

## Bits & Pieces From the Rolex 24 – Sunday



### Ganassi May Have A Tough Finish

*Report courtesy of Grand-Am*

After 18 hours of racing in the 50th Anniversary Rolex 24 At Daytona, the stage was set for a final, six-hour battle between the No. 60 LiveOn.com Ford/Riley from Michael Shank Racing and the No. 01 TELMEX/Target BMW/Riley from Chip Ganassi Racing with Felix Sabates for overall honors.



Driving the No. 60, Justin Wilson held a 36.586-second lead over Joey Hand in the No. 01 with 18 hours and 569 laps in the books. Wilson took the top spot from Ryan Dalziel in the No. 8 Starworks Motorsport Ford/Riley – which dominated the overnight hours with Dalziel and Allan McNish sharing the driving duties – on Lap 491.

Wilson and co-drivers AJ Allmendinger, Ozz Negri and John Pew are looking for their first Rolex 24 At Daytona victory, and they took the lead in the inaugural North American Endurance Championship presented by VISITFLORIDA.com with 11 points. They are one point ahead of second-place runners and defending Rolex 24 champions Hand, Graham Rahal, Memo Rojas and Scott Pruett, a four-time overall winner.

McNish held down third place in the No. 8 DP but fell one lap behind the leader during the 18th hour when he was forced to pit for rear bodywork repairs. McNish, Alex Popow, Lucas Luhr, Enzo Potolicchio and 2009 Rolex 24 winner Dalziel also have 10 points in the North American Endurance Championship, trailing the No. 60 co-drivers by one.

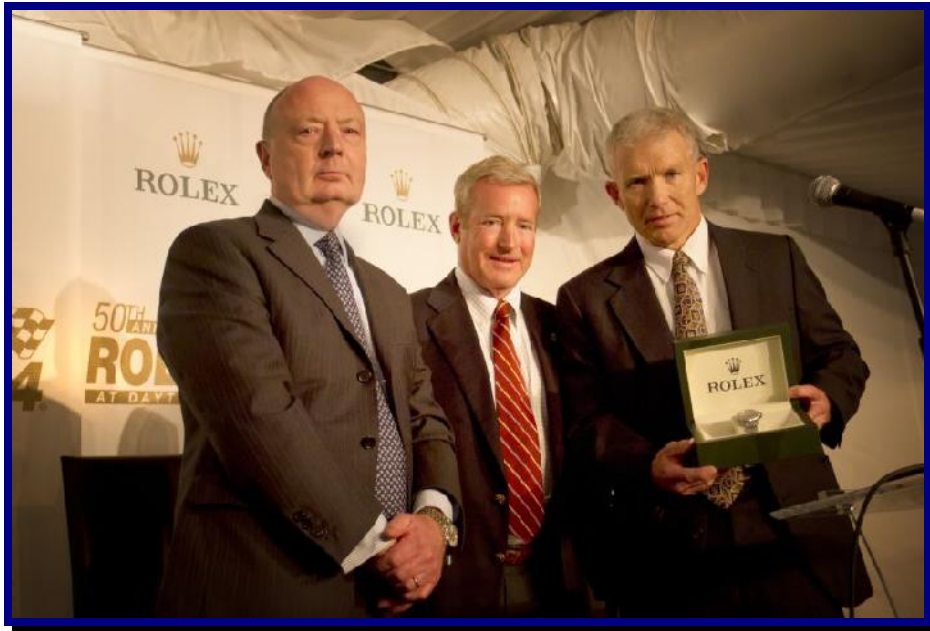
Points are awarded on a 5-4-3-2 basis at six-hour increments in the Rolex 24. The series continues in the Sahlen's Six Hours of The Glen on July 1, and concludes with the Super Weekend at the Brickyard on July 27 at Indianapolis Motor Speedway.

Driving the famed No. 59 Brumos Racing Porsche GT3, Andrew Davis held a one-lap GT lead over Spencer Pumpelly in the No. 67 Sargent & Lundy Porsche GT3 from TRG. Davis and his 2011 Rolex Series GT co-champion Leh Keen are looking for their first Rolex 24 class victory with co-drivers Marc Lieb and five-time overall Rolex 24 winner Hurley Haywood.

