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ALLEY

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CORVETTE CELEBRATES

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Friends & Rivals

YOU MAY EXPECT that the two top competitors in the 2012 American Le Mans Series Prototype class, Dyson Racing's Chris Dyson and Muscle Milk Pickett Racing's Greg Pickett, would be bitter rivals. You would be very wrong.

"We have no better friends in ALMS than Chris and Rob Dyson (pictured right)," said Pickett.

"On the track we are fierce rivals, but we try to race each other hard and clean and when the race is over we exchange high-fives. We root for each other and pat each other on the back."

"The Dysons even helped us come into the ALMS by selling us their old Porsche RS Spyder. We have great respect for Chris and Rob and their team," said Pickett (pictured above with Klaus Graf and Simon Pagenaud).

The two teams, winners of ALMS prototype honors in six of the nine races last season, literally come from different directions.

The 2011 champions from Dyson are Poughkeepsie, New York-based, while Pickett and his Muscle Milk squad call Benicia, California, home.

Both teams have new cars for 2012; Muscle Milk has chosen the new Honda-powered HPD ARX-03a while Dyson stays with Mazda power aboard a new Lola. They do not agree on tires either, with Pickett choosing Michelin while Dyson runs with Dunlop.

To wrest the ALMS title from Dyson (pictured below right) and his co-driver Guy Smith, Pickett has assembled a powerful driver line-up for the 2012 season.

The Muscle Milk squad pairs World GT1 champion and former Audi factory ace Lucas Luhr with veteran Klaus Graf. Here at Sebring, the team seasons the mix with Simon Pagenaud, runner-up at 2011 Sebring and Le Mans.

Pickett's quest for the title hasn't stopped with a new car and drivers. "Michelin has come to the table with some new developments for our

LMP1 car and we are looking forward to testing new constructions and compounds," said Pickett.

"We want to be a tougher team, we need to be a tough team to beat the Dyson team and focus on winning the championship."

While the Muscle Milk team readies its title challenge, Dyson has taken on their own double challenge. Not only will they debut a new Lola Mazda at Sebring, but for the first time the team will enter a pair of cars for the 24 Hours of Le Mans in June.

"We have a unique opportunity with two automatic entries earned by winning the 2011 ALMS championship and the MICHELIN GREEN X' Challenge," said Chris Dyson.

"We want to take on the new challenge of Le Mans. We have never tried it before."

That doesn't mean they will be distracted here in the ALMS.

"Our primary goal is to defend the championship here in the ALMS," said Dyson.

"We are racing against our best friends in racing," said Dyson.

"Neither wants to lose, but after a race, we exchange high-fives and have a meal together. It is healthy rivalry and built on mutual respect."



Corvette

CELEBRATES + READIES FOR MORE

FRIDAY WILL BE A big day for Chevrolet Corvette at Sebring International Raceway as the legendary American sports car takes its rightful place in the Sebring Hall of Fame.

With seven Sebring 12 Hours GT recent wins to its credit and another seven at the 24 Hours of Le Mans, including a dramatic come-from-behind victory in changing conditions at Le Mans last year, Corvette has proven its stripes in international sports car competition in North America and overseas.

The Detroit iron has 73 wins in American Le Mans Series competition and 8 ALMS manufacturer and team championships.

Racers often say that the tougher the competition, the sweeter the victory.

With a list of competitors including Porsche, Ferrari, BMW, Aston Martin, Viper, Lotus, Maserati, Jaguar, Lamborghini, Panoz, Saleen, and

Ford, every Corvette victory at Sebring, Petit Le Mans, the 24 Hours of Le Mans and around the ALMS circuit should be savored.

This year, Corvette joins Porsche, Ferrari, Audi, and Michelin as the only manufacturers in the Sebring Hall of Fame.

“Corvette is an iconic name in motorsports around the world,” said Silvia Mammone, Michelin motorsports manager.

“The fans in the ALMS and at Le Mans love the Corvettes and their fans turn out in great numbers at every race and the car corrals are always filled with the Corvette faithful.”

Beautifully designed and thoroughly prepared cars, top drivers and crews, and a spirit of pride knowing that many eyes in and out of the paddock are upon them are all part of the Corvette tradition.

