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SMITH WINS PATRÓN GT3 CHALLENGE BY YOKOHAMA PLATINUM CUP, QUIROS II TAKES GOLD CUP

MONTEREY, CA May 23 – It was business as usual for Ross Smith in the second of two Patrón GT3 Challenge by Yokohama races at Mazda Raceway Laguna Seca today - another wire to wire finish, making Smith the winner of all four races this season in the Platinum Cup class.

“Four races in a row, it’s a great start for the Maxwell Paper team, to come out here and establish ourselves as contenders,” said Smith. “I have to go out there and compliment them by winning races, as hard as they work on our cars.

But winning, especially winning that much, can come with a price; race stewards are taking the 2010 Porsche 911 engine from his #5 Maxwell Paper Racing GT3 Cup Car and sending it to the Porsche factory for inspection. Question or compliment?

“It’s awesome that they’re taking it, I mean, it’s a spec series! It makes our guys have to work harder, and me work harder on the track. But it’s a very big compliment. I just hate that my guys have to work harder to take it apart, but let them take it, check it and send it right back.”

Finishing on top in the Gold Cup class, with his first Patrón GT3 Challenge by Yokohama win, was Amadeo Quiros II, driving the #14 AASCO Motorsports Porsche 911 GT3 Cup Car. Taking over his father’s seat for Thursday’s track test session, as his father moved into the #58 AASCO Motorsports Platinum Class entry vacated by his uncle, the young Quiros has proved himself to be a very fast learner.

“It was a great race – at the start, I had three Platinum Class cars to pass to get to the leading Gold Cup car (#24, Carlos Eduardo in the NGT Motorsports Porsche 911 GT3 Cup Car). I got past them, but it was hard. I just kept putting pressure on Eduardo and I was waiting for him to make a mistake, and he did. And I’m here and I’m winning!

“My Dad has really helped me. I had some time in the car, and each time, I think I can go faster. I’m racing because my uncle was supposed to race in this series this year, but he’s retired from racing. So I had the opportunity to race, and thanks to my dad, I was able to come here and race. It’s an incredible track. I love it. It’s a great Cup and I appreciate everyone’s help!”

The race recap from this weekend will be shown on SPEED TV on Sunday, June 20 at 1:00am ET (Saturday, June 19 at 10:00 PT). Check your local listings.

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