Pumpelly and co-drivers Steven Bertheau and Wolf Henzler are defending GT class winners in the Rolex 24. That trio is looking to give 2012 co-drivers Marc Goossens and Jeroen Bleekemolen their first Rolex 24 victories with a repeat triumph of their own. The No. 44 Magnus Racing Porsche GT3 of Richard Lietz, John Potter, Andy Lally, and Rene Rast was in third after 18 hours, one lap behind the leaders but still well within striking distance.

With 12 points, the No. 59 teammates held a one-point lead in the North American Endurance Championship presented by VISITFLORIDA.com GT standings at the three-quarter mark over the No. 44 teammates. The No. 67 Porsche quintet was tied for third with No. 57 Stevenson Auto Group Chevrolet Camaro GT.R co-drivers John Edwards, Robin Liddell and Ronnie Bremer. Both the No. 67 and No. 57 teams have nine points.





*(from left: Stewart Wicht, CEO of Rolex Watch U.S.A., Hurley Haywood, and Joe Sahlen, Winner of the 2011 Rolex Bob Snodgrass Award)*

## **Bob Snodgrass Award to Joe Sahlen (Team Sahlen Mazda's No. 42 & 43)**

**2011 Rolex Bob Snodgrass Award of Excellence**

*Courtesy of Judy Stropus*

Joe Sahlen of Team Sahlen Racing (Buffalo, N.Y.) is the recipient of the 2011 Rolex Bob Snodgrass Award of Excellence, presented by Gorsline Company. The announcement was made during the traditional prelude to the Rolex 24 At Daytona – the Grand Marshal Dinner - which was held inside the Rolex 50 Years of Champions exhibit and attended by over 300 guests on Friday, January 27, 2012. From a short list of four highly-successful team owners competing in the 2011 Grand-Am Rolex Sports Car Series, a panel of motorsports professionals selected Sahlen as the award recipient and in commemoration he was presented with a specially-engraved Rolex Stainless Steel and Platinum Yacht-Master timepiece.

“Bob Snodgrass was such a special person. I think everybody in this room was touched by Bob’s passion for this sport, and his love of cars and all the things that were associated with this sport that we all love,” said Hurley Haywood, vice president of Brumos Porsche and a five-time winner of the Rolex 24 At Daytona. “The members of the panel wanted to make sure they named somebody who exemplified the same principles that Bob represented, which include his passion for motorsports, and his love for cars. They wanted to make sure they found the person who really stood out in the group and embodied what Bob was all about. Joe Sahlen is that person. He’s a team owner who stayed in the background working hard, while his team succeeded.”

Team Sahlen campaigned its No. 42 and No. 43 Mazdas for all 12 of the 2011 GRAND-AM Rolex Sports Car Series races in the GT class, and ran an additional entry in all but four events. The No. 42 finished eighth overall in the 2011 GT class standings after placing second at both Road America and the New Jersey Motorsports Park after John Edwards joined Wayne Nonnamaker behind the wheel. The team’s season highlights included Nonnamaker and Edwards earning pole positions, respectively, at Road America and New Jersey Motorsports Park. Sahlen himself drove the No. 49 in four races with his best result a 12th at Homestead Miami Speedway. Sahlen



Packing Company, Inc. has been the title sponsor of the June GRAND-AM race at Watkins Glen since 2003.

"It's a tremendous, tremendous honor and I'm really very flattered to receive this award," said Sahlen in accepting his award. "Thank you to Rolex, and all our sponsors, to be in the company we're in this evening."

This is the second annual presentation of the Rolex Bob Snodgrass Award of Excellence, created to recognize the team owner or team manager who has demonstrated the qualities of integrity, passion for the sport and the love of cars for which Bob Snodgrass was known during his life and career. In 2010 Bob Stallings, owner of GAINSCO /Bob Stallings Racing, was the first recipient of the award which is supported by Gorsline Company, the premier insurer of high-risk professionals.

