

EUROPEAN LE MANS SERIES 2019

Round 1: 4 Hours of Castellet

Michelin locks out the podium at the 4 Hours of Castellet

After the official test sessions on April 8 and 9, the 4 Hours of Castellet, the first round of the 2019 European Le Mans Series, took place today on the Paul Ricard Circuit under ideal weather conditions. In the top LMP2 class, Michelin's partners, who equipped half of the 18-strong field, won thanks to racing strategies favoured by the performance and consistency of French tyres.

After four hours of racing, it was the DragonSpeed team's Oreca 07 - Gibson n°21 (Hedman/Hanley/Allen) that won the race and took the opening round of the season. It should be noted that James Allen also made the fastest lap in the race, completing the 5.861 kilometres of the Paul Ricard Circuit in 1'40"803.

The second step of the podium was occupied by the trio of drivers in the n°28 car, also an Oreca 07 - Gibson, managed by the IDEC Sport team. Paul Lafargue, Paul Loup Chatin, and Mémo Rojas placed their car only 20" from the first, securing the place they had occupied for a long time during the race.

The podium was completed by a third Oreca 07 - Gibson, the n°30 of the Duqueine Engineering team, in the hands of Nicolas Jamin, Pierre Ragues and Richard Bradley, who had long fought for the lead of the race, before an additional pit-stop forced it to downshift.

"In 2019, many of the LMP2 teams chose Michelin to compete in the ELMS season. From the very first race, with this triplet, we showed them that they were right," said **Jérôme Mondain**, Michelin's Endurance Program Manager. "Today, our MEDIUM and HARD tyres have proved to be perfectly adapted to the track conditions. As a result, our partners were able to take advantage of their performance, with very stable lap times over the laps. Some teams have even done triple relays!"

The LMP3 category, in which Michelin is the technical partner of all the teams, was won by the Norma M30 n°17 of the Ultimate team, which the brothers Mathieu and Jean-Baptiste Lahaye share with François Hériau. They finished ahead of two Ligier JS P3s: Eurointernational n°11, led by the duo Jensen/Petersen, and Inter Europol Competition de Hippe/Moore n°13.

The next round of the European Le Mans Series, the 4 Hours of Monza 2019, will take place on the historic Italian circuit on May 12.

