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## **JACOBSEN CAPTURES FIRST OVERALL WIN IN THE IMSA LITES PRESENTED BY HANKOOK PERFORMANCE TIRES SERIES**

Braselton, GA. - October 4 – This weekend marks the 10th anniversary of the Petit Le Mans, and drivers in the IMSA Lites Presented by Hankook Performance Tires Championship put on quite a show for the fans. With a full field of 28 cars, 17 being in the premier L:1 Elan DP02 powered by Mazda class, fans were treated to exciting racing with the series' top level drivers. Kerry "Cougar" Jacobsen, in the #38 Inspire Motorsports/Hankook Tire USA entry, captured his first overall win of the series with a 8.857 second victory over his closest competitor.

This is only the second time that the IMSA Lites series has visited Road Atlanta, which was the site of the debut race in the spring of 2006. Adam Pecorrari won the first race and would go on to win the championship before moving up to compete in the American Le Mans series. Jacobsen has captured a class win and has had multiple podium finishes but was denied the overall win until today. The Deland, FL native considers this his home track and was fast in practice and qualified third on the grid.

"We are really glad to have this one in the bag," said Jacobsen. "The car was good but the restarts were bad. That was the story of the race. The car stayed really good underneath me and the Hankook tires were great. I just had to keep my head. I had my concerns every time the caution flag came out but we got a good restart after the final yellow flag. We were really glad to see the checkered flag." Jacobsen continued, "I have been coming to Petit since the start, and this is only my second year to compete. This is huge and it's the highlight of my career."

This was the first 2<sup>nd</sup> place finish for Charlie Shears, in the #21 Inspire Motorsports SPI Realty/West Trust Capital entry. Shears had competed in a Lites Three car at the first event last year before moving up to L:1. John Greene, in the #12 B-K Motorsports Jackyjones.com/Mazda entry, finished third in Lites One. Greene won the Lites Two class at this event last year. All three drivers regularly compete against each other in the Spec Racer class in the region.

Championship points leader Gerardo Bonilla was late to the grid as his team scrambled to change his engine after qualifying, and he finished 15<sup>th</sup> in class. Front runner Jay Cochran would also have bad luck as he would retire early after a gearbox mechanical failure.

Lites Two was a battle between series veterans with Robby Card, in the #45 PVM Racing Cleveland Cycle Works/Easy Auto West WR1000 entry, capturing the class win over Mark White. White, in the #02 Accumoto Motorsports/ThrottleThreads

entry, was on the pole but went wide in turn one. Card seized the opportunity and passed White, never looking back.

"When I saw Mark (White) go wide in turn one, I just thought I would stay steady and keep it clean and I got by," said Card. "It worked out really good until the last caution, and Mark was two cars behind me so I had to put the hammer down. It was a good race."

During the post race interview Card handed his first place trophy to PVM teammate Eric Vassian. Unfortunately, Vassian accidentally dropped the trophy on the ground, smashing it to pieces. Card was good natured about the broken trophy and called it a racing incident.

Scott Tucker in the #94 Accumoto Motorsports entry would bring home 3<sup>rd</sup> place in L:2 class. Tucker will pull double duty for the weekend and compete in the IMSA GT3 Porsche Cup Championship. This is the second time Tucker has competed in both series with the first being at the opening event at Sebring.

Lites Three was great for the fans to watch as Richard Spicer, in the #65 SpiceHagerman Hagerman RacEngineering/Summit Computer/Spicer Racing Engines FSCCA Sports Car entry, came from the back of the field to win the L:3 class. Spicer worked his way through the field and made the final pass with four minutes left in the race.

"It was exciting coming from the back. I can only blame myself for my poor qualifying effort. I didn't have my tire pressures correct so the car was junk," explained Spicer. "We lucked out and some of the L:2 cars held Robert (Mumm) up. I was fast through the twisties and he was faster on the straight so I tried to put some distance between us. I thought he was going to catch me on that last caution but we had some cars bottle us up. A car spun and held him up. It was a great race. The car is in one piece and we're ready to go tomorrow morning for the next race.

Last year's L:3 Champion Robert Mumm, in the #10 Mumm Brothers Racing Wilton-Jet Tools & Equipment FSCCA Sports Car entry, finished second. The young driver from Charlotte, NC Paul Schneider, in the #73 Inspire Motorsports/Performance MotorCars of Charlotte entry, had a great run and finished third. This is Schneider's best finish since his 2<sup>nd</sup> place at Sebring.

The next round of competition for IMSA Lites Presented by Hankook Performance Tires will be tomorrow Oct. 6<sup>th</sup> at 8:45 am at Road Atlanta as support for the American Le Mans Series.

For further information, contact Mike Simons at (706) 658-2120 or [msimons@imsaracing.net](mailto:msimons@imsaracing.net)

For Media information, contact Ray Ferreira at [ray@motorcine.com](mailto:ray@motorcine.com)