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**BMW Team RLL back on top with victory and double-podium finish at Tiramack.com Grand Prix at Michelin Raceway Road Atlanta.**

**Woodcliff Lake, N.J. – Sept. 5, 2020 . . .** For a third consecutive IMSA WeatherTech SportsCar Championship race weekend, BMW Team RLL performed at a podium level. The No. 25 MOTUL BMW M8 GTE of Connor De Phillippi and Bruno Spengler took top honors at the Tiramack.com Grand Prix, held at Michelin Raceway Road Atlanta. The No. 24 MOTUL BMW M8 GTE of John Edwards and Jesse Krohn finished third.

In capturing the team's 22<sup>nd</sup> victory and second GTLM class win of the 2020 season, De Phillippi and Spengler completed 254 laps in the six-hour contest, finishing 4.383 seconds ahead of the No. 4 Corvette C8.R. John Edwards and Jesse Krohn finished a strong third, only 5.297 seconds behind their teammates. Adding to their victory at the Rolex 24 At Daytona, this result keeps Edwards and Krohn in the lead of the Michelin Endurance Cup that is made up by the four endurance races of the season.

The key to the victory presented itself with just under an hour to the checkered flag. On the final round of pit stops, Spengler pitted from second, one lap before the leading Porsche, allowing De Phillippi, on one lap warmer Michelin tires, to sweep into the lead on the next lap following the Porsche's stop. The race ended with a two-lap shoot-out after a prototype crash in turn four with 10-minutes to go brought out a yellow flag.

The double-podium finish marks the third consecutive podium finish (P3 – Road America, P2 – VIR and P1-P3 Road Atlanta) in the last three 2020 IMSA WeatherTech SportsCar Championship races. BMW Team RLL has now amassed a total of 82 podium finishes since beginning its BMW racing program in 2009. Unofficially, De Phillippi and Spengler now stand third in GTLM driver points. Edwards and Krohn Stand fifth. BMW moves to within eight points of Chevrolet in manufacturer points.

Bill Auberlen, Robby Foley and Dillon Machavern suffered a mechanical issue with the No. 96 Turner Motorsport BMW M6 GT3 on lap 50 during Machavern's first stint. The car spent 43 laps in the garage for repairs before returning to the race with some three-and-one-half-hours remaining in the contest. The trio ultimately finished 11th.

The next round of the 2020 IMSA WeatherTech SportsCar Championship, the Acura Sports Car Challenge at Mid-Ohio, will take place on Sunday, September 27. The two-hour-and-40-minute race will take the green flag at 2:10 p.m. ET. Follow us on Twitter @BMWUSARacing for news from the pit box and get live scoring and in-car camera views at IMSA.com.

**Connor De Phillippi, driver No. 25 BMW M8 GTE (P1):** "Today everyone executed perfectly. The race was fast-paced and made for an exciting battle from flag-to-flag. Thanks to the team and Bruno for his fantastic performance."

**Bruno Spengler, driver No. 25 BMW M8 GTE (P1):** "An awesome day today! I loved racing Michelin Raceway Road Atlanta. It's time to celebrate my first victory with BMW Team RLL!"

**John Edwards, Driver No. 24 BMW M8 GTE (P3):** "What a great day for BMW Team RLL! Congratulations to Connor and Bruno and the 25 car guys. We'll be looking for a 1-2 here when we return in six weeks for Petit Le Mans."



**Jesse Krohn, driver No. 24 BMW M8 GTE (P3):** “A great day for the team. I think we maximized our chances in the 24 car and today was great preparation for Petit Le Mans.”

## **BMW Group In America**

BMW of North America, LLC has been present in the United States since 1975. Rolls-Royce Motor Cars NA, LLC began distributing vehicles in 2003. The BMW Group in the United States has grown to include marketing, sales, and financial service organizations for the BMW brand of motor vehicles, including motorcycles, the MINI brand, and Rolls-Royce Motor Cars; Designworks, a strategic design consultancy based in California; technology offices in Silicon Valley and Chicago, and various other operations throughout the country. BMW Manufacturing Co., LLC in South Carolina is the BMW Group global center of competence for BMW X models and manufactures the X3, X4, X5, X6 and X7 Sports Activity Vehicles. The BMW Group sales organization is represented in the U.S. through networks of 349 BMW passenger car and BMW Sports Activity Vehicle centers, 144 BMW motorcycle retailers, 117 MINI passenger car dealers, and 38 Rolls-Royce Motor Car dealers. BMW (US) Holding Corp., the BMW Group’s sales headquarters for North America, is located in Woodcliff Lake, New Jersey.

## **Rahal Letterman Lanigan Racing**

BMW’s partner, Rahal Letterman Lanigan Racing, based in Hilliard, Ohio and co-owned by three-time IndyCar Champion and 1986 Indianapolis 500 winner Bobby Rahal, former CBS Late Show host David Letterman and Mi-Jack co-owner Mike Lanigan, has been competing for almost three decades. Prior to the start of their 29<sup>th</sup> season of competition in 2020, the team had compiled 51 victories, 62 poles, 189 podium finishes, three series championships (1992, 2010, 2011) and claimed an Indianapolis 500 victory (Buddy Rice in 2004). In 2009 the team joined BMW of North America to campaign the new BMW

M3 in the American Le Mans Series. The following year the team won both the Manufacturer and Team Championships in the GT category and swept all three GT titles - Manufacturer, Team and Driver – in 2011. In 2012, the team finished second in the Team Championship and third in the Manufacturer Championship and in 2013, the team finished second in the Driver, Team and Manufacturer Championship. Since 2014, BMW Team RLL has competed in the GTLM class of the IMSA WeatherTech SportsCar



Championship with a two-car program and has brought their total to 21 wins – including the 2019 and 2020 Rolex 24 At Daytona endurance races, 28 poles and 79 podium finishes as well as a second place finish in the Manufacturer, Team and Driver championships in 2015 and 2017.

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**Journalist note:** Information about BMW Group and its products in the USA is available to journalists on-line at [www.bmwgroupusanews.com](http://www.bmwgroupusanews.com) and [www.press.bmwna.com](http://www.press.bmwna.com).

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