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**The Red Dragon Survives First Lap Melee to Salvage Sixth Place at Laguna Seca  
Round 9 of the 2018 IMSA WeatherTech SportsCar Championship  
America's Tire 250  
WeatherTech Raceway Laguna Seca  
No. 99 GAINSCO Auto Insurance®/ORECA/Gibson  
Stephen Simpson/Misha Goikhberg/Chris Miller**

GAINSCO Auto Insurance hosted 60 guests this weekend at WeatherTech Raceway Laguna Seca in Monterey, California for the penultimate round of the 2018 IMSA SportsCar Championship. The guests were independent insurance agents who won the trip based on a sales contest, many of them first-timers to the race track. They experienced a show they will not soon forget. As the field came around turn 11 and onto the front straight to take the green flag, a massive pile-up occurred right in-front of the GAINSCO suite.

The jury is still out as to who caused the accident, or exactly how the accident started, but at some point, a car in the first three rows slowed sharply before accelerating for the green, causing an accordion effect within the field, resulting in the multi-car chaos. The Laguna Seca racetrack offers very few passing opportunities, so the start and re-starts are extremely important, giving the drivers a chance to get a good run, and make a position or more at the fall of the green flag. Misha Goikhberg and the Red Dragon™ were set for this strategy, coming out of turn eleven in 11th position and on to the front straight with a good run to pass at least one and possibly two cars for position. Suddenly the cars in front slowed, creating an accordion or rubber band effect. Misha pulled to the left and clipped the No. 5 Mustang Sampling car, sending it into a spin. The Porsche 911 driven by Nick Tandy slammed into the No. 5 car, leaving both cars destroyed. The No. 66 Ford GT of Chip Ganassi Racing was also involved, clipping debris or another car to avoid the accident. It was momentarily airborne and rested against the pit lane wall just before the starter stand. The Red Dragon suffered significant damage to the right front side of the nose, but Misha felt he could race with the car in that condition if necessary. Massive amounts of debris were strewn across the track, resulting in a lengthy yellow flag period, before the race ever really started!

Once the track was back to racing condition, the field lined up and Misha had a great re-start. He passed the No. 54 and also the 22 car for position with the GAINSCO agents on their feet cheering him on from their view at the start of the front straight. The prototypes passed successfully, but as the GTLM cars made the turn from 11 to the front straight, another major incident occurred involving a BMW, an Acura and a Lexus, once again right in front the GAINSCO suite! While the incident ended the day early for two of the GTLM cars, it was a “lucky yellow” for the GAINSCO crew, giving them the opportunity to change the damaged front nose of the Red Dragon under a slow, caution period. Misha pitted from 10th position while his pit crew rapidly pulled off the damaged body work and replaced it with a shiny new red nose.

Fellow competitors pitted toward the end of the caution period, giving The Red Dragon three additional positions. Misha took the green flag for the third time, from seventh position. The rest of his stint remained trouble-free and he handed over The Red Dragon to his teammate, Stephen Simpson, just over halfway through the two hour and 40-minute race.

Known as “The Closer” for his ability to finish strong, Simpson drove two trouble-free stints. The race settled in and tire preservation became the focus. Simpson managed to take care of the rubber but also pick up a few positions through passing and attrition as one of the Penske Acura’s retired late in the race.

Misha Goikhberg on the start: “It was a crazy start. I saw everyone go and I was in line to get a great run on the car in front of me. Suddenly the cars in front checked up, and the No. 5 car swerved into my lane and I had nowhere to go. Unfortunately, I clipped him with my right front and spun him out and ended his race. We had a little bit of damage and thankfully another yellow came out soon after and we were able to fix it with a new nose. It was tough out there – a bit of a dog fight – and I am thankful we were able to salvage a sixth-place finish. I am also grateful for all of the GAINSCO support this weekend.”

Stephen Simpson on Laguna Seca: “It was definitely an action-packed race, certainly at the start anyway. We were lucky to get that second yellow, which allowed us to repair the car under caution. The JDC-Miller MotorSports crew did a very good job getting the Dragon to breathe again with that new nose. We were concerned about tire degradation going into this race and, my first stint I was looking after the tires, and we had a bit more pace than our competitors toward the end of the first stint. The second stint was a bit more lonely! I was sort of competing against myself really, and I was watching the lap times at every corner. Nevertheless, the Red Dragon finished sixth today, not where we wanted to be, but much better than many of the front runners. I was very happy with the progress we made on the car this weekend. This has never been our best track; in fact, it is a tough track to set up for. We did a lot of work in the practice and warm-up sessions to fine-tune the car and I am pleased with that. We had a good race car today and we will be able to apply some of that to Road Atlanta. I am really proud of the focus and effort of the JDC-Miller MotorSports team and we will turn our focus to the finale at Road Atlanta and finish the year off strong.”

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About GAINSCO/Bob Stallings Racing™: Committed to excellence in road racing since its formation in 2001, GAINSCO/Bob Stallings Racing's legacy includes two Sports Car Championships, 16 victories and 31 pole positions in the Rolex Sports Car Series. Its legacy of all-star drivers includes Bob Stallings, two-time Daytona Prototype Champions Alex Gurney and Jon Fogarty, seven-time NASCAR Sprint Cup Champion Jimmie Johnson, two-time IndyCar Champion Jimmy Vasser, GT Champion Darren Law, C.A.R.T. Champion Cristiano da Matta and celebrated American drivers Memo Gidley and Rocky Moran Jr. The team ceased operations after the 2017 season, opening the door to partner with JDC-Miller Motorsports in the 2018 IMSA WeatherTech SportsCar Championship. For more information, visit [www.gainscoracing.com](http://www.gainscoracing.com).

