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# Edwards and Tomczyk Finish Third at Northeast Grand Prix; Fourth Consecutive Race with Podium Finish for BMW M6 GTLM.

**Woodcliff Lake, N.J. – July 22, 2017...** John Edwards and Martin Tomczyk raced the No. 24 BMW M6 GTLM to a third place finish in today's two-hour-and-forty-minute Northeast Grand Prix at Lime Rock Park, in Lakeville, Conn. The result is the third podium finish in the last four races for the duo and the 66th in BMW Team RLL history. Teammates Bill Auberlen and Alexander Sims finished sixth in the No. 25 after a tough race, but only lost five points in the driver standings to unofficially remain second. Edwards and Tomczyk remain in seventh. The race was won by the No. 911 Porsche 911 RSR.

At the green flag, Edwards, in the No. 24 M6, moved up one spot into third as the field entered turn one. Auberlen, in the No. 25 M6, maintained the eighth position. After 56 laps Auberlen pitted for fuel, new Michelins and to hand off to Sims. Up ahead Edwards took over the lead as the two leading Porsches also chose to pit. On lap 67 Edwards pitted from first to turn the No. 24 M6 over to Tomczyk after fueling and a tire change.





The first hour of the race passed without a caution flag with Tomczyk in fourth and Sims in sixth. The second round of pit stops followed much the same pattern as the first. Tomczyk came in on lap 110, the BMW Motorsport driver pitting from the point after the two leading Porsches had pitted three laps earlier. With one hour to go, Tomczyk raced in sixth. Sims stood fourth, one of three cars in the class still to stop a second time. Sims continued until lap 126, until pitting for his final stop. Both Tomczyk and Sims stayed in their cars to finish the race.

Tomczyk moved into third when the last GTLM car made its second stop on lap 173, but he hardly had time to think about it as he was in the middle of a heated battle with the No. 3 Corvette for the last step of the podium. A stellar effort and his years of DTM experience kept the No. 24 M6 in third to secure BMW Team RLL's fourth consecutive race with at least one BMW on the podium.

"It was a great effort by the team today," **said Neil Fife, BMW Team RLL Race Engineer.** "We felt the No. 24 had a very good chance, but were unsure how everyone's strategies would play out. We went with into the race with our head down and let the drivers do their thing. John opened up with a great first stint and Martin did a great job in holding off the Corvette at the end to keep us on the podium."

John Edwards, driver No. 24 BMW M6 GTLM (P3): "That was stressful watching Martin's race. He withstood some real pressure by the Corvette to defend and get us the to the podium - now two races in a row and three in the last four. Lime Rock does not play to the M6's strong suits so a third feels like a win."

Martin Tomczyk, driver No. 24 BMW M6 GTLM (P3): "Today was great fun because we finished third. A fourth place finish would not have been so exciting after such a tough battle. The end of the race with the Corvette was pure racing, even if it was a bit hard a few times. I had some really big moments, but I was able to defend whatever he tried."

**Bill Auberlen, driver No. 25 BMW M6 GTLM (P6)**: "We've had quite a few good race weekends of late, but they can't all go our way. We did not have the car to win today, but we did not put a wheel wrong so minimized the points damage. Road America will suit us better."



**Alexander Sims, driver No. 25 BMW M6 GTLM (P6)**: "Frankly after two wins we are disappointed not to have been able to fight for a podium finish today. Unfortunately, sixth was as best as we could do. Our sister car had a much better day, but everyone puts in the same effort win or lose."

Round Eight of the 2017 IMSA WeatherTech SportsCar Championship, the Continental Tire Road Race Showcase, will be held Aug. 6 at Road America, in Elkhart Lake, Wis. The race will be broadcast on Fox Sports 1 beginning at 2:30 p.m. ET. Follow BMW Team RLL on Twitter at @BMWUSARacing for "from-the-pit-box" updates all weekend.

## **BMW Group In America**

BMW of North America, LLC has been present in the United States since 1975. Rolls-Royce Motor Cars NA, LLC began distributing vehicles in 2003. The BMW Group in the United States has grown to include marketing, sales, and financial service organizations for the BMW brand of motor vehicles, including motorcycles, the MINI brand, and the Rolls-Royce brand of Motor Cars; DesignworksUSA, a strategic design consultancy in California; a technology office in Silicon Valley and various other operations throughout the country. BMW Manufacturing Co., LLC in South Carolina is part of BMW Group's global manufacturing network and is the exclusive manufacturing plant for all X5 and X3 Sports Activity Vehicles and X6 and X4 Sports Activity Coupes. The BMW Group sales organization is represented in the U.S. through networks of 344 BMW passenger car and BMW Sports Activity Vehicle centers, 153 BMW motorcycle retailers, 127 MINI passenger car dealers, and 36 Rolls-Royce Motor Car dealers. BMW (US) Holding Corp., the BMW Group's sales headquarters for North America, is located in Woodcliff Lake, New Jersey.

## The BMW Group

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In 2016, the BMW Group sold approximately 2.367 million cars and 145,000 motorcycles worldwide. The profit before tax was approximately € 9.67 billion on revenues amounting to € 94.16 billion. As of 31 December 2016, the BMW Group had a workforce of 124,729 employees.

The success of the BMW Group has always been based on long-term thinking and responsible action. The company has therefore established ecological and social sustainability throughout the value chain, comprehensive product responsibility and a clear commitment to conserving resources as an integral part of its strategy.

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### **Rahal Letterman Lanigan Racing**

BMW's partner, Rahal Letterman Lanigan Racing, based in Hilliard, Ohio and co-owned by three-time IndyCar Champion and 1986 Indianapolis 500 winner Bobby Rahal, former CBS Late Show host David Letterman and Mi-Jack co-owner Mike Lanigan, has been competing for over two decades. Prior to the start of their 26th season of competition in 2017, the team had compiled 38 victories, 51 poles, 151 podium finishes, three series championships (1992, 2010, 2011) and claimed an Indianapolis 500 victory (Buddy Rice in 2004). In 2009 the team joined BMW of North America to campaign the new BMW M3 in the American Le Mans Series. The following year the team won both the Manufacturer and Team Championships in the GT category and swept all three GT titles - Manufacturer, Team and Driver - in 2011. In 2012 the team finished second in the Team Championship and third in the Manufacturer Championship and in 2013, the team finished second in the Driver, Team and Manufacturer Championship. The 2014 season brought a new challenge with the creation of the IMSA United SportsCar Championship and the team finished on the podium six times including four secondplace finishes. In 2015, the team earned three wins, two poles and a total of eight podium finishes to finish second in the Manufacturer, Team and Driver championships and added two poles and three podiums in 2016. Prior to the start of the 2017 season, BMW Team RLL had won 13 races, 22 poles and 60 podium finishes.





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