



ASTON MARTIN

RACING LINE

| ISSUE 02 | www.astonmartinracing.com |



STEPHANE SARRAZIN DURING THE 2006 SEBRING 12-HOURS

DOUBLE PODIUM FOR ASTON MARTIN AT SEBRING 12-HOURS

"THE CAR HASN'T MISSED A SINGLE BEAT. THE PIT STOPS HAVE BEEN STUNNING AT EVERY TURN AND THE DRIVERS HAVE DONE A GREAT, GREAT JOB." DAVID RICHARDS, CHAIRMAN, PRODRIVE

The Aston Martin Racing team scored a tremendous double podium finish at the opening round of the American Le Mans Series at Sebring, Florida, at the weekend.

Pedro Lamy, Stephane Sarrazin and Jason Bright finished second in class and fourth overall in their Aston Martin DBR9 after a gruelling 12-hour race. They were followed over the line by their teammates Darren Turner, Tomas Enge and Nicolas Kiesa, who were delayed by 20 minutes when their bonnet came off in the fifth hour after an earlier accident which caused front-end damage. Following the delay, the three battled back to third in class and Czech driver Enge drove an

extraordinary final 20 minutes under intense pressure from the second Corvette C6-R of Max Papis. The two finished 0.637s apart after 12-hours of racing. "It was a great battle" said Enge. Lamy, Sarrazin and Bright were unfortunate to have lost a lap when Allan McNish, leading in his diesel-powered Audi, slid past the 009 car shortly before a full course caution. That allowed the Corvettes to make up a lap on the Aston Martin which proved the deciding factor in the race. Sarrazin commented: "We didn't win, but we know there are more improvements to come with the new tyres. The team was very strong, we made no mistakes and finished with a very positive result."

IN BRIEF...



TYRE TESTING CONTINUES IN PORTUGAL FOR RACEALLIANCE

The Austrian RaceAlliance team (pictured above) continued its testing programme last week in Estoril, Portugal. The Aston Martin DBR9 ran trouble-free for two days in the hands of drivers Philipp Peter and Karl Wendlinger. "We got quite a lot of track time," said Peter, who will drive the car in the FIA GT Championship. "Consequently we have more and more confidence in our new car and the teamwork has shaped up well too." Team manager Andreas Hainke said: "We have all the prerequisites. Now we need to put our available capacity into shape to be ready for the start of the season."

The Autosport Designs Racing team gave the Aston Martin DBRS9 its competition debut at the opening round of the SCCA Pro Racing Speed GT World Challenge at Sebring at the weekend. Tom Papadopoulos had a clean run to finish 15th in his DBRS9, while Johnny Mowlem was forced to retire. Barry Wagner, Crew Chief for Autosport Designs Racing said: "having received these cars only 10 days before the start of practice and having to modify them to the series specifications, I am quite pleased with the progress that we have made."

The Cirtek Motorsport Aston Martin DBR9 was the star attraction at a charity ball held at the Dorchester hotel in London on March 11, in aid of Cancer Research and Motor Neurone disease. Catherine McQueen (pictured), who featured in Bond film 'Die Another Day' attended, along with five cars featured in James Bond films.

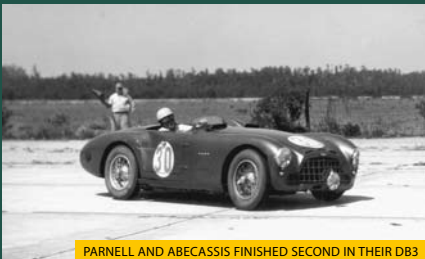


CATHERINE MCQUEEN POSES ON THE CIRTEK MOTORSPORT DBR9



AS THE SUN SETS, ASTON MARTIN HEADS A TRAIN OF CARS INTO SEBRING'S FAMOUS TURN ONE

SEBRING 1953



PARNELL AND ABECASSIS FINISHED SECOND IN THEIR DB3

Aston Martin's most successful overall result at the Sebring 12-hours came in 1953, when Reg Parnell and George Abecassis raced to second place in the second running of what has become an endurance classic in Florida.

The pair drove one of two Aston Martin DB3s in the race, while the second was driven by Geoff Duke and Peter Collins. Rival Briggs Cunningham loaned the team equipment for the race, and helped them to acclimatise to the featureless circuit, laid out on a former World War Two airfield. The track was marked out with hay bales and old oil drums.

Duke and Collins led the race, the first event of the new FIA Sports Car World Championship, in their DB3 when the car collided with a Jaguar XK120 driven by Norm Christianson, forcing retirement. The Cunningham C4R, driven by John Fitch and Phil Walters, battled with the second Aston Martin for most of the race, never more than a lap apart and for most of the race only seconds separated the two.

The result was decided when the Aston Martin hit an oil drum, causing enough damage to a drop lap behind the winning Cunningham.