About Bob Snodgrass - Snodgrass, who passed away in 2007 at the age of 64, was president of Brumos Racing, and president and CEO of the Brumos auto dealerships in Jacksonville, Fla., where he lived for 35 years. As a team owner he had three Rolex 24 At Daytona wins (Brumos Racing has eight) and a total of 10 wins at Daytona. He was a driving force behind the formation of the Grand American Road Racing Association and the Daytona Prototype class. Born in Elmira, N.Y., he saw his first race at Watkins Glen, N.Y., and was hooked. Famous for his humor and wit and an accomplished vintage-car racer, Snodgrass (and Peter Gregg, who owned Brumos Porsche from 1965 until his death in 1980) was instrumental in Brumos' entry into motorsports.

## Assorted Quotes

*"When that Florida sunshine pops up over the horizon here that gives y'ou a real lift, you can start thinking about the final home stretch."* - Charles Espenlaub – No 41 Mazda

*"We don't have any questions about the endurance of the Porsche 911 GT3 Cup race car, so we have to focus on our pit stop strategy and fuel planning."* – TRG Team Owner Kevin Buckler

*"This is a very deep field. Look who's in the field. Look at the size of the field. I think it's the largest GT field we've had in quite some time. The pace that's being run right now is pretty much like qualifying, but everybody is really taking care of each other out there. I think they're giving each other a lot of room. It's great to be here. It's great to see who's in the field."* – Patrick Dempsey – No. 40 Mazda

## Race Standings After 20 Hours

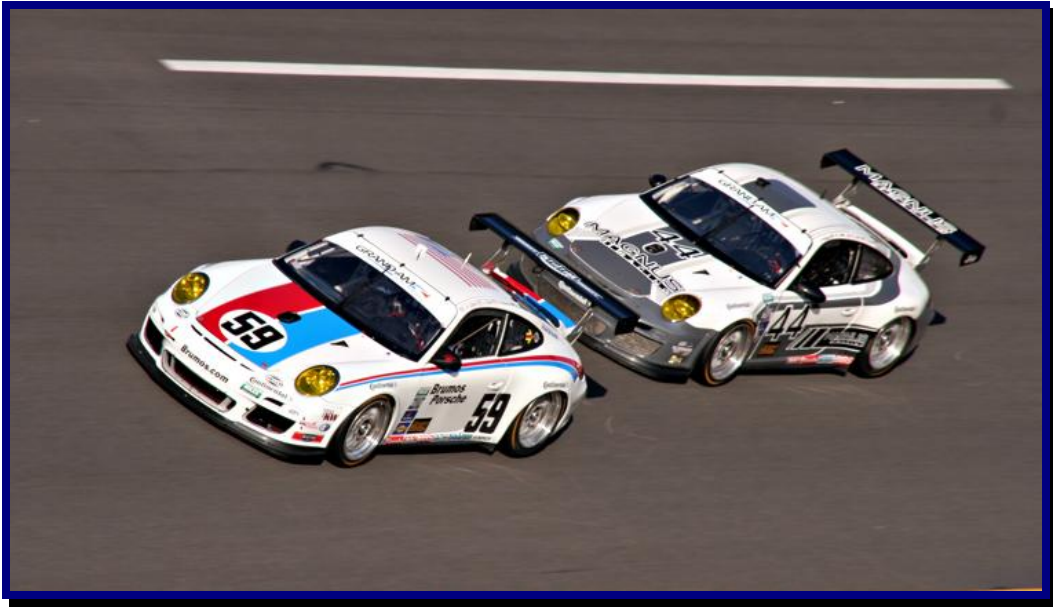
### Daytona Prototype (DP):

1. Scott Pruett – No. 01 BMW/Riley
2. Ozz Negri Jr. – No. 60 Ford/Riley
3. Ryan Dalziel – No. 8 Ford/Riley

### Grand Touring (GT) Top 3:

1. Leh Keen, No. 59 Porsche
2. Marc Goossens – No. 67 Porsche
3. Rene Rast – No. 44 Porsche





Photos of on track action at the Rolex 24 are posted now on  
[www.ashautophotos.com](http://www.ashautophotos.com)



Photos of the Rolex 24 Heritage Cars (past winners) are posted now on  
[www.ashautophotos.com](http://www.ashautophotos.com)





Photos from the BMW Performance 200 Continental Tire Sports Car Challenge are posted now on [www.ashautophotos.com](http://www.ashautophotos.com)