



MICHELIN DELIVERS ACROSS THE BOARD AT IMSA WEEKEND AT MID-OHIO

Lexington, Ohio. (September 27, 2020) – Michelin engineers headed into the Acura Sports Car Challenge knowing the importance of providing tires that deliver on all counts at one of the most technical circuits of the 2020 IMSA season, the Mid-Ohio Sports Car Course.

After Michelin’s busiest race weekend of the year to mark the midway point, with four total races and more than eight hours of race time featuring 17 automotive brands, the results were successful across the board.

“We recognize Mid-Ohio as one of the most technically demanding circuits of the IMSA season with its mix of fast and slow corners, heavy braking zones, elevation changes and a critical need to put power down on acceleration. To do that while delivering consistent performance and extended tread life is the type of challenge that provides us the ability to deliver outstanding tires for our consumers,” said Tony Ménard, director of motorsport, Michelin North America.

“The challenge for Michelin is to not only produce that level of performance for one car or one team, but to deliver that performance across the board, to all of the manufacturers and teams that make IMSA competition popular and widely respected.

“Seeing records set and double stints run allowed the teams to focus on their race strategy. Seeing 11 different car makers take podiums and so many different combinations of chassis perform so well is very gratifying.”

WeatherTech Race Notes

Acura (DPi) and Lexus (GT Daytona) continued their streak of “three-peats” at Mid-Ohio. Both brands also won at Mid-Ohio in 2018 and 2019. Meanwhile Chevrolet Corvette claimed its fifth GT Le Mans class win in six races since IMSA’s restart and “return to racing” in July.

Ricky Taylor and Helio Castroneves won their third consecutive race in 2020 in their No. 7 Acura ARX-05, and continued their charge forward in the championship after a rough start to their season. A pair of Cadillac DPi-V.Rs from Whelen Engineering Racing and Action Express Racing completed the podium.

Corvette Racing enjoyed an untroubled run to the flag in GTLM with Antonio Garcia and Jordan Taylor in the No. 3 Corvette C8.R. The No. 4 Corvette was second, ahead of the No. 25 BMW M8 GTE.

Five different brands finished in the top five in GTD, led by Lexus with Jack Hawksworth and Aaron Telitz in the No. 14 Lexus RC F GT3. Mercedes-AMG, Porsche and Aston Martin all recorded or equaled their best GTD finish of the year, and the top Acura finished fifth.

MICHELIN Pilot Challenge Doubleheader Notes

Aston Martin (GS) and Audi (TCR) swept the Mid-Ohio 120 doubleheader for the IMSA MICHELIN Pilot Challenge, and won in different ways.

Aston Martin’s win continued the manufacturer parity in GS, as the sixth different brand to win in the first six races (Mercedes-AMG, Audi, McLaren, BMW, Chevrolet). In TCR, Audi snapped Hyundai’s four-race class win streak, as Hyundai raced with a new series-issued performance adjustment of 60 kg (130 pounds).

PRESS INFORMATION



KohR Motorsports dominated in GS with its pairing of Nate Stacy and Kyle Marcelli, who enjoyed a near-perfect weekend in their No. 60 Aston Martin Vantage GT4. Stacy scored both poles and set two new qualifying records on Saturday. They won both races, overcame adversity, and took the points lead.

In TCR on Saturday, James Vance and Max Faulkner went from pole to win in the No. 23 FAST MD Racing Audi RS3 LMS TCR.

“The Michelins were on point,” Vance said. I know we've (and the field) been trying to figure out a good balance with the tires the last few races. But the temps are a bit cooler, so tire deg was really good today. We were able to consistently lap in mid to high (one minute) 30s the whole stint.”

On Sunday, Jon Morley completed a 76-minute, 48-lap final stint on the same tank of fuel and set of MICHELIN® Pilot® Sport GT S9M tires to ensure he and Gavin Ernstone won their second race of 2020 in the No. 61 Roadshagger Racing Audi.

Additionally in TCR, Honda finished a season-best second with Ryan Eversley and Taylor Hagler in Race 1. The pair looked on course to win Sunday's Race 2, with Hagler leading her entire stint from her first career pole before a turbocharger issue halted Eversley's run to a potential victory.

