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Contact: Diane Swintal
dswintal31@yahoo.com

www.prototypelites.com



TWO EXCITING RACES AT MAZDA RACEWAY LAGUNA SECA

Round Three (Race One – Saturday)

MONTEREY, CA May 22 – The story of race one in the Cooper Tires Prototype Lites Championship at Mazda Raceway Laguna Seca was told at the start and on lap three, where a bobble by the second place car and electrical issues for the polesitter spelled the first victory for Australian James Kovacic.

Driving the #37 Intersport Racing Élan DP02, Kovacic took advantage of a bobble at the start by Eurosport Racing's Matt Downs to make the pass for second and took the lead when polesitter Anthony Nicolosi, in car #8 for Performance Tech, fell by the wayside during a lap three yellow.

"It was something electrical," said Nicolosi. "All of the sudden, coming out of the second turn during the yellow, the car started bogging. I tried to reset, but it didn't work. It's very frustrating – I'm only allowed two races to drop and I've already given up two, so I have to be perfect for the rest of the year. It's going to be tough."

Round Four (Race Two – Sunday)

MONTEREY, CA May 22/23 – Following Saturday's 30 minute race, the drivers and teams of the Cooper Tires Prototype Lites Championship were presented with an entirely different proposition for Sunday's race at the Mazda Raceway Laguna Seca – a 75-minute "enduro" that required a five minute pit stop during a 45-minute window.

Johnny Meriggi, starting his #11 Performance Tech Élan DP02 in seventh position, found himself in the right place at the right time, with a well timed pit stop that not only saved his race – but earned him the L1 race win.

"I had a spin at the exit of five, a real light tap (from the #79 of Lucas Downs). The car started acting funny, and it was about time for my pit stop, so I came in and we discovered the right rear was going down. We got lucky on the pit stop, but the car was working well and I knew I had a cushion – the team just told me to dial it down and keep it on the track."

Also the beneficiary of a trip to the pit lane just before a yellow flag was John Weisberg, driving the #75 BERG Racing West WR1000 in Lites 2.

"The crew did a fantastic job on the pit stop – we got lucky with the yellow. Being top three overall in an L2 car, after qualifying 17th, that's really amazing, it's a testament to the West race car, that it can still be competitive."

Rounds five and six of the Cooper Tires Prototype Lites Championship will take place on June 26 and 27 at New Jersey Motorsports Park.

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