

8 November 2011

JRM RACING FALLS JUST SHORT OF GT1 TEAMS' TITLE IN SAN LUIS AFTER HUGE FIRST LAP INCIDENT

JRM unable to make it a GT1 World Championship double after taking Driver's title on Saturday



It was ultimately a frustrating end to the 2011 FIA GT1 World Championship for Nissan, as an opening lap incident and its resulting fallout cost JRM Racing the Teams' title in the season finale Championship Race in San Luis, Argentina.

Having wrapped up the GT1 Drivers' Championship in Saturday's Qualifying Race, the no.23 JRM Racing Nissan GT-R lined up second on the grid on Sunday targeting victory to round off an amazing season, but instead starting driver Lucas Luhr's race lasted mere seconds. In the usual jostling for on-track position on the long opening straight, a slight touching of wheels between two of the front-running competitors was catalyst enough for a chain of events that took out five cars, including the no.23 JRM and its Nissan sister car, the no.21 Sumo Power GT.

The huge carnage at the side of the track immediately bought yellow flag safety conditions into effect, during which the no.7 Young Driver Aston Martin - the only starting car from the team that began the race leading the Teams' Championship - jumped into the lead from near the back of the grid after overtaking seven cars in one go. However, this maneuver was adjudged by race stewards to be illegal, with a drive through penalty notice subsequently issued.

Meanwhile, the two remaining GT-Rs - Richard Westbrook's no.22 JRM that started in 15th and Enrique Bernoldi's no.20 Sumo Power that started in fourth - emerged from the chaos sitting in fourth (no.22 JRM) and 12th (no.20 Sumo Power GT), the positions in which they remained as, simultaneously, the safety car withdrew and the pit window opened. There were good stops for both cars, with the no.22 JRM re-emerging on track in second place and the no.20 Sumo Power GT in seventh, and both made up a further place when the no.7 Young Driver came in to serve its drive through penalty.

With a first place from the no.22 more than enough to guarantee Teams' Championship glory for JRM, things were looking good. However, with 15 minutes remaining, the race stewards, having re-analyzed the opening lap drama, issued the JRM a drive through penalty notice of its own: the car, like the no.7 Young Driver, was deemed to have gained track position whilst under safety conditions.

The no.22, with Peter Dumbreck now behind the wheel, came out of the pits after serving its penalty just behind the Aston Martin. Dumbreck pushed the GT-R hard and was able to overtake the no.7 as well as the no.40 Ford GT in the closing stages for an eventual eighth place finish. The points gained for the finish saw JRM finish the season just ahead of Young Driver, but this was not taking into account the results and permutations of what happened at the front of the race.

The two Hexis Aston Martin cars finished the race third and fifth, separated by the no.20 Sumo Power GT after an excellent drive from Nick Catsburg saw the car make up two places during the second half of the race. However, with the cars finishing first and second (the no.11 Corvette and the no.47 Lamborghini respectively) not eligible for Teams' points due FIA technicalities, Hexis instead received the points awarded for finishing first and second-enough to catapult them from third in the Championship standings prior to the race to first.

~ENDS~

Notes to editors:

2011 Nissan drivers

Sumo Power GT

Nissan GT-R No.20: Nick Catsburg (NL) & Enrique Bernoldi (Bra)

Nissan GT-R No.21: Jamie Campbell-Walter (GB) & David Brabham (Aus)

JRM Racing

Nissan GT-R No.22: Peter Dumbreck (GB) & Richard Westbrook (GB)

Nissan GT-R No.23: Michael Krumm (Ger) & Lucas Luhr (Ger)

Final standings after round 10 (San Luis Championship Race) - Nissan teams/drivers in bold

Drivers Championship

Position	Driver names	Nationalities	Car no.	Team	Points
1	Michael Krumm/ Lucas Luhr	Germany/ Germany	23	JRM Racing	137
2	Stefan Mucke/ Darren Turner	Germany/ Britain	8	Young Driver AMR	120
3	Andrea Piccini/ Christian Hohenadel	Italy/ Germany	4	Hexis AMR	111
4	Tomas Enge/ Alex Muller	Czech Republic/ Germany	7	Young Driver AMR	103
5	Markus Winkelhock/ Marc Basseng	Germany/ Germany	38	All-Inkl.com Münnich Motorsport	102
6	Maxime Martin	Belgium	41	Marc VDS Racing Team	98
7	Clivio Piccione/ Stef	Monaco/	3	Hexis AMR	95

	Dusseldorf	Netherlands			
8	Dominic Schwager/Nicky Pastorelli	Germany/Italy	37	All-Inkl.com Münnich Motorsport	80
9	Peter Dumbreck/ Richard Westbrook	Britain/ Britain	22	JRM Racing	78
10	Jamie Campbell-Walter/ David Brabham	Britain/ Australia	21	Sumo Power GT	75
11	Frederic Makowiecki	France	41	Marc VDS Racing Team	69
12	Enrique Bernoldi	Brazil	20	Sumo Power GT	64
13	Nick Catsburg	Netherlands	20	Sumo Power GT	58

Teams Championship

Position	Team name	Team nationality	Car	Points
1	Hexis AMR	France	Aston Martin DBR9	235
2	JRM Racing	Great Britain	Nissan GT-R	232
3	Young Driver AMR	Germany	Aston Martin DBR9	231
4	All-Inkl.com Münnich Motorsport	Germany	Lamborghini Murcielago RS-V	190
5	Sumo Power GT	Great Britain	Nissan GT-R	154
6	Marc VDS Racing Team	Belgium	Ford GT Matech	132
7	Belgian Racing	Belgium	Ford GT Matech	39
8	Swiss Racing Team	Switzerland	Lamborghini Murcielago RS-V	32