

## Taylor Brothers Make History at the 17th Annual Petit Lemans

Story by Phillip Prichard, Photos by MSA Staff

The 17th Petit Lemans powered by Mazda was a 10 hour showdown at Road Atlanta in Braselton, Georgia. The inaugural TUDOR United Sport Car Championship and the Tequila Patrón North American Endurance Cup were awarded at the finale of the 4 day event. Road Atlanta is a 12-turn 2.54 mile road course following the rolling hills of North Georgia.

Jordan and Ricky Taylor made history in becoming the first Americans to win the overall Petit Lemans. The Taylors drove the Number 10 Konica Minolta Corvette DP with co-driver Max Angelelli to the checkered flag. Jordan Taylor took the lead from the Number 5 Action Express entry driven by Christian Fittipaldi with about one hour and thirty minute left in the race and lead by a 30 second gap. However, a full course caution erased the sizable lead. Taylor held on for a six minute shootout to the finish. Jordan Taylor held off Joao Barbosa by 11 seconds, leading to a Corvette 1-2 sweep.

The victory for Wayne Taylor Racing came 16 years after owner Wayne Taylor won the initial Petit Le Mans back in 1998. The pairing of Jordan and Ricky Taylor, combined with their teammate and mentor Max Angelelli bookended two eras, as Angelelli was a long-time teammate of Wayne from the late 1990s through his retirement from full-time driving after the 2007 season. This was the Taylor brothers' second victory of the season.

The Action Express pairing of Joao Barbosa and Christian Fittipaldi earned the TUDOR United Sports Car Championship hardware with their Corvette Prototype Number 5 in the 17th annual Petit Le Mans.

The Chip Ganassi Racing Ford EcoBoost/Riley, driven by Scott Pruett, Memo Rojas and IndyCar driver Scott Dixon, finished third overall. The car sustained a damaged rim late in the race after being tagged by GT traffic, dropping them off the lead lap and preventing a late charge for the win.

The Delta Wing DWC 13 of Katherine Legge, Andy Meyrick and Gabby Chavez led twice for 19 laps, but fell back to an eventual fourth-place finish, five laps back.

In the PC class, 8Star Motorsports' Sean Rayhall from Douglas County, Georgia was leading until the late incident. That left the race to be settled between the Starworks Motorsport, CORE autosport and PR1/Mathiasen teams. In the short dash, it was Renger van der Zande bringing it home for his Starworks teammates, Mirco Schultis and Alex Popow.

CORE autosport swept PC championships – Colin Braun and team owner Jon Bennett taking the TUDOR Championship season-long titles, with James Gue sharing the Tequila Patrón North American Endurance Cup. The team dominated that four-race competition, winning the three previous races and finishing second at Petit Le Mans.

The GT Le Mans class was chaotic. A crash in pit lane before halfway eliminated the No. 62 Risi Competizione Ferrari, as well as hampering the efforts on the championship contending No. 3 Corvette and the No. 911 Porsche.

The class came down to a four-car shootout toward the end, but the No. 4 Corvette, which was on an alternative fuel strategy, fell out of the battle. That left the final dash to defending race champion Wolf Henzler in the Team Falken Tire Porsche 911 RSR, the No. 912 Porsche North



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America Porsche 911 RSR with Michael Christensen and Marc Goossens in the 91 SRT Motorsports Dodge Viper GTS-R.

Henzler, a factory driver for Porsche, was able to hold off the challenges and bring the Porsche home, which he shared with Atlanta-resident Bryan Sellers and German Marco Holzer.

The one-two finish secured the TUDOR Championship GTLM manufacturer title for Porsche, while the driver championship went to Kuno Wittmer of SRT Motorsports.

The GT Daytona class saw the No. 48 Paul Miller Racing Audi R8 LMS team of Matthew Bell, Christopher Haase and Bryce Miller prevail by three seconds over the No. 58 Dempsey Racing Porsche 911 GT America of Madison Snow and Jan Heylen. It was the first victory for both Paul Miller Racing and Audi in the TUDOR Championship.

Dane Cameron brought the Turner Motorsport BMW home fourth in class, which was enough to bring him the TUDOR Championship drivers' title.

The GTD Patrón Endurance Cup team and drivers title went to AIM Autosport and drivers Bill Sweedler and Townsend Bell driving their Ferrari 458..

Billy Johnson and Ian James driving the Multimatic Motorsports Ford Mustang Boss 302R won the Continental Tire SportsCar Challenge season finale on Friday. This



was the first win for Multimatic and Ford this season. A second-place finish by John Edwards gave the season drivers championship to his Fall-Line Motorsports BMW M3 teammate Trent Hindman. The final margin of victory was 2.186 seconds.

Sebastain Landy scored his first series win on Thursday in Round 11 of the SCCA Pro racing Mazda MX-5 Cup presented by BF Goodrich Tires. Dean Copeland and John Dean rounded the second and third positions. Landy did not lead the most laps but he lead the most important – the last lap.

The 18th Petit Lemans is scheduled for September 30-October 3, 2015. Check out <http://www.roadatlanta.com/> or <http://www.imsa.com/> for additional information.