

TRG and Keating/Faulkner Finish a Great Weekend with Victory at COTA

Written by TRG Admin

Tuesday, 24 September 2013 01:37 - Last Updated Tuesday, 24 September 2013 02:07

(PETALUMA, CA) - September 23) With three races left on the season, the No. 66 TRG had one goal coming into COTA --- to win everything this past weekend. After a bit of a tough season for the No. 66 Viper Exchange/Port Lavaca Auto Group Porsche GT3, the team came into the event with a razor focus on winning in practice, qualifying, and the race. Saturday, the Ben Keating/Damien Faulkner pairing claimed victory after an intense battle with the No. 30 GTC team in the Austin, TX round of the American Le Mans Series presented by Tequila Patron event.

After using the available testing time to the fullest the No. 66 TRG Porsche group felt really good if the race was a dry race. At the start, with a beautiful sunny Texas day, Ben Keating started from pole position. His start was balked due to a hold-up in front of him in his line from another class. Keating settled into second; where he drove his entire stint directly behind the No. 30 class leader. With an uncharacteristic solid green flag run; the two drove away from the rest of the class.

After Keating's fantastic opening stint, Damien Faulkner assumed the driver's seat again directly behind the No. 30 Porsche. The TRG team felt that their car had an advantage in tire wear if the race stayed green throughout the stint. The racing field cooperated, and as the laps counted down, Faulkner began to attack with 20 minutes remaining. The race saw some of the closest GTC racing of the season with the cars and drivers equally matched. As time drew down to the 2 hour 45 minute time limit, Faulkner and the No. 30 car had not only their own race to contend with but also the Prototype and GT Cars in a battle as well. The increased traffic allowed Faulkner to find a way to get a run on the No. 30 Porsche. He made a brave pass with five minutes left in the race and drove away to victory by more than 10 seconds.

The victory was a great conclusion to an outstanding weekend for the No. 66 TRG Porsche team and Texas native Ben Keating. The team now looks forward to the penultimate event for the American Le Mans Series presented by Tequila Patron at Virginia International Raceway.

Kevin Buckler on TRG on the COTA track for ALMS GTC:

"That was epic. Epic in so many ways....We said that this was exactly what we wanted to do, and planned for...and executed...Done. The team was flawless all weekend. It was hot and sweaty and they worked early to late every day. But I have to say that that was one of the most

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amazing shows of pure driving talent I have ever seen. Ben was flawless and put us exactly where we wanted to be. The battle with Damien and Sean in the #30 was simply amazing---they stayed 3 seconds apart for an hour and just did it lap after lap....My hat is off to all of them and of course I am so glad we came out on top."

Ben Keating on the big win at COTA:

"Today was amazing. We worked really hard all week to get the Porsche as good as possible. I had so many family and friends here and to start from pole position was a great way to begin the race. We got held up at the start due to issues in front of us at the start. After we found ourselves in second, I worked hard to stay with the No. 30 while also using as little of the car as necessary. We had no drama during my stint, and Damien got in and drove really hard. The TRG guys have worked so hard for us and we are so happy for everyone to get the victory. For me, if you told me I could only win one race this season, this would be the one for me to win. To capture the victory here was outstanding!"

Damien Faulkner on the battle to victory:

"I am so pleased. We all worked so hard, but especially the TRG crew. The season has had tough luck, so to win today makes the win that much sweeter. I am also really happy for Ben to get this win with all of his family and friends here to see it. We knew that our Porsche seemed to make the tires work better longer than on the No. 30 Porsche. With around 20 minutes to go, I attacked HARD. This attack allowed me to get close to the No. 30. When traffic hit, we were able to make the move and pull away for the win. Thank you to TRG, Ben, and Kevin for such a great day!"

About TRG:

TRG is a full-service motorsports company offering a total driver ladder approach, as well as comprehensive sponsorship and business 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 method starts with everything from executive events and traditional sponsorship models, to comprehensive business-to-business opportunities and experiential marketing. The team races in America's two largest sport car series - the American Le Mans Series and the GRAND-AM Rolex Series and can offer turn-key marketing programs as well as arrive-and-drive support.

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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 four championships, four Rolex 24 Hour at Daytona victories, a 24 Hours of Le Mans win, a victory at Petit Le Mans and the longest standing ALMS podium run with 16 in a row.

About Adobe Road Winery:

Adobe Road features hand-crafted small lot wines produced from some of the finest vineyards in Sonoma and Napa counties. It has developed a reputation as one of Northern California's hottest boutique wineries, producing many award-winning wines. Most recently, Wine Spectator Insider gave outstanding scores to four of the wineries latest releases: 2008 Cabernet Sauvignon, Beckstoffer Georges III Vineyard (94 points); 2008 Cabernet Sauvignon, Bavarian Lion Vineyard (93 points); 2009 Syrah, Dry Creek Kemp Vineyard (93 points); and 2009 Chardonnay, Russian River Valley (92 points).

For more information and sponsorship details, please email info@theracersgroup.com .