from the 33 car field from last year. The four classes were made up for the Prototype(Pro) cars, which are the fastest and most technologically advanced cars in the United States, the Prototype challenge cars (Pro-am), which feature open cockpits, the GT LeMans (GTLM), which are cars based on production models and the GT Daytona (GTD). The GTD cars are also based on production models but do not feature the same level of power as the GTLM.

By mid-race the temperature soared to 88 degrees. It was reported the track temperatures were 118 degrees.

In the first three hours of the race, the Corvettes continue to dominate. Half way through the leaders were the number 5 Corvette, followed by the number 9 Corvette. Third was also a Corvette, number 90, followed by the 42 Nissan. At mid-way The Deltawing Prototype pulled behind the pits and did not return.

Those four cars continued to dominate the race. At 4:25 pm, on lap 143, Fittipoldi

in the number 5 was first. Followed by Valiante in the 90, Fogarty in the number 9 and Yacaman in forth in the number 42 car. It was a great race that came right down to the wire.

With 56 minutes left to go, Yacaman was leading. Everyone was expected to pit soon. The wind is creating a much bigger breeze for the end of the race. Drivers get a small relief from the heat but the track conditions have changed.

With 39 Min to go, Brundle had a 30 second advantage over Richard Westbrook. CAUTION flag comes out: 2 cars inbedded into tires on turn 11. Big clean up a lot of fluid.

22.5 min to go. How long will caution be? 7 min into caution. Crashed cars still on track. Everyone has caught up with each other.

Finally GREEN flag is raised: 11 min 45 seconds to go! Westbrook leads by 3 car lengths. Brundle is now in second.

CAUTION AGAIN: contact at turn 6. Four min still under caution. Looks like we end in caution.? 38 Seconds left GOING GREEN! Pack is in boot.

Westbrook in lead turn 6. Brundle second, Valvosa third. Red Ferrari spun around on front stretch. No caution.

9 seconds left to go. Once around the track. Richard Westbrook (#90 Corvette) from Florida is the winner with a .87 second

victory with 191 laps. This win was his first since September 2012. Their three other wins also came that season. Co-driver was Michael Valiante.

Brundle and co-drivers Gustavo Yacaman and Ho-Pin Tung took second in the number 42 Nissan. Third place went to the Action Express Corvette of Joao Barbosa, Christian Fittipaldi and Burt Frisselle. Barbosa and Action Express had won the previous two Six hour events at the Glen.

Only four caution flags slowed the race for 17 laps including 2 cautions for 7 laps at the end.

Other winners: Bennett/Braun/Gue came in first in the PC class. Magnussen/Garcia finished first in the GTLM class. And Cameron/Palitala won the GTD class.



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Fun at the Glen

Since I was seven year old, my father and I have journeyed down Seneca Lake for our annual trip to The Glen, or as he puts it, "70 Hours of Nonsense." Long ago we determined that even though the racing is fun (few things in life rival the excitement of watching a 43-field try to pile into Turn One and emerge unscathed) the shenanigans surrounding the weekend keep us coming back for more.

What started as a bonding experience for us has turned into a tradition for a dozen friends that get together once a year. Games of horseshoes and washers pop up across the landscape, carpools house portable bars instead of cars, while every fan at the track squeezes the most entertainment out of every hour. Beer flows freely, grills sizzle with countless pounds of barbeque, and hordes of partiers turn Watkins Glen International into a circus until the early



morning hours.

"Whether it's the people camping next door, or somebody you run into, I've met some great people up here." Dad said as we broke down camp on Sunday and headed for home. "And as long as I can keep up with you.

YOU! NEED TO BE THERE IN AUGUST!
For more info on Watkins Glen International and all the fun things to do, go to TheGlen.com

A Fan Story by Joe Ahouse



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