

**2019/2020 FIA World Endurance Championship
Round 5: Lone Star Le Mans**

***Michelin enjoys grand slam success at Austin thanks to
the performance and consistency of its tyres***

After dominating Saturday's qualifying session at Austin, Texas, USA, in all four classes, including in LMP2 where there is fierce competition between brands, and where the three fastest times were posted by Cool Racing, United Autosports and Signatech Alpine ELF, Michelin's partners (28 of the weekend's 30 entries) followed through by showcasing the French tyres' potential in Sunday's race which was marked by cloudy but settled weather.

In the wake of the fight for grid positions, the drivers were swift to praise Michelin's endurance racing range, with G. Menezes, N. Thiim and E. Perfetti all underlining that "there was hardly any degradation, despite the circuit's demanding nature". The same tyres went on to provide further evidence of their performance and consistency during the entertaining fifth round of the 2019/2020 FIA WEC.

At short notice, Michelin's manufacturing staff responded with a special effort to produce the necessary SOFT slicks in time for the 2020 Lone Star Le Mans which stood in for the originally-planned fixture in Sao Paulo, Brazil. Indeed, the weather in South America would have been much higher at this time of year compared to Austin where track temperatures reached no higher than 25°C. This venue switch effectively overturned the original plan, while Michelin Motorsport's logistics team responded at short notice to arrange shipment to the USA in time for the race. Given that every tyre is tracked individually throughout its working life, there was absolutely no margin for error.

Thanks to this collective effort, Michelin's partners were able to choose between MEDIUM and SOFT slicks in all four classes.

The overall spoils ended up going to the N°1 Rebellion R13-Gibson of Senna/Menezes/Nato who delivered a perfectly-paced run that kept them free of pressure from the two Toyota TS050 Hybrids which completed the distance in second and third places with Buemi/Nakajima/Hartley (N°8) and Conway/Kobayashi/Lopez (N°7) respectively.

There was an entertaining scrap in LMP2, too, involving United Autosports, Racing Team Nederland and teams running on rival rubber, but Hanson/Albuquerque/Di Resta took advantage of their Michelin tyres to take the chequered flag in first position in the United Autosports-run N°22 Oreca 07-Gibson.

The podiums in LMGTE Pro and LMGTE Am were also settled at a late stage, with Aston Martin and Porsche having the edge over the opposition to keep the Texan fans on their toes thanks to some impressive passing manoeuvres and chases. The British make ended up claiming the top prize in both categories with the N°95 Vantage AMR of Sorensen/Thiim (Pro) and the N°90 TF Sport Vantage AMR of Voluc/Eastwood/Adam (Am) respectively.





“This year’s Lone Star Le Mans was an extremely busy race for all our staff who faced several different challenges,” underlines **Pierre Alvès**, the manager of Michelin’s endurance racing programmes. “Michelin has a successful record at Austin but there were several unknowns we needed to deal with this time around. To begin with, the surface had been re-laid in places and that had an impact on both grip levels and cornering speeds, forcing us to update our data for the track. Also, the date-change meant the weather was milder than usual here, necessitating the use of SOFT tyres which weren’t part of the original plan for our partners. Last but by no means least, the meeting’s two-day format led us to reorganise our fitting procedures in order to guarantee the necessary speed of response between Saturday’s two free practice sessions and before qualifying. We are delighted to have risen so successfully to all these challenges and I would like to thank our team of Technical Team Advisors. They worked hand-in-hand with our partners and notably helped them to devise their respective strategies, not only in terms of tyre choice but also tyre pressures.”

Next stop for the FIA WEC players is a second straight race in the United States with the SuperSebring extravaganza on March 18-21. The FIA WEC and IMSA WeatherTech SportsCar Championship have joined forces to entertain fans with two topflight endurance races in Florida, namely the 1,000 Miles of Sebring (WEC) on Friday, March 20, and the next day’s Mobil 1 Twelve Hours of Sebring.

