

TRG Maintains Strong Points Position with Barber Finish

Written by

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Birmingham, Al (April 10, 2011)- Following a hard-fought race weekend on the slippery, sweeping elevation changes of Barber Motorsports Park in Birmingham, Alabama, TRG's Steve Bertheau and Spencer Pumpelly finished 12th at the GRAND-AM Rolex Sports Car Series Porsche 250, keeping the team within the top-10 of the drivers' championship standings.

Driving the no. 67 Sargent & Lundy Porsche GT3 Cup, Steve Bertheau, residing in Chicago, started the car with a focus on tire management and consistent lap times. Having never driven the circuit before, Bertheau knew that tire management under extreme heat conditions would be the key to longevity for he and Pumpelly, and drove a steady pace in order to maintain the car.

Unfortunately, an early spin coupled with untimely cautions would put the no. 67 a few laps down. Handing the car to Spencer Pumpelly, residing in nearby Atlanta, the team definitely proved to be a force for races to come.

Driving lap times faster than anyone, Pumpelly was able to drive his TRG Porsche past nearly the entire field to regain lost laps, proving the overall speed of the team as a true force. Unfortunately, the team simply ran out of time during the sprint-race format, putting the no. 67 in 12th in the final standings, but again proving the strength of the team.

For Steve Bertheau, his first visit to the Alabama circuit was definitely memorable.

"We knew this track would be very tricky and very hot," described Bertheau. "The guys did a great job on the car and Spencer did a great job of coaching. It's too bad we had the bad luck early on, but I definitely think we showed our speed as we bounced back."

For Pumpelly, a strong showing of pace shows good long-term hopes.

"Being able to work our way back up through the field definitely showed the speed of the no. 67," stated Pumpelly. "Barber is one of the more challenging courses we run at, and Steve did

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a great job of learning the track and coming to grips with everything. Between the course, the heat, and the tires it's a lot to manage, and he did exceptionally well. The team put a great car under us today and I'm glad we were able to show the speed we needed, and I think for the future we've shown some real capability."

For Team Owner Kevin Buckler, the team's strength really showed at Barber.

"We were quietly one of the strongest cars all day," commented Buckler. "Steve continues to show tremendous pace and improvement, and we're really happy to have him with us. It's a really difficult place to drive at, but his professionalism showed throughout the weekend. Spencer seemed to be as fast as always, and to climb up through the field like that showed just what kind of capability we all have."

The next round of the GRAND-AM Rolex Sports Car Series will take place at Virginia International Raceway from May 13-14, and broadcast on SPEED at 5PM ET.

TRG is a full-service motorsports company offering a total driver ladder approach, as well as comprehensive sponsorship opportunities. For drivers, this approach starts with track days, goes to club events, up into street stock series and culminates in the ultimate goal of professional motorsports. For sponsors and business partners, this approach starts with everything from Executive events, to traditional sponsorship models, all the way to business-to-business networking and experiential marketing. With facilities in Petaluma, California and Mooresville, North Carolina the team can offer turn-key marketing programs as well as arrive-and-drive support.

The company's NASCAR operations are headquartered in Mooresville, North Carolina. The team fields a NASCAR Sprint Cup Series entry and has the capacity to run ARCA, Nationwide and the Camping World Truck Series.

The Racer's Group was founded in 1993 and has been competing at the top level of motor racing. The team boasts Rolex Series GT championships in 2005 and 2006 and holds the record for the most wins in Grand-Am with 32. The team's resume is highlighted by five championships, four Rolex 24 Hour at Daytona victories, and a Le Mans 24 Hour win.