

The logo features a blue wavy line above the text "IMSA GT3 Cup Challenge" in a grey, sans-serif font.

IMSA GT3 Cup Challenge



Presented by



ROUSH, RODRIGUEZ POST MAZDA RACEWAY LAGUNA SECA WINS, SWARTZBAUGH WRAPS UP 997 CLASS CHAMPIONSHIP

MONTEREY, Calif. (October 22, 2006) – Kevin Roush won his third race of the season, and Nathan Swartzbaugh finished sixth to wrap up the 997 class championship of the 2006 IMSA GT3 Cup Challenge presented by Michelin. Roush completed 22 laps at Mazda Raceway Laguna Seca in his No. 12 Wheel Enhancement/GAS Motorsport Porsche 997 GT3 Cup entry and finished 1.692 seconds ahead of pole-sitter Bryce Miller.

After posting a victory at Road Atlanta at the end of September, Miller grabbed his second straight overall pole in the No. 48 Marquis Jet Porsche with a furious run late in Friday's qualifying session. Roush got around Miller on the opening lap but then lost the lead to Shawn Price in the No. 40 Centennial entry on Lap 2.

For the next 19 laps, Price and Roush ran 1-2, neither separated by more than two seconds. On the final lap, however, Roush and Price made contact going into the first turn. Price spun out as Roush continued for his first win since Road America and fifth in the two years of the series, the most for any driver. Miller finished second, followed by Dino Steiner, Price and Patrick Kelly.

Steiner narrowly missed overtaking Swartzbaugh for the 997 championship. The young Californian qualified fourth on the grid but was unable to climb any higher. For the season, Swartzbaugh recorded one race win, two runner-up finishes and two thirds in seven events. Only twice did he finish off the podium.

The class for Type 996 cars saw perhaps the biggest story of the weekend – Dino Loles failed to win his seventh race in seven starts as the shift lever on his No. 47 Farnbacher Loles machine broke on the race's out lap. That left a full field of anxious 996 drivers seeking their first victory of the year. In the end, Robert Rodriguez led all 22 laps and finished 15th overall. Ben McCracken finished second followed by Mark Webber (who posted the fastest race lap), and Michael Hoke – the top four finishing on the same race lap.

The race featured four caution periods for a total of 10 laps.