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Additional information on JDC MotorSports can be obtained from the team's website @ [www.jdcmotorsports.com](http://www.jdcmotorsports.com) For direct contact, please contact John Church @ 612-963-3352 or [jchurch@jdcmotorsports.com](mailto:jchurch@jdcmotorsports.com)

### **### About JDC MotorSports / JDC-Miller MotorSports:**

Involved in formula car racing since its inception in 1994, JDC MotorSports originally founded by Minnesota natives John Church and Gerry Kraut, established itself as one of the leading junior open-wheel teams in North America before also becoming involved in IMSA SportsCar racing.

Kraut a Minnesota investment banker also competed with the team in numerous JDC open wheel and IMSA SportsCar programs and still races as a driver/owner on regular bases in the team's LMP 3 prototype program. He also was part of the team's first driver lineup during the 2014 12 Hours of Sebring, after the team made the move into the now called IMSA WeatherTech SportsCar Championship under the entry JDC-Miller MotorSports.

### **Early success**

Initially making its mark in the F2000 class of club racing competition, JDC MotorSports was soon a team worth watching in the pro ranks. Expanding into the Pro Mazda Championship in 2005, the Minnesota-based team remained focused on not only challenging for top honors, but also helping develop young drivers. Over the years, JDC MotorSports has won numerous races and championships.

JDC captured both the driver and team titles in the 2007 Star Mazda Championship, with Rookie of the Year Dane Cameron scoring a series-high three wins. The Minnesota-based team followed that up with a second Star Mazda Championship title with Rookie of the Year Adam Christodoulou, and the F2000 Championship Series title with Chris Miller in 2009.

JDC continued its winning ways one year later, earning the Rookie of the Year award in the Star Mazda Championship with Connor De Phillippi, and scoring a non-points win in the USF2000 National Championship with Misha Goikhberg.

The junior formula car standout secured its third Star Mazda Championship title in 2011 with Tristan Vautier, in addition to scoring a win in the USF2000 National Championship with Luke Ellery, as well as making its Prototype Lites Championship debut, earning five podium finishes.

In 2014 JDC MotorSports captured the Cooper Tires Prototype Lites driver and team champion with drivers Misha Goikhberg (2014 overall driver champion), Matt McMurry and JDC MotorSport owner and partner Gerry Kraut.

2014 was also the first year JDC MotorSports entered under JDC-Miller MotorSports with new program partner John Miller a program in the TUDOR United SportsCar Championship Prototype Challenge class, finishing 4th at its maiden race the 12 hours of Sebring and scored its first podium finishing 3rd at Road America.

### **Re-writing IMSA history**

JDC Motorsports added to the tally in 2015 with another team and driver championship in the Cooper Tires Prototype Lites Powered by Mazda Championship. But there was more to celebrate along the way than the championship. In the 2015 Prototype Lites season, JDC Motorsports won every race and pole position. They won 32 out of 33 IMSA prototype Lites races dating back to August 2014, which marked one of the more remarkable streaks in North American sports car racing.

In their second season competing in the TUDOR United SportsCar Championship Prototype Challenge fulltime driver Misha Goikhberg finished 4<sup>th</sup> overall in 2015 prototype challenge class driver championship including three podiums and the team's first pole position at LimeRock Park.

In the 2016 season JDC-Miller MotorSports accomplished its biggest success so far winning the legendary Rolex 24 Hours of Daytona and later the Long Beach Grand Prix. Misha Goikhberg and regular full season teammate Stephen Simpson finished 3rd in the overall IMSA WeatherTech SportsCar Championship Prototype Challenge class driver championship. The team also finished 3<sup>rd</sup> in 2016 Tequila Patron North American endurance cup driver championship and 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Tequila Patron North American endurance cup team championship.

Additional to the success in the 2016 IMSA WeatherTech SportsCar Championship, JDC secured the overall IMSA Prototype Lites driver championship with Clark Toppe, as well as the team and Masters Class championship with Joel Janco in 2016.

### **Current programs**

In 2017 the team moved its JDC-Miller MotorSports program into the main Prototype class of the IMSA WeatherTech Sports Car Championship running an ORECA 07 Gibson WEC spec LMP2 prototype. After two consecutive 2<sup>nd</sup> place podium finishes and seven top five finishes overall, JDC-Miller MotorSports finished 4<sup>th</sup> in the overall driver and team point's championship which made the team the most successful non-manufacture LMP2-spec program in the series.

The team also campaigned a BMW 228i with drivers Michael Johnson and Stephen Simpson in the IMSA Continental Tire SportsCar Challenge and under the entry of JDC MotorSports with partner Gerry Kraut a multi-car program in the IMSA Prototype Challenge Championship.

### **2018 programs**

For 2018 JDC-Miller MotorSports IMSA WeatherTech Sports Car Championship program will expand to a full season two car program with a second ORECA 07 Gibson WEC spec LMP2 prototype.

In the IMSA Continental Tire SportsCar Challenge championship the team will move into the new TCR class campaigning at least one Audi RS3 LMS TCR for Michael Johnson and Stephen Simpson.

In addition the team will run several Ligier JSP3 LMP3 prototypes under the entry of JDC MotorSports with partner Gerry Kraut in the 2018 IMSA Prototype Challenge Championship.

As of today all JDC programs combined secured a total of 18 Championships, 58 wins, 57 Pole Position and 190 podiums.