Drivers like Ron Fellows, Johnny O’Connell, Oliver Gavin, Olivier Beretta and Jan Magnussen have helped build

the Corvette tradition. New generation stars Tommy Milner and Antonio Garcia are carrying the tradition forward.

Building and maintaining success are different challenges.

Helping Corvette to deliver both are long-time program manager Doug Fehan, the talent and dedication of General Motors and its technical centers, and the Pratt & Miller crew led by Gary Pratt.

Joining Corvette in the 2012 class are former driver Johnny O’Connell, racer turned writer Denise McCluggage, Nissan hero Geoff Brabham, Mazda driver and HANS device inventor Jim Downing and Porsche legend Hans Herrmann.

Yes, Friday will be a big day for Corvette, but the Corvette Racing team hopes to make Saturday even bigger. The only thing better than winning the Twelve Hours of Sebring seven times would be to celebrate their induction into the Sebring Hall of Fame by making it eight.





The world con

CONTRARY TO FOLKLORE, Sebring, Florida, is not located at the end of the world. In fact, you cannot even see the end of the world from Sebring.

What you can see are the newest cars and top endurance racers from around the world as the center of the sports car universe shifts 4,470 miles west from Le Mans, France, to Sebring International Raceway for the opening round of the new 2012 FIA World Endurance Championship (WEC).

The arrival of top teams, drivers and technical wizards and a hefty 61-car field is a fitting tribute to the 60th Sebring race.

The 3.7-mile Sebring circuit is fast, bumpy, flat and sure to be filled to the brim with a massive crowd as Sebring will be the only 2012 North American stop of the new FIA World Endurance Championship. Heading the field will be a trio of Audi R18 diesel prototypes

headed by legendary eight-time Le Mans race winner Tom Kristensen, joined by Allan McNish and Dindo Capello.

Each of the three Audi squads includes a pair of Audi Le Mans winning drivers including 2011 Le Mans winners Andre Lotterer, Benoit Treluyer, Marcel Fassler and 2010 winners Timo Bernhard and Romain Dumas join them.

Audi has been the dominant force in the sports car world for the past dozen years, claiming 10 wins at Le Mans and nine overall wins at Sebring.

Audi's main competition here at Sebring is expected to come from a pair of Rebellion Toyotas featuring Nicolas Prost, Neel Jani, Nick Heidfeld and Harold Primat, Andrea Belicchi

and Jeroen Bleekemolen; and a trio of HPD ARX 03a-Hondas in the hands of Strakka Racing (Nick Leventis, Danny Watts, Jonny Kane), JRM Racing (David Brabham, Peter Dumbreck, Karun Chandhok), and the American-based Muscle Milk Pickett Racing squad featuring Lucas Luhr, Klaus Graf and Simon Pagenaud.

Also making its debut at Sebring is a new Dyson Racing Lola Mazda for ALMS champions Chris Dyson and Guy Smith, now joined by Steven Kane.

In the GTE-Pro ranks, the competition should be exceptionally fierce with the 2011 Intercontinental Le Mans Cup champion AF Corse Ferrari drivers Giancarlo Fisichella and Gianmaria Bruni taking on ALMS champions Joey Hand and Dirk Mueller from BMW Team RLL.





mes to Sebring

Corvette stirs the mix of the 2011 Le Mans GT winning Corvette combo of Antonio Garcia and Tommy Milner, by pairing Oliver Gavin and Richard Westbrook with Milner and placing Jan Magnussen and newcomer Jordan Taylor with Garcia.

The Extreme Speed Motorsports team of Scott Sharp and Johannes van Overbeek expects to be the top ALMS-based Ferrari along with Patron's Ed Brown and Guy Cosmo.

Weapons-grade cars and top teammates do not stop there as AF Corse tosses Andrea Bertolini and Olivier Beretta into the mix. BMW goes with Joerg Muller and Bill Auberlen.

Porsche looks to retake the top spot with new cars and a taller MICHELIN® front tire for the Team Felbermayr-Proton with factory shoes Richard Lietz and Marc Lieb and the Flying Lizard Motorsports Porsche of

multi-time ALMS champions Joerg Bergmeister and Patrick Long with Marco Holzer. They are joined by Lizard leader Seth Neiman, Darren Law and Andy Lally.

