

Horag Racing Finishes Sixth in LMP2 in Sunday's 1000 Km of Catalunya

by Linda K. Mansfield

BARCELONA, Spain, April 6 - Circumstances beyond its control kept the Lista Office and Lista, Making Workspace Work-sponsored Horag Racing team out of the top five in the LMP2 class Sunday in the 1000 Kilometers of Catalunya, but the Swiss team still finished sixth in the very competitive, 15-car class with its new Porsche RS Spyder at the Circuit de Catalunya.

Drivers Didier Theys (Scottsdale, Ariz.), Fredy Lienhard (Niederteufen, Switzerland) and Jan Lammers (Katwyk, the Netherlands) drove flawlessly in the Le Mans Series season opener and completed 198 laps around the 4.655-meter, 13-turn road course. Unfortunately two flat tires and a problem with a computer sensor caused them to lose eight laps that they were never able to regain. They did just one less lap than the Saulnier Racing Pescarolo Judd that placed fifth in class. They were 14th overall in the 47-car field.



The team's challenges were spread out throughout the day, as Theys ran over debris and suffered one of the punctures; Lienhard was behind the wheel when an erroneous message from a computer sensor caused a delay while the team checked things over; and then a slow leak caused the second puncture while Lammers was behind the wheel.

Despite the bad luck the team ran extremely competitive laps here. Theys qualified third in the LMP2 class and tenth overall on Saturday with a 1:36.156. He clicked off a quick 1:37.532 in the early going of the race on Sunday, and the car was still quick at the end when Lammers posted the team's fastest race lap with a 1:36.594. Indeed, many times throughout the race the No. 27 was posting the third- and fourth-fastest laps of any car in the field regardless of class as it played catch-up.

Another Porsche RS Spyder won the class, as the drivers of the Van Merksteijn Motorsports No. 34 took the top step of the class podium. The Speedy Racing Team Lola Judd was second, while Team Essex placed third with another Porsche RS Spyder.

Post-race quotes follow:

Didier Theys: „We lost eight laps, which is why we got sixth. At the end of my first stint I ran over some debris and blew up a tire on the straightaway. It did a lot of bodywork damage, and that cost us four laps.

When Fredy did his stint, the telemetry showed a problem with the oil pressure and we needed to investigate what was going on. The sensor was giving the wrong information; the engine was fine. Fredy went back out and did a fine job. Then Jan had a puncture at the end, and he had to drive about a half-lap very slowly to get back to the pits. All of these things were things we couldn't control.“

Jan Lammers: “I had a puncture at the end. I think it was a slow leak, and then finally it let go. By then the race had already settled itself, so we just tried to continue until the finish.

When I was in it, the car was lovely. I was just enjoying myself. I was able to set our fastest lap of the race about eight laps into my stint after I got the new tires.“

Markus Hotz (team owner): “We had to put in a new engine on Friday, so we lost some time we would have used working on the set-up on that. Today in the race we had a good performance, but we were quite a bit unlucky. I always say that you see how good you are as a team in the bad times, and we kept working hard. It wasn't really mechanical problems, so we just have to accept it. Everyone did a good job.”