

Beat: Automobiles

LIVE RACING & VICTORY - 24H DU MANS

LE MAN, 18-19 June 2016

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USPA NEWS - The Automobile Club de l'Ouest has attracted as large a crowd as last year despite last-minute changes to logistics due to the inclement weather (82.3mm of rain in ten days - a record in Le Mans for this time of year)...

The Automobile Club de l'Ouest has attracted as large a crowd as last year despite last-minute changes to logistics due to the inclement weather (82.3mm of rain in ten days - a record in Le Mans for this time of year). A total of 263,500 spectators came to watch the 24 Hours of Le Mans, third round in the FIA World Endurance Championship.

- Number of victories for Porsche at the 24 Hours of Le Mans : 18.
- Sum of participations at Le Mans by the crew of the #2: Romain Dumas, Neel Jani and Marc Lieb : 32.
- Number of years since Porsche's first win : 46.
- Number of wins for tyre manufacturer Michelin : 25.
- Number of pit stops that the winners made, including 8 for refuelling rather than tyre changes : 30.
- Distance covered by the #2 Porsche in this year's race. Romain Dumas did not beat the record he set with his team in 2010 : 5,274 kilometres.
- Number of Le Mans victories that Dumas' teammates have to their name. They've opened the score! This is the Frenchman's second win : 1.

2016 RESULTS :

- Romain Dumas (France), Neel Jani (Switzerland), Marc Lieb (Germany)
- Porsche Team
- Porsche 919 Hybrid (9R9 MY15)
- Laps : 384
- Class : LMP1
- Position : 1st
- Class Position : 1st

The #2 Porsche 919 Hybrid crew composed of Romain Dumas, Neel Jani and Marc Lieb has won the 24 Hours of Le Mans. This is a record eighteenth win for the German manufacturer.

Neel Jani (at the wheel for the finish) said : 'I was told over the radio that the Toyota had stopped and that I was in with a chance of catching it if I stepped up the pace. As I went past, I saw it wasn't moving. The last lap was surreal. I felt numb because I couldn't believe it. When was the last time there was a breakdown in the last lap? I had to do a last minute stop at the end of the race with a tyre problem. We didn't know whether it was a puncture or not and we chose to play it safe because we didn't think we could win. From the start we knew the Toyota was going to stop every 14 laps but we couldn't do the same...'

Neel Jani added : 'Our only hope was to make up the lost time on track. We didn't manage it during the day but at night we were faster. I kept the pressure on right to the end, almost the same as in the qualifiers, because you never know.'

Marc Lieb said : 'We knew that Toyota could last 14 laps between stops and that we've never been able to match that. It was a difficult

race because we had to keep pressing at all times. It's sad because Toyota should have won. I've been in their shoes before at the 24 Hours of Nürburgring....'

Marc Lieb added : 'Our car broke a minute from the finish line. We wanted to beat them on track. It was the only way. We were faster during the night but the slow zones didn't help. I only slept for a few minutes. I'm exhausted.'

Romain Dumas (winner for the second time) said : 'The regulations were changed to slow down the cars and it worked because last year we were on 3:17 and this year we couldn't better 3:21. The whole LM P1 class was slower. We didn't beat the distance record [set in 2010, ed.] because of the safety car at the start and the many slow zones.'

Romain Dumas added : 'But, who cares whether you do 300 or 315 laps? The main thing is to win. It hasn't sunk in yet and we feel sorry for Toyota. But after a while only the result will count. We were offered a victory; we weren't going to say no.'

Source : 24H Le Mans. 18-19 June 2016

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