

## Nathan Swartzbaugh Takes GT3 Cup Title at Season Finale

*Salinas, Calif.* – Driving for the biggest title of his life at Mazda Raceway Laguna Seca, 21-year-old AASCO Motorsports/North-South Racing driver Nathan Swartzbaugh can now call himself a champion of the IMSA GT3 Cup presented by Michelin. He drove a cautious pace in the 45-minute finale and finished 6<sup>th</sup> to beat out series runner-up Dino Steiner.

“What a season, what a race! I tell you, I know I’m always supposed to be excited about getting in these race cars, but trying to go to sleep last night just sucked,” Swartzbaugh said. “I knew I had the best crew in the business, and the home track advantage, but you just never know what can happen.”

Campaigning in his sophomore season in the series, Nathan has been a quick fit in his No. 17 Porsche GT3 997. Prior to the season finale, the Southern California native had finished on the podium in five of the previous six races, including his first ever win at Mosport International Raceway. For his crew chief, Jerry “J.T.” Tatum, Nathan’s success this season has been no surprise. “The kid has such a natural ability, it’s unbelievable. Nathan is one of those rare finds who can do a couple of laps and *immediately* tell you what the car is doing, not just how he wants it to feel. The fact that he’s so personable and easy to get along with has really made me and all of the guys here feel like the championship is for the whole team, not just him.”

For Nathan, this year’s championship is just one more step in a long history of winning. At age 14, Nathan took his first title in the NASA Pro-Truck tour, and has never looked back. “I know I’m lucky to have gotten this far, but in all honesty, this simply couldn’t have been done without a long line of supporters. We had around 200 guests of *North South Machinery* come out this weekend, and it’s with help like this that I’m able to be here. I really need to thank everyone at: 3M, ANCA, Mitsubishi EDM Equipment, Omax, and Dunkel Brothers Machinery Moving for their extraordinary efforts to get me this far in my career.”

For Nathan’s family, his biggest supporters, this is just the beginning. “Nathan’s a lot like me, he’s never happy settling for what he’s got. The sky’s the limit from here, and he’s working hard to make the next step in to the highest levels of motorsport,” claimed a relieved Jim Swartzbaugh, a proud, and now relaxed, father. For Nathan’s mother, it’s now time to simply calm down, “I think this is the first time I’ve been able to take a breath all day. Races like today’s are so painful. As a mother you want to do everything you can to help, but there’s nothing I can do when he’s out there!”

With the 2006 championship wrapped up, Nathan’s focus immediately turns to 2007, with some major announcements set for the coming weeks. Be sure to check out [www.northsouthracing.com](http://www.northsouthracing.com) for the latest details.