

Media Release



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Event: 2010 Mobil 1 Twelve Hours of Sebring, Florida, USA

JONES GETS SEASON OFF TO SOLID START

Sebring, FL, USA – Nick Jones kicked off his 2010 Patrón Porsche GT3 Challenge by Yokohama campaign this week with two solid finishes, 12th and ninth in class, at the 58th Annual Mobil 1 Twelve Hours of Sebring.

Losing track time during practice after suspected gearbox problems, the Californian-racer had to dig deep in qualifying with a competitive 37 Porsche 997 GT3 Cup cars all vying for grid position.

Despite the lack of seat time and being hindered by slower cars on his quickest lap, Jones lined up 19th in class for the first race. Competing against 24 Gold Cup runners, alongside the 13 Platinum Cup cars, Jones made a cautious start, allowing time to assess the competition under race conditions and avoid any early incidents. A couple of corners in and Jones began to progress through the field, picking off the competition until the race ended under safety car conditions, with Jones running 12th in class and setting his personal best time of the weekend to that point.

For Race 2, he made a slower start from 16th on the grid when he was held up on the inside line as the field bunched up ahead into Turn 1. Once again, the 29-year-old racer found his rhythm and began picking off the runners in front. Although his tyres were past their best towards the end, Jones was closing in on eighth position when the race finished under caution. He ended his weekend with a solid ninth in class for DragonSpeed. His times tumbled throughout the weekend with his quickest, 2:12.939, posted during Race 2.

“The team and I are really pleased with how I progressed over the week,” said Jones. “I came into it with less than two hours of seat time in the car and by the end I felt I had a really good hold on everything. The competition is really fierce but it’s great because it really challenged and pushed me. We’re now looking to pick up right where we left off at Laguna Seca in May. I know the track very well from when I raced in single-seaters, so that will be one less variable to have to contend with when we get there.”

The opening round of the 2010 Patrón GT3 Challenge by Yokohama can be viewed on SPEED TV at 12 midnight, Saturday 17 April 2010.

Round Two of the series takes place at the Monterey Sports Car Championship, Monterey, California on 21-23 May 2010.

Ends

Notes to Editors

About the Patrón Porsche GT3 Challenge by Yokohama

2010 marks the Patrón GT3 Challenge’s sixth season of supporting the American Le Mans Series presented by Patrón. The seven-event calendar includes classic tracks at Sebring and Laguna Seca, with a pair of 45-minute races each weekend.

Featuring Porsche’s 977 GT3 Cup, the 37-strong field is split into two classes: the Platinum Cup for the latest 997 GT3 model, and the Gold Cup for 2005-2009 models.

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The series offers a platform for aspiring young racers to develop their talent alongside accomplished amateur racers.

For further information on the series, please visit www.imsachallenge.com

Patrón Porsche GT3 Challenge by Yokohama 2010 Schedule

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION
MARCH 18-19	12 Hours of Sebring	Sebring, Florida
MAY 21-23	Monterey Sports Car Championship	Monterey, California
JUNE 26-27	New Jersey Grand Prix	Millville, New Jersey
JULY 9-11	Utah Grand Prix	Tooele, Utah
AUGUST 6-7	Acura Sports Car Challenge	Lexington, Ohio
AUGUST 20-22	Gererac 500	Elkhart Lake, Wisconsin
SEPTEMBER 30-31	Petit Le Mans	Braselton, Georgia

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