

Austin (United States), September 6, 2026

Lone Star Le Mans

Versatility and consistency for Michelin Pilot Sport Endurance tires at Circuit of The Americas

- The fifth round of the FIA World Endurance Championship (FIA WEC) took place in particularly challenging conditions on the hot and occasionally damp Circuit of The Americas in Austin, Texas.
- The Michelin Pilot Sport Endurance tires delivered outstanding performance from the first to the final kilometer of the race, enabling teams to execute their strategies with confidence.
- Following a race marked by particularly intense battles, the #50 Ferrari 499P (AF Corse) took victory, supported by Michelin tires that proved effective in every aspect of performance.

Circuit of The Americas once again provided a particularly demanding stage for the Hypercar field, which is exclusively equipped with Michelin tires. Contested in challenging weather conditions, this fifth round also marked the FIA World Endurance Championship's entry into the second half of its 2026 season.

For Lone Star Le Mans, Michelin made two compounds available to its partners: Medium, offering excellent versatility and performance across a wide range of temperatures, and Hard, designed to cope with the highest track temperatures. A dedicated range was also available in the event of rain. Despite several spells of rain during the weekend, however, the teams were able to run exclusively on slick tires.

From Friday onward, Michelin's partners worked on different car setups and refined their understanding of the performance crossover between the Medium and Hard compounds. Given the amount of energy each tire set could cover over successive stints, combined with the tire allocation available to each car, teams either had to extend the use of the Medium over multiple stints or incorporate the Hard into their strategies, particularly during the hottest hours of the day. These conditions gave each team the opportunity to optimize its approach according to car setup and individual driving styles.

The race started at 1:00 p.m. local time under overcast skies, with an ambient temperature of more than 30°C and the track reaching 40°C. These conditions allowed both available compounds to operate within their performance windows. Two Michelin partners elected to start on Michelin Pilot Sport Endurance Hard tires, while the majority of the field opted for the Medium.

With a few drops of rain having dampened certain sections of the circuit shortly before the start, the race began behind the Safety Car. As soon as it pulled in, the pace quickly intensified, leading to numerous overtaking moves. At the end of the opening stint, teams retaining the same driver also elected to continue on the same set of tires, regardless of the compound initially selected.

Although the forecasts had indicated a significant risk of rain, the clouds gradually cleared. Stable track temperatures enabled Michelin's partners to take full advantage of the consistency of their tires. As temperatures began to fall, every car ultimately switched to the Medium compound to benefit from its versatility.

Pierre Alves, Michelin Motorsport Endurance Program Manager:

"We had supported some teams here in July, when track temperatures were higher and our partners consequently made greater use of the Hard compound. This time, we had more opportunities to demonstrate the versatility and consistent performance of our Medium tire, which comfortably completed two stints and enabled every team to build its strategy with confidence."

"Circuit of The Americas is an unusual venue. It runs counterclockwise and features a variety of challenges, placing very different demands on the tires. We not only needed tires capable of delivering consistent performance, but also 'chameleon-like' tires able to provide drivers with the right response across a very broad range of demands."

"It is also worth noting that four manufacturers finished in the top five and eight in the top 10. This underlines the remarkable adaptability of our tires, which are identical for every car despite the very different characteristics of the various Hypercars. This race weekend was a genuine success for us and confirmed that the compounds selected provided the best package for such an intensive weekend."

Over the entire race weekend, each Michelin partner had an allocation of 30 tires: 12 for practice and 18 for qualifying and the race. Cars that took part in Hyperpole temporarily received four additional Medium tires, which were subsequently collected by Michelin and will be reused during private testing.

During the race, every team competing in the Hypercar category benefited from the valuable support of Michelin's Technical Team Advisors.

At the end of six hours of intense racing, during which a few drops of rain fell without disrupting tire strategies, the 2026 Lone Star Le Mans was won by Antonio Fuoco, Miguel Molina and Nicklas Nielsen in the #50 Ferrari 499P (AF Corse).

They finished ahead of the #38 Cadillac V-Series.R (Cadillac Hertz Team Jota) of Jack Aitken, Earl Bamber and Sébastien Bourdais. Third place went to the #35 Alpine A424 (Alpine Endurance Team), driven by Charles Milesi, António Félix da Costa and Ferdinand Habsburg.

A new generation of more sustainable tires

Introduced this season, the new generation of Michelin Pilot Sport Endurance tires fitted to every car in the Hypercar category is made with 50% renewable and recycled materials. This figure illustrates Michelin's ability to combine long-lasting performance, consistency over extended stints and reduced use of fossil-based or virgin raw materials in one of motorsport's most demanding environments.

The sixth round of the FIA World Endurance Championship will take place in Japan from September 25 to 27, with the 6 Hours of Fuji.

About Michelin

Michelin is building a world-leading manufacturer of life-changing composites and experiences. Pioneering engineered materials for more than 130 years, Michelin is uniquely positioned to make decisive contributions to human progress and to a more sustainable world. Drawing on its deep know-how in polymer composites, Michelin is constantly innovating to manufacture high-quality tires and components for critical applications in demanding fields as varied as mobility, construction, aeronautics, low-carbon energies, and healthcare. The care placed in its products and deep customer knowledge inspire Michelin to offer the finest experiences. This spans from providing data- and AI-based connected solutions for professional fleets to recommending outstanding restaurants and hotels curated by the MICHELIN Guide. Headquartered in Clermont-Ferrand, France, Michelin is present in 175 countries and employs 122,600 people.

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