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SMITH COMES BACK TO THE FIELD IN PLATINUM CUP, EDUARDO STILL DOMINATES GOLD CUP CLASS

TOOELE, UTAH, JULY 6 – The battle for the championship of the Patrón GT3 Challenge by Yokohama continues in Rounds 7 & 8 at the Larry H. Miller Dealerships Utah Grand Prix at Miller Motorsports Park.

The championship point battle tightened considerably in New Jersey, with Ross Smith's dominance of the early part of the season sidetracked by first lap incidents in both races. In Round 5, Smith, driving the #5 Maxwell Paper Racing Porsche 911 GT3 Cup car in the Platinum Class, spun twice, but came back up through the field to finish third. Smith tangled with Marco Cirone (#88 6<sup>th</sup> Gear Racing) on the first lap of Round 6, rejoined the field in last place and finished sixth. Amadeo Quiros (#58 AASCO Motorsports/Purdymotor S.A.) won Round 5, with Darrell Carlisle (#92 Kelly-Moss Racing) taking the victory in Round 6. Carlisle's win on Sunday and second place finish in Saturday's Round 6 leaves him only four points behind Smith.

"We may have tightened up the race," said Carlisle, "but Ross is still clearly the guy to beat. It felt really good to get that first place - that was a big win for us. This is a tough series; there are some excellent drivers here. There's always a group of guys that tend to run out front, we're happy to be with them."

In the Gold Cup class, Carlos Eduardo (#24 NGT Motorsport) continued his march through the championship. With five victories this season, including two wins in New Jersey, Eduardo enjoys a 15 point lead over his teammate, the consistent Henrique Cisneros (with five Top Five finishes in six races).

Two promoter test sessions for the Porsche 911 GT3 Cup cars will be held on Thursday, July 8, with two more practice sessions on Friday. Qualifying for Round 7 will begin on Saturday, July 10 at 8:45 am. The green flag for the 45 minute race will drop at 4:15 pm, with Round 8 on Sunday at 11:00 am. For live timing and scoring, go to <http://www.livetiming.net/>.

The Patrón GT3 Challenge by Yokohama features semi-professional drivers racing head to head in one of the world's most successful race cars, the Porsche 911 GT3 Cup car. As a developmental series designed to prepare drivers and teams for professional careers in sports car racing, the multi-class structure of the series teaches drivers essential skills for an eventual career in the American Le Mans Series presented by Tequila Patrón.

The series is broken into two classes, with the Platinum Cup Class featuring the more powerful 2010 Porsche 911 GT3 Cup Car. The Gold Cup Class includes 2005 ½ - 2009 Porsche 911 GT3 Cup cars.

Miller Motorsports Park is a state-of-the-art road racing facility for automobiles, motorcycles and karts located just 35 minutes from downtown Salt Lake City in Tooele, Utah.

The Speed TV production of Rounds 7 and 8 of the Patrón GT3 Challenge by Yokohama is scheduled to air on Sunday, August 8<sup>th</sup> at 1:00am EDT (Rounds 5 and 6 will air on Sunday, July 18<sup>th</sup> at 1:00am EDT). The season continues August 6 and 7, with Rounds 9 and 10 at the Mid-Ohio Sports Car Challenge.

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