AUTOSPORT DESIGNS TAKING ON SPEED GT WORLD CHALLENGE

Autosport Designs Racing driver and team owner Tom Papadopoulos is a dedicated Aston Martin fan whose dream for the 2006 season was to race one of the British manufactured cars in the United States. At Sebring on March 18, that dream was realised when Papadopoulos and Johnny Mowlem each drove a DBRS9 in the opening round of the 2006 SCCA Speed GT World Challenge.

The team is backed by another Aston Martin fan John Sindors and is made up of staff from the Autosport Designs facility at Huntingdon Station in New York. Autosport Designs is the largest vintage Aston Martin, Ferrari and Porsche facility in the US, and undertakes repair and restoration work on vintage cars.

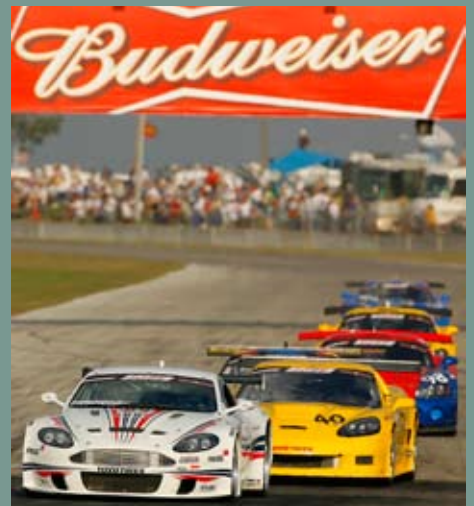
By day, Scott Rumbold works with Papadopoulos in the sales department, but at the weekend he becomes an integral part of the team, taking the role of team manager. The cars and equipment are transported from track to track by a dedicated driver, while the rest of the team, including Papadopoulos and Rumbold, returns to the workshop to continue their regular work.

The company was started in 1987 when Papadopoulos borrowed \$15,000 from his grandmother to prepare cars for club events. With Barry Wagner, crew chief for the team, the pair built a reputation for preparing reliable cars, and the business steadily grew.

The Autosport Designs Racing team will contest the full 10-round SCCA Speed GT World Challenge with the two Aston Martin DBRS9s. The next round is in St Petersburg, Florida, on April 2.



THE AUTOSPORT DESIGNS RACING DBRS9 ON ITS COMPETITION DEBUT



THE DBRS9 IS A POPULAR ADDITION TO THE SPEED GT WORLD CHALLENGE



ASTON MARTIN DRAWS FIRST BLOOD WITH POLE AT SEBRING

Aston Martin stole the march on General Motors during qualifying for the Sebring 12-hours. Pedro Lamy got the relationship with tyre supplier Pirelli off to the best possible start when the Portuguese driver set the pole position time. Lamy's lap was timed at 1m55.286s around the 3.7 mile Sebring International Raceway, 1.8 seconds faster than the previous qualifying record, set in 2004. It also marked the team's best qualifying result in the ALMS with the DBR9. "It is my first ever qualifying pole in this series and it shows that the hard work and testing is paying off," said Lamy. "We've had to adapt to new tyres for this race and that has meant a lot of preparation," he added, referring to the switch to Pirelli tyres this year. Czech driver Tomas Engle was second fastest in the sister DBR9 with a lap time of 1m56.030s. Paul Hembery, Pirelli's Motorsport Director, said: "Considering the brief amount of time we've had in preparation, and the fact that the only test we have done this year took place in a temperature of about 5 degrees C, I think getting a 55.2s lap at Sebring is very impressive for Pedro, Aston Martin and Pirelli."

PEDRO LAMY



PEDRO LAMY (RIGHT) CHATS WITH TEAM MATE TOMAS ENGE

WHAT DOES ASTON MARTIN MEAN TO YOU?

It is a great opportunity for me to be with the factory team, a professional team like Aston Martin Racing. The brand is my dream. When you can race with your dream car, it is perfect.

WHAT IS YOUR BEST EVER RACE?

I had some good races. Last year's are the ones I remember the best, but the race I enjoyed the most to win was the F3000 race in Pau 1993. It is a tough street circuit, and I won there, so that was really nice.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE CIRCUIT?

Spa. There are circuits that are not so nice. I try to enjoy them, but Spa is always number one. It is all type of corners, up and down, and it is a nice area.

HOW DO YOU RELAX AWAY FROM RACING?

Surfing. I surf in Portugal and in Australia. I also did some surfing in America when I was racing there.

WHERE IS YOUR FAVOURITE PLACE IN THE WORLD?

I never been to Hawaii, and I would like to go there just for the surfing.

WHAT IS YOUR GREATEST AMBITION?

If I don't feel competitive then I will stop, but I would like to be racing until I am 50 years old!



