

MOTORSPORT

Boulogne-Billancourt (France), July 10, 2022

# Michelin's endurance racing tyres set a scintillating pace in the 'Temple of Speed' at the 6 Hours of Monza

- Top speeds in excess of 300kph, the unique Curva Parabolica corner and stifling air and track temperatures of respectively 33°C and 55°C... Ideal ingredients to showcase the full capabilities of Michelin's tyres
- Long-lasting performance: the single most important requirement to instil confidence in drivers over the duration of the race
- Alpine Elf triumphs in the Hypercar category on Michelin rubber

The N°36 Alpine A480 Gibson shared by André Negrão, Nicolas Lapierre and Matthieu Vaxivière won today's 6 Hours of Monza, following a prolonged battle with the twin Toyota GR010 Hybrid entries. First past the chequered flag, the French outfit led home the N°8 Toyota (Brendon Hartley / Sébastien Buemi / Ryo Hirakawa) and the N°7 sister car (Mike Conway / Kamui Kobayashi / José Maria López). After qualifying on pole position and leading during the opening hours of the race, the N°708 Glickenhaus (Romain Dumas / Olivier Pla / Luis Felipe Derani) was ultimately forced into retirement midway through.

The major news of the weekend was the return of Peugeot Sport, whose two 9X8 Hypercars made their competitive bows. While the N°94 line-up of Loïc Duval, Gustavo Menezes and James Rossiter succeeded in lapping within a few tenths-of-a-second of the team's more experienced adversaries in qualifying, Saturday had proven to be somewhat more complicated for team-mates Mikkel Jensen, Paul Di Resta and Jean-Éric Vergne in the N°93 entry. Nevertheless, from a lowly 36<sup>th</sup> on the starting grid, it was this crew that demonstrated the potential of the team's new prototype as Jensen climbed artfully all the way up to eighth position in less than ten minutes, his efforts bolstered by the peerless performance of his Michelin tyres right from the word 'go'. Even if that charge ended in an early retirement before mid-distance, the DNF did not detract from a remarkable debut, with the N°94 Peugeot 9X8 successfully crossing the finish line fourth in-class at the end of six hours of racing.

"Peugeot's participation in the 6 Hours of Monza was welcomed as much by the sport's fans as by the endurance racing fraternity, with the brand's previous accomplishments in the discipline living long in the memory," remarked Michelin Motorsport Director, **Matthieu Bonardel**. "Here at Michelin, the return of our long-time partner was eagerly-anticipated, and we are delighted with this new collaboration, which is a vital element of Peugeot's preparations for next season."



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"As regards our endurance racing range, at Monza – the iconic 'Temple of Speed' – we supplied tyres capable of maintaining strong pace on a hot track surface. By exploiting the consistency of the Michelin tyres underneath them, the drivers were able to attack throughout, while successfully multiplying stints in-keeping with the regulations that restrict the number of tyres that may be used in races. We witnessed close battles in every class, but our teams provided vital support over the course of the six hours. Due to the technical differences between the cars in the Hypercar category, our entire range of slicks was used at one point or another at Monza."

# One of the world's oldest circuits playing host to some of motorsport's most cutting-edge cars

With its construction completed on August 15, 1922, Italy's Autodromo di Monza celebrates its centenary this year. Famed for its fast, technical profile, the track provided the backdrop once again this weekend to a superb sporting spectacle between pioneering race cars, some of which were equipped with latest-generation hybrid systems. The 5.793km lap includes four straights where top speeds exceeded 300kph, plus a unique feature on the FIA World Endurance Championship calendar – the partially-banked Curva Parabolica that truly puts drivers to the test as it propels them onto the pit straight. Those high speeds and intense loads were the biggest challenges for tyres this weekend – all handled by Michelin in its stride.

#### The results of the other classes contested by Michelin

In the LMGTE Pro category, victory went the way of Corvette Racing's N°64 Chevrolet Corvette C8.6 (Tommy Milner / Nick Tandy) which wisely managed its fuel consumption over the six hours, ahead of the N°52 and N°51 AF Corse Ferrari 488 GTE Evos crewed respectively by Miguel Molina / Antonio Fuoco and Alessandro Pier Guidi / James Calado.

In LMGTE Am, it was Christian Ried, Sebastian Priaulx and Harry Tincknell who scooped the spoils. Behind the wheel of their N°77 Porsche 911 RSR-19, the Dempsey Proton Racing trio pipped Rahel Frey, Michelle Gatting and Sarah Bovy in the N°85 Iron Dames Ferrari 488 GTE Evo and Team Project 1's Matteo Cairoli, Mikkel O. Pedersen and Nicolas Leutwiler in the N°46 Porsche 911 RSR-19 to the top step of the podium.

In addition to her car's top-three finish, Michelin would like to congratulate Sarah Bovy for her pole position in LMGTE Am, after the Belgian became the first female driver to achieve that feat in FIA WEC history.

The next round of the series' 2022 campaign will take place at Fuji in Japan on September 11.



### MOTORSPORT

Michelin's ambition is to improve the mobility of its customers over the long-term. As a leader in the mobility domain, Michelin designs, manufactures and distributes tyres best-suited to customers' needs and uses, as well as services and solutions to enhance vehicle efficiency. Michelin also offers its customers ways to enjoy unique experiences during their journeys and when travelling. In addition, Michelin develops high-tech materials for many sectors of activity. Based in Clermont-Ferrand, Michelin has offices in 177 countries, employs 124,760 people and operates 68 tyre factories which together produced around 173 million tyres in 2021 (www.michelin.com).

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