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Dick Barbour Racing Wins LMP675 Victory At Jarama

Third Overall And Able To Split Dominant Audi Contingent

Madrid, Spain. (May 20, 2001) – Today at the Circuito del Jarama, Dider de Radiguès and teammate Eric van de Poele won the LMP 675 category beating the Rook-Knighthawk Lola by a full ten laps. In a result that surprised many here however, they powered their Dick Barbour Racing Reynard 01Q Judd V-8 entry to third overall against a strong field of factory supported teams.

De Radiguès and van de Poele kept their car in position and took advantage of superior fuel economy, so that when the Gulf Audi R8 of Guy Smith and Stefan Johansson suffered brake problems, van de Poele moved into third and stayed there to the end, splitting the dominant Audi contingent in the overall results.

Their sister car piloted by Venezuela's Milka Duno and Canada's John Graham retired after 5 laps with an electrical fire in the cockpit. Graham, who was not injured at all, was at the wheel and was forced to park the car on circuit where corner workers extinguished the flames.

At the winner's press conference, de Radiguès commented, "After one year, it's nice to be back on the podium. I was hoping to take one of the Panoz cars in a real fight but they were just unlucky and we took some profit from their misfortune. Still, sometimes you just need to be lucky. Our car is brand new. This is only our second race with this car after all. But, our car is improving at every race, so we hope this won't be the last time we visit the podium overall."

De Radiguès won the category pole position and started the car from sixth place on the grid. He set the fastest race lap record for the event with a tour of 1 minute, 27.791 on lap 2 of the 2 hour, 45 minute race. He took over fourth place after just 19 laps and handed the car over to teammate van de Poele who captured third when misfortune struck the Johansson Audi just before the two-hour mark.

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