DBR9 009: BRIGHT, LAMY AND SARRAZIN



DBR9 007: KIESA, ENGE AND TURNER

EXPERIENCE KEY TO ASTON MARTIN SUCCESS AT SEBRING

Aston Martin's choice of drivers for the Sebring 12-hours draws from a wealth of experience in different forms of motorsport, including Formula One, V8 Super car racing from Australia, the Indy Racing League, and the World Rally Championship. Each has the common factor that the car is prepared for one driver only, yet a key feature of endurance racing is to share your car over the course of the race with others. While that was alien to the newcomers of the team, it also proved to be useful as they gained experience of both the car, and the Florida circuit.

"The other drivers have been very helpful in getting me up to speed," said Jason Bright, who is more used to a front-engined, V8-powered touring car in Australia and who raced the Aston Martin for the first time at Sebring. "It was important to get up to speed quickly, and fortunately there was a lot of data which shortened the process quite a bit. I am very lucky because the others tested here last week so they were up to speed by the time I got here. I was quickly up to a race pace although I don't think I could have got close to Pedro's qualifying lap!"

Nicolas Kiesa was another driver who was finding the sharing of car data useful as he sought to match the pace of Darren Turner, and Tomas Engle. "The two drivers just step in the cars and go quick, and that forces you to find something in yourself to raise the bar," says the Dane. "Because someone else has driven the car faster than you, so you are the problem. It raises the bar every time.

"I have already learned a lot of things about this circuit from Darren. It saved a lot of time and it pays off asking, especially when you have three people in the car and it is in their interest to make you go faster. It is a different way of approach to ask your team-mates."

Of the other established members of the team, Frenchman Stephane Sarrazin will again drive in the World Rally Championship, Tomas Engle has signed to drive in the single seat A1 GP series and Darren Turner will be driving in the British Touring Car Championship.

RESULTS



AMERICAN LE MANS SERIES

POS	DRIVERS	CAR	TIME	LAPS
1	Capello/Kristensen/McNish	Audi R10 TDI	12:01:56.561	349
2	C.Field/J. Field/Halliday	Lola B05/40	12:02:23.683	345
3	Gavin/Beretta/Magnussen	Corvette C6-R	12:03:28.938	338
4	Bright/Lamy/Sarrazin	Aston Martin DBR9	12:02:53.164	337
5	Weaver/Leitzinger/Wallace	Lola B06/10	12:02:30.467	336
6	Enge/Kiesa/Turner	Aston Martin DBR9	12:02:46.367	324
7	Fellows/O'Connell/Papis	Corvette C6-R	12:02:47.004	324
8	Maassen/Luhr/Collard	Porsche RS Spyder	11:08:34.044	323
9	Maxwell/Brabham/Bourdais	Panoz Esperante	12:02:24.763	320
10	van Overbeek/Fogarty/Lieb	Porsche GT3RSR	12:02:30.128	320
11	Kelleners/Melo/Lazzaro	Ferrari 360 GT	12:03:13.776	320
12	Binnie/Timpany/Sutherland	Lola B05/40	12:03:17.457	317
13	Law/Nieman/Pechnik	Porsche GT3RSR	12:03:20.016	315
14	Tomlinson/Dean/Kimber Smith	Panoz Esperante	12:03:12.533	312
15	Rockenfeller/Graf/Rahal	Porsche GT3RSR	12:02:50.231	311

SPEED GT WORLD CHALLENGE

POS	DRIVERS	CAR	TIME	LAPS
1	Mike McCann	Dodge Viper	00.000	20
2	Andy Pilgrim	Cadillac CTS-V	-11.571s	20
3	Bob Woodhouse	Dodge Viper	-19.381s	20
4	James Sofronas	Porsche GT3	-22.464s	20
5	Lawson Aschenbach	Porsche GT3	-22.865s	20
6	Doug Petersen	Chevrolet C6	-47.170s	20
7	Sonny Whelen	Chevrolet C6	-59.145s	20
8	Ricardo Imery	Porsche GT3	-1m00.005s	20
9	Rob Foster	Dodge Viper	-1m01.517s	20
10	Skip Sauls	Dodge Viper	-1m09.168s	20
11	Claudio Burtin	Chevrolet C6	-1m18.147s	20
12	Lenny Diller	Dodge Viper	-1m25.654s	20
13	Brett Pearson	Dodge Viper	-1m27.704s	20
14	Kenny Hawkins	Dodge Viper	-1m56.824s	20
15	Tom Papadopoulos	Aston Martin DBRS9	-2m07.935s	20
...28	Johnny Mowlem	Aston Martin DBRS9	DNF	1



For further information, please contact:

Janette Green, Director Brand Communications, jgree159@astonmartin.com

Sarah Durose, Motorsport Business Manager, sdurose@astonmartin.com

Barbara Prince, Corporate Affairs Manager, bprince1@astonmartin.com

Matthew Clarke, Product Press Officer, mclark89@astonmartin.com

Kevin Watters, Corporate Press Officer, kwatter2@astonmartin.com



ASTON MARTIN

www.astonmartin.com
www.astonmartinracing.com