Mid-Ohio Post-Race Notes Package

- **Michelin Tire Tech Tip Minute:** Known as one of the most physical and technically demanding tracks, the Mid-Ohio Sports Car Course requires a driver, a team, a car and a tire to do everything well. NBC Sports reporter Parker Kligerman explains the juggling act with help from a few friends from Corvette Racing and BMW Team RLL [in this race's MICHELIN® Tire Tech Tip Minute](#).
- **Seven Weekend Records:** IMSA teams and drivers set seven new qualifying or race lap records this weekend, across all three series. New records set included two new GS qualifying records, one GS and one TCR one lap record, the LMP3 qualifying and race lap records and the DPi race lap record. This brings Michelin's total to 117 since becoming the Official Tire of IMSA in 2019.
- **Additional IMPC Notes:** Aston Martin, Mercedes-AMG and Audi scored the GS class podiums, while Audi, Honda and Hyundai scored TCR class podiums. Stacy and Marcelli lead the GS points standings by seven points over 2019 champions Tyler McQuarrie and Jeff Westphal (CarBahn Audi). Gabby Chaves and Ryan Norman (Bryan Herta Autosport Hyundai) lead in TCR, with the top four pairings covered by 13 points.
- **Dickerson, Cicero Win PC Race:** Dakota Dickerson repeated his 2019 win at Mid-Ohio in IMSA Prototype Challenge in the No. 54 MLT Motorsports Ligier JS P3. While last year he won with Dylan Murry, this year he won with Dom Cicero. The win propelled Dickerson to just six points of championship leaders Matthew Bell and Naveen Rao (No. 64 K2R Motorsports Norma M30), who finished second. The Prototype Challenge season concludes at Michelin Raceway Road Atlanta.

Race Winners: Acura Sports Car Challenge

Michelin congratulates the race winners of the Acura Sports Car Challenge weekend at Mid-Ohio:

WeatherTech Championship

- DPi: Helio Castroneves, Ricky Taylor, No. 7 Acura Team Penske ARX-05
- GTLM: Antonio Garcia, Jordan Taylor, No. 3 Corvette C8.R
- GTD: Jack Hawksworth, Aaron Telitz, No. 14 AIM Vasser Sullivan Lexus RC F GT3

MICHELIN Pilot Challenge

PRESS INFORMATION



Race 1

- GS: Nate Stacy, Kyle Marcelli, No. 60 KohR Motorsports Aston Martin Vantage GT4
- TCR: James Vance, Max Faulkner, No. 23 FAST MD Racing Audi RS3 LMS TCR

Race 2

- GS: Nate Stacy, Kyle Marcelli, No. 60 KohR Motorsports Aston Martin Vantage GT4
- TCR: Gavin Ernstone, Jon Morley, No. 61 Roadshagger Racing Audi RS3 LMS TCR

Prototype Challenge

- LMP3: Dakota Dickerson, Dom Cicero, No. 54 MLT Motorsports Ligier JS P3

Next Up:

Mid-Ohio marked the first of IMSA's three race in four weekend stretch. The WeatherTech Championship GT classes make their inaugural trip to Charlotte Motor Speedway's Roval on Saturday, October 10 (8 p.m. ET, NBC Sports).

The WeatherTech prototype classes and two IMSA Challenge series race next at Michelin Raceway Road Atlanta, October 14-17. That weekend also marks the third IMSA Michelin Endurance Cup round of the WeatherTech season, and the final Prototype Challenge race of the season.

All IMSA races air on *TrackPass* on NBC Sports Gold. IMSA Radio carries all qualifying and races live, flag-to-flag and commercial free.

About Michelin

Dedicated to the improvement of sustainable mobility, Michelin designs, manufactures and sells tires for every type of vehicle, including airplanes, automobiles, bicycles, earthmovers, farm equipment, heavy-duty trucks and motorcycles. The Company has earned a long-standing reputation for building innovative premium tires. In addition to tires, the Company also publishes travel guides, hotel and restaurant guides, maps and road atlases. Headquartered in Greenville, S.C., Michelin North America (www.michelinman.com) employs more than 20,000 people and operates 19 major manufacturing plants. Forbes magazine has ranked Michelin No. 1 on its annual survey of "Best Large Employers in America" for 2018.

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