



Jim Tafel, owner (#71-GT2 Ferrari F430 GT) "We worked hard to get here. We put the right team together. My objective was to schedule and plan accordingly to race at Le Mans this year. We are very excited about having that opportunity. We ran one car here in order to help us focus, we had two objectives for this race: to get a win, and to make it out of here in one piece. Someone asked if this compared to the Kentucky Derby, I said, 'I'll tell you in six minutes.' This does rival the excitement of winning there. I can only imagine how my dad feels when he wins. Now I know. My job is to make payroll for 40 people and winning here will definitely make that job easier."

Marc Basseng (#87-GT2 Porsche 911 GT3 RSR) "I don't know what happened exactly. [During the first caution] I was on the pace-car mapping and I wanted to change to the race mapping. At that moment, the engine cut off. I called the pit and got advice to go to the service position for the fuel pumps and then the engine fired up, but the field had gone by. After that, the car ran well and we got place by place. At the end, we had luck, so we got our first podium. It's a good result for the team, we needed it. But it was a shame for Flying Lizard – I'm really sorry for them that they lost the race in the last five minutes."

Dirk Werner (#87-GT2 Porsche 911 GT3 RSR) "Good end for a bad beginning. I'm not 100 per cent satisfied because our car is much faster than the result showed in the end. With a little bit of luck, we could have been second. But again we showed that we are fast, we are competitive. Thanks to the team – they did a great job, a very fast pit stop, no problems. It gets better, so hopefully it will go on that way. I won't be at Long Beach, unfortunately, but I wish the guys all the best and I hope they get another podium for the team."

Gregory Loles, team owner, Farnbacher Loles Racing: "Obviously, we're a work in progress. You can't have only bad luck, so we got very lucky at the end. We don't want to have good luck against the Lizards, but that's what it was. We had the problem at the start, but Marc and Dirk brought it all the way back. That was great! It was a good result for the team."

St. Pete is now concluded. The next installment begins just shy of two weeks at the Long Beach Grand Prix.