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Additional Photos available upon request

JDC-Miller MotorSports earns solid 6th and 7th place finishes at the 2018 Rolex 24 Hours at Daytona.



MINNEAPOLIS, MN. (February 2nd, 2018) After a short and busy off-season Minnesota-based JDC-Miller MotorSports returned to the Rolex 24 Hours at Daytona with new partners and many new faces, but with the same goals and ambitions that helped them secure a class victory at the twice-around-the-clock classic in 2016.

Over the winter the team announced the addition of GAINSCO Auto Insurance® as the primary partner for the now new No. 99 “Red Dragon™” entry with JDC-Miller MotorSports regulars Stephen Simpson, Misha Goikhberg and Chris Miller confirmed to pilot the car for the 2018 season. 2016 WEC LMP2 World Champion and 2016 24 Hours of LeMans winner Gustavo Menezes was later announced as the fourth driver to complete the Daytona lineup in the No. 99 GAINSCO Auto Insurance® “Red Dragon™”.

The team confirmed early that the fan-favorite No. 85 “Banana Boat” would also return and with new primary partner PSC Security. After a successful off-season of testing various drivers, the team announced 2017 Lexus factory GTD driver Robert Alon and Swiss WEC and GP2 ace Simon Trummer for the full-season. 19-year-old NASCAR Truck winner Austin Cindric was announced for Daytona to also be joined by 17-year-old Canadian Devlin DeFrancesco who would be the youngest driver in the stacked Rolex 24 Hours at Daytona field.



Entering Daytona with a new look, JDC-Miller MotorSports was eager to compete in one of the most competitive fields in Daytona history. The 50-car field featured several International champions, including two-time Formula One World Champion, Fernando Alonso.



When qualifying got underway the team struggled a bit for pace in a very competitive session. Simon Trummer qualified the No. 85 PSC Security entry in 12th position, .922 seconds off of the best time. The No. 99 GAINSCO Auto Insurance® entry driven by Stephen Simpson qualified in 14th position, 1.041 seconds off of the fastest time set in the 15 minute qualifying session.

Trummer started the race for the No. 85 and battled radio issues and high tire pressures during his first stint before the team was able to resolve both problems at the first stop.

“It was a good weekend overall I think for us drivers and the team as a group”. Commented Trummer. “In qualifying I didn’t get the lap I wanted, which meant I ended up in 12th position, but lap time wise we were not too far away so I was very hopeful for the race. At the start I had an issue with the Radio and the tire pressure, which did hold me back for the first stint and I lost a couple of places. But after that we settled in and just went through the race without bigger problems and focused on consistency, so I am actually not to unhappy with us finishing in 6th place. Obviously you always want more and there is always room to improve in a lot of areas but all my teammates, the No. 85 team as well as the No. 99 squad did an awesome job. I know we still have a lot of potential left, and this is where we will focus on now to be back strong and in good shape for the 12 Hours of Sebring next month”. Trummer summed up his first Daytona 24 Hours experience.

The No. 85 car with Austin Cindric behind the wheel for the final stint gambled on fuel to just make it to the finish, managing to hold of a hard charging Gustavo Menezes in the No 99 JDC-Miller sister car. Both cars finished on the same lap just 0.903 seconds apart in the fastest Rolex 24 Hours race in history. The race also set a new record for the longest race distance in part due to there being only four full-course cautions, totaling just 20 laps behind the safety car.



The No. 99 car endured a bit more trouble during the race including a stop-and-go penalty for speeding on pit lane for Miller and two separate rear tire failures with Miller and Menezes behind the wheel. Additionally, contact for Simpson with another prototype car just before 10pm proved costly as the No. 99 had to go to the garage for repairs and lost several laps.

John Church JDC-Miller MotorSports team owner and managing partner:

“In general I am happy that we brought home both cars in the top ten with the No. 85 finishing 6th and the No. 99 in 7th. It was great to see them racing each other hard to the finish line, just a couple of car lengths apart. This was a very tough race due to the speed and lack of full-course yellows, which basically meant very little break for the team or crew as we were coming in every 40 minutes for a stop. Both of our crews did an awesome job and I am very proud of how we performed as a group. We are clearly one team running two cars. We have some areas that we must improve but I thought we responded well to adversity and have some positives to take into the rest of the season.”

Misha Goikhberg: "I am very glad that the off-season is over, and we get to drive race cars again! The Rolex 24 At Daytona is our first race with GAINSCO Auto Insurance as the main sponsor on the No.99 car. It's great to experience support from such an organization like GAINSCO and all the people behind it and I think this will be a fruitful partnership. As for the race, we had the car to finish on the podium, but unfortunately, we took some chances that didn't work out and had to settle for 7th. A good result for both No. 99 and No. 85. We learned a great deal in the process and will be stronger in Sebring"

Chris Miller: “Everyone on the team fought until the very end and to get the no. 99 GAINSCO Auto Insurance Red Dragon to the finish in 7th place is a result we can build on. I’m already looking forward to Sebring where I’m confident we can be even stronger!”

Stephen Simpson: “It was good to finish what was a tough and very competitive Rolex 24 At Daytona and keeping up our 100% finishing record in the race. With so few yellow flag periods it made an already tough race even tougher. I am proud of the whole JDC-Miller MotorSports team as well as my team mates for doing a great job all weekend. I am excited to be driving the No.99 GAINSCO Auto Insurance Red Dragon and Daytona was a solid start to what I am confident will be a successful partnership. The support we received from the 50+ Agents and invited guests was fantastic and I look forward to getting back in the car in a few weeks at Sebring.”

Gustavo Menezes: “I had a great experience with JDC Miller Motorsports in the Rolex 24 At Daytona. It was a tough race – it always is at Daytona – but we fought hard throughout and dug deep to recover when luck was against us. There was a great spirit inside the team, which is so important in this kind of contest, and I enjoyed working with Misha, Chris, Stephen and all the other guys at JDC. When I got a clear run, it was really rewarding to be able to show what I could do in the ORECA, and to reach the checkered flag – especially first time out with a new car – is an achievement in itself. Kudos to everybody involved for a great team effort!”



JDC-Miller MotorSports races with major partnership support of [GAINSCO Insurance](#) and [PSC Security](#) and associate sponsorship from [Hi-Tide Boat Lifts](#), [RedLineOil.com](#), Sabelt and [Justice Brothers, Inc.](#)

Additional information on JDC MotorSports can be obtained from the team's website @ www.jdcmotorsports.com
For direct contact, please contact John Church @ 612-963-3352 or 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 4th 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 3rd in 2016 Tequila Patron North American endurance cup driver championship and 2nd 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 2nd place podium finishes and seven top five finishes overall, JDC-Miller MotorSports finished 4th 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, 56 Pole Position and 190 podiums.

Attachments: Photo: on request JPEG

Possible Caption: JDC-Miller MotorSports produces solid team performance during the 2018 Rolex 24 at Daytona with both cars finishing on the same lap in the top ten, in 6th and 7th place.