

Fast Laps at Lime Rock in Catch-Up Game

Written by TRG Admin
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PETALUMA, CA (July 9) - Sometimes you have the fastest car and you don't win. It's just that simple. Then again it's not.

TRG's Spencer Pumpelly set the fast GTC lap of the race Saturday at the American Le Mans Northeast Grand Prix at Lime Rock Park, but the team was foiled by an early lug nut issue that shredded a tire and caused the team to lose several laps as it assessed and fixed the damage.

"We had a left rear lug nut issue early in race (lap 7) and I had to bring it in," said Mike Piera who was driving the leadoff stint.

"The guys worked hard but it took a while to get the tire off because it was all torn up," said veteran teammate Pumpelly, "and it took awhile to get another one on, and we just lost too many laps. Too bad, because we were turning the fastest laps in class by the end of the race, but we were just too far down. We've had great cars all season long, but seems like one little thing bites us."

"On a short track like Lime Rock, you can get a couple laps down in a hurry," said team owner Kevin Buckler. "We were able to take advantage of a couple of cautions, but it wasn't enough. Too bad because we had a really fast car. Mike knows that track like the back of his hand and drove really well. He took the win there with us last year and we all had a great feeling about the race going in. I'm convinced we are going to get one real soon. We have been all over it this year. Last year, we kicked in mid-season. We're ready for history to repeat itself."

A year ago, TRG hit its mid-season stride with three straight wins, including at Mosport where North American's most successful Porsche sports car team over the last 20 years heads next for Round Five of the American Le Mans Series. With 10 races, the season is not even at its halfway point.

"We are still very much in the hunt," said Buckler, "and there's a long way to go. We are coming into a string of tracks that we are very strong on and have won on many times and plan on winning again."