Porsche presents an interesting tire battle with Team Falken's Wolf Henzler and Bryan Sellers and the Dunlop-fitted Paul Miller Racing Porsche with Bryce Miller and Sascha Maassen.

Aston Martin presents the Aston Martin Vantage V8 with stalwarts Adrian Fernandez, Stefan Mucke and Darren Turner.

The GTE-Am lineup includes the defending Intercontinental and Le Mans champion Corvettes of Larbre Competition led by Pedro Lamy, with Krohn Racing's Tracy Krohn and Nic Jonsson and AF-Corse Waltrip Ferrari with NASCAR star Michael Waltrip.

Look for a Nissan - Honda - Lotus battle in the LMP2 class, as a half

dozen Nissans, led by Signatech, ADR-Delta, Gulf Racing Middle East and Pecom Racing take on Lotus, the Morgans of Oak Racing and Conquest, and the Honda powered Starworks and Level 5 squads.

Top shoes to watch here include Stephane Sarrazin, Soheil Ayari, Ryan Dalziel, Robbie Kerr, Christophe Bouchut and Luis Diaz.

The LMP Challenge class includes aces Memo Gidley, Bruno Junqueira, Butch Leitzinger, Colin Braun and Duncan Ende in identical Chevy powered Oreca prototypes. The GT Challenge class matches identical Porsche 911s.

With great cars, teams, drivers and the kickoff to both WEC and ALMS seasons, the 60th anniversary of the Mobil 1 Twelve Hours of Sebring should be a classic. After all, the rest of the world is watching, too.

We've strangled our piggy bank pretty hard.

Muscle Milk team owner Greg Pickett on his team's push to win the 2012 ALMS LMP1 championship:



Dijyano DID YOU KNOW



Hugues de Chaunac celebrates his 2011 Twelve Hours of Sebring overall victory. ORECA and de Chaunac will not defend their Sebring title as they are currently working with Toyota Motorsport on their new gasoline-powered hybrid prototype that will debut at the next WEC event.

There will be a bit of acronym alphabet soup in the Sebring paddock this week with the FIA, WEC, ACO, IMSA and ALMS are all here in various roles. For the newbies, the Federation International Automobiles (FIA) oversees global motorsports. The World Endurance Championship (WEC) is the new FIA sanctioned global endurance championship. The Automobile Club l'Ouest (ACO) runs the 24 Hours of Le Mans and the International Motor Sports Association (IMSA) is the sanctioning body for the American Le Mans Series (ALMS). Wonder if they will meet up with the DOE, EPA and SAE folks?



Growth ALMS has witnessed an increase both in race attendance and online activity as the cumulative race attendance grew by 10% and traffic on americanlemans.com experienced a 38% growth in unique visitors.

What Now?

One of the biggest challenges facing the Flying Lizard Motorsports team with their new Porsches - the famous Lizard graphic doesn't quite fit on the door of the new car.

FLYING LIZARD motorsports

RANKED # 1



The National Geographic magazine recently ranked the 2012 24 Hours of Le Mans as the # 1 sporting event in the world - one which all sports fans should see at least once in their lives. Le Mans beat out the Olympic Games, the Football World Cup and the Super Bowl. We agree.

STREAKING

Corvette Racing's Jan Magnussen is the only ALMS driver to have won a race in every year since the series' inception in 1999. Magnussen will have plenty of fans rooting for him at Sebring as he was voted the 2011 Most Popular Driver.

Alley Live

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Follow a live Michelin Blog with features, race insights, interviews, videos, photos and highlights from all 2012 ALMS events.

It's a bird, it's a plane - it's the DeltaWing!

The radically designed DeltaWing continues preparation for its race debut at the 24 Hours of Le Mans where it has been granted a special "56th" entry. Based upon a Ben Bowlby design and constructed in Dan Gurney's AAR shops, the innovative Nissan-powered car features half the weight, horsepower and fuel of current LMP1 competitors. Look for the car to make a few demonstration laps here at Sebring.



CATCH THE ACTION

The American Le Mans Series and ABC/ESPN continues its broadcast and digital package for the 2012 ALMS season which involves televising the world's premier sports car series over several ESPN programming and media platforms, including ABC, ESPN2 and ESPN3.com.

All ALMS races and qualifying sessions will be broadcast live and in their entirety on ESPN3 and for viewers outside the U.S., via ALMS.com.



