

FIA GT – Round 4 Spa: 24 Hours
ProSpeed Competition clinches podium in Spa GT3

SPA-FRANCORCHAMPS, 26/07/09. *"It didn't turn out to be an easy weekend for us and we didn't fully achieve our targets", an honest Rudi Penders commented after the finish of the 24 Hours of Spa, the fourth round of the FIA GT. "We did clinch a podium in GT3 with the #161 Porsche 911 GT3 Cup S with Palttala, Lanik, Loix and Slingerland, as also a fourth place in GT2 with the #61 Porsche 911 GT3 RSR of our gentlemen drivers Van Splunteren, Coronel, Hommerson and Machiels, which is a fantastic performance, but our spearhead, namely the #60 Porsche of Collard, Edwards, O'Young and Westbrook was highly frustrating. A race incident lost them a podium, but in all honesty we weren't able to put the winning Ferrari under enough pressure. On the other hand we can boast having four cars at the finish, seeing our Belgo-French team, Brouard, Kerkhove, Havette and Nozière crossed the line, with as outcome a well deserved sixth place in GT3. Overall we were pretty good, but a top result wasn't there."*

ProSpeed Competition started out as one of the favourites in this 61st edition of the 24 Hours of Spa. *"However already during the qualifying sessions things became difficult as we only had roughly ten minutes of dry track time", Richard Westbrook explains. "It seems unlikely, but a session lasting four hours which turns out like that is difficult to handle. We finally finished 7th, our team mates 11th. Not the ideal way in which to take on the race."*

Neither during the race did the leaders in the FIA GT2-championship have an easy time. *"A difficult car made that we weren't able to get into the rhythm of the AF Corse Ferrari and when our regularity race became hindered through an accident, we were having to start playing catch-up", Darryl O'Young continued. "Richard was quite simply driven off the track by a GT1, unbelievable. Outcome is that we lost some 12 laps and we had to forget any hope of a podium. I'm really pleased that we managed a fifth place, whereby Manu en Richard still managed to be only four points down on the new leaders in the GT2-championship."*

The second GT2 Porsche 911 on the other hand drove a spotless race. *"A brilliant result for that car", Rudi Penders told us. "On top of that they have helped us gain five extra points, whereby we only have to give away one point to our rivals in the team championship. Here also the battle is wide open and during the second half of the season we're going to put up quite a battle which will be dearly fought out to the bitter end."*

ProSpeed Competition also had an excellent iron in the fire in GT3 and in the #161 the Austrian Niki Lanik took a brilliant start in variable weather conditions. Markus Palttala, David Loix and Rainman Slingerland also did a great job and were a strong opposition for the winning Ford GT.

"But here also our top car was slowed by a series of problems", GT3 team manager Marc Maton continues the story. "Amongst others we lost a windscreen and during the race several minor technical problems reared their heads. That the team finally managed to finish third is in all honesty great. The drivers had full faith and the team never lost their sprits."

The #160 Porsche with the ACO President Remy Brouard also had a spotless race and took an excellent sixth place in the GT3 rankings. *"We have enjoyed a fine weekend and this Belgian team provided top class work", the French drivers all commented in unison. "For us the weekend was a great success, with thanks to Rudi Penders and his team."*



Championship Standings FIA GT2:

1.	Villander-Bruni	28
2.	Westbrook-Collard	24
3.	Companc	18
...		
6.	Holzer	16
7.	O'Young	12

1.	AF Corse	40
2.	ProSpeed Competition	37
3.	CRS	30

