

Primetime Race Group makes their American Le Mans Series debut in the Motor City

Hollywood, FL – September 3, 2007 On Labor Day weekend in Detroit Michigan at the Detroit Sports Car Challenge on Belle Isle Park it was time for a new face in the ALMS paddock.

Team owner and lead driver, Joel Feinberg, along with his co driver, Chapman Ducote, showed up to the race as underdogs but came out with a top ten finish. As a privateer team based in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, Primetime Race Group entered their Dodge Viper Competition Coupe with the goal of developing the car for the 2008 season. While the car is somewhat substandard for the fierce competition of the GT2 class, Feinberg feels like there's room to improve.

With no testing or substantial development for ALMS, Primetime converted their SCCA SPEED World Challenge racecar into a more competitive ALMS spec car. With the guidance of team manager and crew chief, Brent O'Neill and car chief, Frank Parzych, who are no strangers to the game considering their combined sixty years of racing experience, the team was able to field a car that would be only seconds off the pace of the greater developed and better funded cars in the paddock.

The week started with unfortunate drama. The team only turned one lap in qualifying after a faulty fuel pickup line burst in the fuel cell leaving the car stranded in turn nine. The team would end up without a qualifying time and the Viper would start from the back of the pack.

When the green flag dropped it was Joel Feinberg in the drivers seat making a charge to the front, with lap traffic and the LMP cars flying by like bullets the rookie driver would maintain his composure and run a clean race. After forty-five minutes into the race the drama would get worse for Feinberg as the Viper spent the next fifty-two minutes in the garage changing out a broken left rear axle.

The Primetime crew was swift and efficient as they had no spare half shaft and would have to remove one from another SCCA spec car in their trailer. With an hour and fifteen minutes left in the race, Feinberg was back on track. At the two-hour mark co-driver, Chapman Ducote, would step in to bring it home.

While jumping into the middle of a battle between the factory Audi and Porsche teams along with the other GT cars, Ducote was alert and on the ball. Lap after lap, the Viper was closing the gap on the rest of the GT2 field moving up from eleventh place to the eight-place position. They ultimately ran out of time to catch the top five and take the checkered in eighth place in their first ALMS race.

When asked how the race went Feinberg was happy with the results considering the team was behind the eight ball coming into a tight street circuit like Detroit with no time in the car. "We learned a lot from this race and will be going back to the drawing board to try to make the car work even better. Getting out of the street race in one piece is a big positive for the car as well as the ability of the drivers, we are looking forward to getting to Atlanta for the Petit LeMans where I feel the car as it is will close the gap on the other cars. It's hard to maneuver a big car like the Viper though a street circuit with very little to no track out, which results in a lazy car through the corners. On an open track where the car has time to rebound, it will be much easier to maintain speed through the corners.

After this weeks experience we have decided to move forward with our commitment to the 2008 season and will continue to further develop the Viper and show up strong next year with at least a two car effort. The American LeMans series as well as IMSA is by far the best racing organization around and we are very excited and proud to be a part of it."