Live streamed coverage of the Mobil 1 Twelve Hours of Sebring Fueled by Fresh from Florida race can be viewed on ESPN3.com with a tape-delayed television coverage on ABC, Sunday, March 18 from 12:00 - 2:00 pm (ET).

The full broadcast will be available on demand on ESPN3.com for three weeks and on AmericanLeMans.com after that.

Sebring Schedule

Friday, March 16, 2012

8:00am - 8:30am	Qualifying #2 - MX5 Cup
8:40am - 8:55am	Warm Up - USF2000
9:15am - 9:45am	Race #2 - Ferrari Club
9:55am - 10:55am	Practice - ALMS / WEC (All Classes)
11:15am - 11:45pm	Race #2 - USF2000
12:00pm - 12:30pm	Race #2 - MX5 Cup - 30 Minutes
12:00pm - 1:00pm	ALMS/WEC Autograph Session
12:30pm - 1:45pm	Lunch
1:55pm - 2:40pm	Race #2 - Prototype Lites
3:20pm - 3:35pm	Qualifying - ALMS / WEC (GTE-Am/GTC)
3:35pm - 3:50pm	Qualifying - ALMS / WEC (GT/GTE-Pro)
3:55pm - 4:10pm	Qualifying - ALMS / WEC (P2/LPC)
4:10pm - 4:25pm	Qualifying - ALMS / WEC (P1)
4:45pm - 5:30pm	Race #2 - GT3 Cup
5:40pm - 6:40pm	Races - Vintage Sportscars

Saturday, March 17, 2012

8:00am - 8:25am	Warm Up - ALMS / WEC (All Classes)
10:30am - 10:30pm	Race - 60th Annual Mobil 1 Twelve Hours Of Sebring Fueled By Fresh From Florida

2012 ALMS Schedule



17 March	Twelve Hours of Sebring, Sebring, FL
14 April	Long Beach Grand Prix, CA
12 May	Mazda Raceway Laguna Seca, Monterey, CA
7 July	Lime Rock Park, Lakeville, CT
22 July	Canadian Tire Motorsports Park, Canada
4 August	Mid-Ohio Sports Car Course, Lexington, OH
18 August	Road America, Elkhart Lake, WI
1 September	Baltimore Grand Prix, Baltimore, MD
15 September	Virginia International Raceway, Danville, VA
20 October	Petit Le Mans, Road Atlanta, GA

ALMS TV and Broadband Schedule

Fri. March 16	ESPN3.com	Live Qualifying (3:20 - 4:25 pm)
Sat. March 17	ESPN3.com	Live Race Coverage (10:30 am - 10:30 pm)
Sun. March 18	ABC	12:00 - 2:00 pm



ESPN3.com

Fan Favorites



45
044 **Bergmeister/Long/Holzer**
Neiman/Law/Lally
Michelin
Flying Lizard Motorsports
Porsche 911 GT3 RSR

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LMP2 CLASS

LMPC CLASS

GT CLASS

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All Post-Consumed Fiber

AUDI



1 Lotterer/Tréluyer/Fässler
2 McNish/Kristensen/Capello
3 Bernhard/Dumas
Michelin
Audi Sport Team Joest
Audi R18

CORVETTE



4 Gavin/Milner/Westbrook
03 Garcia/Magnussen/Taylor
Michelin
Corvette Racing
Chevrolet Corvette C6 ZR1

LOLA / TOYOTA



12 Prost/Jani/Heidfeld
13 Belicchi/Primat/ Bleekemolen
Michelin
Rebellion Racing
Lola B12/60 Toyota

HPD



6 Graf/Luhr/Pagenaud
Michelin
Muscle Milk Pickett Racing
HPD ARX-03a

ORECA



52 Junco/Leitzinger/Dobson
Michelin
PR1 Mathiasen Motorsports
Oreca FLM09

BMW



56 Hand/D. Mueller
155 Auberlen/J. Müller
Dunlop
BMW Team RLL
BMW E92 M3

FERRARI



01 Sharp/van Overbeek
02 Brown/Cosmo
Michelin
Extreme Speed Motorsports
Ferrari 458 Italia

ORECA



025 Richard/Ende/Cameron
Michelin
Dempsey Racing
ORECA FLM09