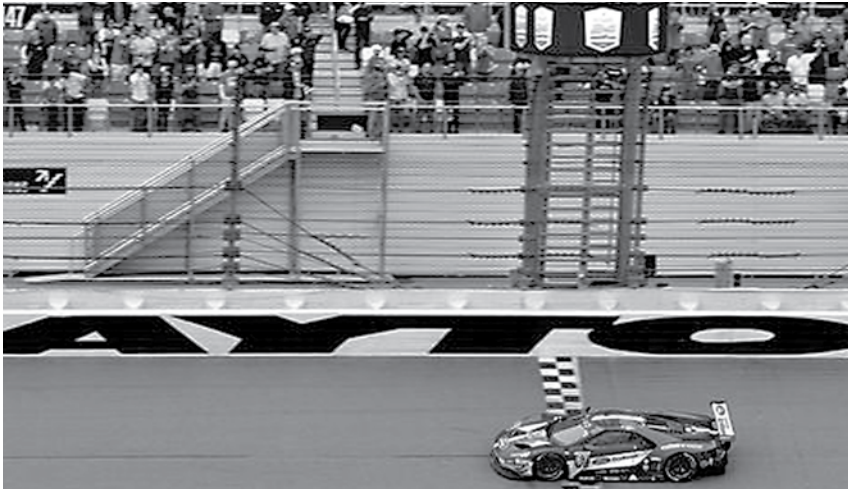


## CHIP GANASSI RACING WINS 200TH RACE WITH NO. 67 FORD GT IN ROLEX 24 AT DAYTONA



Chip Ganassi gave the starting command for the weekend's Rolex 24 At Daytona on Saturday and a day later hoisted a trophy in victory lane courtesy of a phenomenal performance and GT Le Mans (GTLM) class sweep for his two-car team in the historical race. His cars led all but nine of the 783 laps completed.

It was a nice bookend for the championship team owner and good way to start the IMSA WeatherTech SportsCar Championship racing season - giving Ganassi his 200th victory in major league auto racing. It the team's record eighth win in the Rolex 24 - the second straight in class, plus six more victories overall.

Ganassi's No. 67 Ford GT driven by Ryan Briscoe, Richard Westbrook and former Indy 500 winner Scott Dixon led its team car, the No. 66 Ford GT, across the finish line for the victory by only 11.180 seconds.

The third-place No. 3 Chevrolet Corvette C7.R finished two laps behind the Fords. And it all made for exciting close-quarter racing during the record-setting event won overall by the No. 5 Action Express Racing Cadillac.

"No team orders, just 24 hours of intense racing," Ganassi driver Westbrook told FOX Sports television with a huge grin as the pits emptied in celebration.

Dixon, who has two overall victories in addition to Sunday's class win, summed up his feelings with a smile as well. "Pretty sweet," he said.

It was also pretty intense - especially in the final couple hours.

The defending Rolex 24 GTLM class champion No. 66 - driven by Joey Hand, Dirk Mueller and Sebastien Bourdais - led the bulk of the race and was listed as the lead class car for 21 of the first 24 hourly results.

But a pit stop for the final driver change - Bourdais to Hand -- took a few seconds longer than normal with a slight hiccup getting the car from neutral into first gear. That was enough to give the team's other car the opportunity to seize the advantage and change the competitive dynamic on track.

The cars were so close for so long, that pit strategy may have ultimately decided the running order.

And as each Ganassi driver confirmed following the race, there were no team orders.

"There was a little bit of strategy playing out between the two teams which was really cool - just to witness the whole thing," said Westbrook, who earned his first Rolex watch.

Hand, a defending winner of the race, was happy for the Ganassi team although also understandably disappointed as he stood on pit lane following the checkered flag.

"You always want to be the one that wins for the team but man, we still had a great day," Hand said. "The car led a lot of this race and as far as the team goes we've got two cars and finished first and second. You can't do better than that."

Everyone on the Ganassi team agreed that keeping the trophy in-house was a tremendous accomplishment and shows how well Ganassi leads the team. It was an exciting and challenging race - just the kind of day, just the kind of important race that makes earning a 200th trophy here extra special.

"It's simple," Dixon said. "We come here each weekend to win. There's no thinking about finishing second. Everyone thrives on the winning culture here. Chip, through many [racing] disciplines has proven that."

And as historic as the win was, Ganassi reminded everyone after spraying champagne and hoisting hardware that he isn't ready to talk about 200 wins yet. He's ready to collect more.

## Monster Jam Invades Nashville Triple Threat Series

Story: Jenn McVay/Photos Leon McVay  
(Jan. 6-7, 2018) Over the past few years, I have covered and reported on numerous Monster Jams events, in many different cities. From the up and coming stars to the legends of Monster Jam. With that being said; I would like to give you some lesser known facts about Monster Jam.

Monster Jam trucks weigh in at an impressive 12,000 pounds and stand in at over 10.5 feet tall. These fire breathing behemoths are powered with a blown V-8 engine running on methanol and producing an astonishing 1,500 horsepower. These trucks can jump over dirt ramps to a height of 40+ feet, and land safely on custom made off road only BKT 66x43x25 tires, that weigh over 800 pounds each including the rim.

Monster Jam trucks incorporate a tubular steel roll cage and is cushioned with four shocks per wheel, they are cushion the blow of the fall from the high jumps and to protect the driver during roll over's.

Each team has their own special made trailer to haul truck, accessories, spare parts and at least one extra truck body. (yep that's two trucks total).

With each show the drivers are competing in timed racing, two-wheeled skills challenge, racing head to head and last but certainly not least is the free style competition. With each event the driver who wins is awarded points and at the end of the night the driver with the most points is champion.

Judging is done by the fans. They are given a sign in code when they purchase their tickets and told to go to [www.Judgeszone.com](http://www.Judgeszone.com) and told to vote for their favorite driver in each of the categories and they only have 20 seconds after the driver has completed the event.

The Monster Jam Series produces more than 350 shows with over 4 million spectators each year. And travels to over 100 cities in North America. Monster Jam can be viewed on Fox Sports 1.

Monster Jam is coming to Atlanta on Feb. 24-25 and on Mar. 3 (Monster Energy AMA Supercross). Get your tickets at [www.1.ticketmaster.com/](http://www.1.ticketmaster.com/)



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