

Horag Racing Finishes Second in LMP2 in Sunday's 1000 Km of Spa

by Linda K. Mansfield

SPA, Belgium, May 11 - After finishing third in class at Monza, Italy 14 days ago, Horag Racing placed a strong second in the LMP2 class Sunday in the 1000 Kilometers of Spa Le Mans Series race at the Circuit de Spa-Francorchamps.

The Porsche RS Spyder No. 27 led the class for more than two hours of the race, which ended after 5:17:48 had elapsed and the overall winning Peugeot had circled the 7.003-km, 15-turn road course 143 times.

Horag Racing's car finished on the same lap as the class winner, another Porsche RS Spyder fielded by Van Merksteijn Motorsport, as both completed 138 laps. What's more, the Horag team was only 10.387 seconds behind the class winner at the end.

Team Essex made it a Porsche RS Spyder class sweep. It was three laps behind the Horag No. 27 at the checkered.

In its first four races, the brand-new Horag Porsche RS Spyder has been on the podium twice, in the top five three times, and never worst than sixth in class.



For the bulk of Sunday's race the LMP2 class battle was between the Van Merksteijn Porsche, the Horag Porsche and the Speedy Racing Team Lola Judd. The latter had difficulties around the 114-lap mark, opening the door for Team Essex to move up. There were 15 cars in the LMP2 class out of the 46 overall entries.

Fredy Lienhard decided not to drive in this race due to back pain, so Jan Lammers and Belgium's Didier Theys of Scottsdale, Ariz., did all the driving Sunday.

Theys qualified fourth on Saturday in a session delayed by three red flags. He had to abort what would have been his fastest lap in quals due to a red flag, but he still qualified with a 2:06.955, just 0.606 of a second-slower than third.

Lammers started the race, Theys drove in the middle and Lammers finished the event, which was held under warm and sunny conditions and attracted some 35,000 spectators. The car was very competitive throughout.

The class winner was a bit faster on Sunday, but being able to finish on the same lap, just 10 seconds behind in second place, was very satisfying for the Swiss team. Lammers set the No. 27's fastest race on its lap 117 with a 2:07.664, which at 197.478 kilometers per hour was the third-fastest race lap for the class.

As far as the official hourly reports go, the No. 27 was third in class at the end of hour one, leading at the end of hour two, and second at the end of hours three, four and five. The Van Merksteijn Motorsport Porsche finished sixth overall; Horag Racing was seventh overall and Team Essex was eighth overall.

"We had a very good race," Theys said afterwards. "Fredy didn't want to take any chances with his back, so he decided to just watch this one.

We were first for more than two hours. Jan started the race and had a good stint, then I got in and also had a good stint. Then Jan got in at the end too, and again, we had no problems. We had a good set-up. Neither Jan nor I had contact with anybody. It was a very nice and clean race for us, without any drama. The pit stops were perfect; everybody did a very good job."

Horag Racing was fourth in the LMP2 point standings going into this race. Unofficially it is now third, just five points out of second and 11 out of first.

Horag Racing does not plan to complete in the 24 Hours of Le Mans June 14-15, so its next race is at Germany's Nurburgring Aug. 15-17. The season finale is Sept. 12-14 at Silverstone, England.