



BMW Team RLL Finish Third and Fourth at Mid-Ohio



Lexington, Ohio – August, 6, 2011...It was rain won and BMW Team RLL three and four as rain proved to be the ultimate winner of the American Le Mans Series Mid-Ohio Sports Car Challenge. A torrential downpour stopped the two-hour-and-forty-five-minute contest with 13 minutes remaining with Bill Auberlen and Dirk Werner finishing third in the No. 55 M3 GT. Teammates Joey Hand and Dirk Mueller came home fourth in the No. 56 M3 GT for a second consecutive race. The finish keeps BMW on top in the GT Manufacturer point standings, BMW Team RLL in the Team points

lead and Joey Hand and Dirk Mueller at the top of the driver standing.

“It was a tough day for us”, said **Bobby Rahal**, Team Principal. “We had a bad first pit stop with the No. 56 M3 GT and that ultimately forced our hand with a strategy call which may have worked if it had not rained. Third and fourth is not a bad way to end today, but we always come to finish one-two.”

The team elected to start Mueller in the No. 56 M3 GT after Hand qualified the car on the pole and he led the GT field across the line on the opening lap. Dirk Werner started the No. 55 M3 GT from the second spot, but was slowed by a LMPC car in the first turn and dropped to fifth. Mueller dropped to third on lap two, but the two BMW Motorsport drivers quickly recovered to hold the third and fifth positions as the race began to develop. Mueller moved up to second before both drivers pitted under green on lap 40. Bill Auberlen replaced Werner in the No. 55 M3 GT and was able to jump Mueller, who remained in the No. 56 car, in the pits. Unfortunately, the two tangled a few turns later and Auberlen was spun around. Mueller continued on in third place with Auberlen dropping back to fourth.

As a few rain drops began to fall Mueller pitted under green just past the 1:30 hour mark (lap 64) for Hand. With Dunlop rain tires ready if the rain intensified, the team elected to send Hand out on slicks. The rain did begin only 22 minutes later with Hand pitting for rain tires on lap 76 and Auberlen following his teammate in on lap 77.

Yellow flags waved for a second time in the race just before the 2:00 hour mark slowing the field with Auberlen circulating in sixth and Hand in eighth. When the green flag waved Hand had contact with the Ferrari to bring out the race's third caution period. Hand was able to continue, but the rain intensified, making the track treacherous when the green flag waved on lap 88. Auberlen and Hand charged forward as competitor after competitor slid off the track reaching the third and fourth positions before the fourth yellow flag waved. A red flag brought all the cars to the pits and ultimately an end to the race.

Round Six of the American Le Mans Series, the Road Race Showcase, will be held at Road America, in Elkhart Lake, Wisconsin, on Saturday, August 20.

About BMW Team RLL:

BMW Group In America BMW of North America, LLC has been present in the United States since 1975. The BMW Group in the United States has grown to include marketing, sales, and financial service organizations for the BMW brand of motor vehicles, including motorcycles, the MINI brand, and the Rolls-Royce brand of Motor Cars; DesignworksUSA, a strategic design





consultancy in California; a technology office in Silicon Valley and various other operations throughout the country. BMW Manufacturing Co., LLC in South Carolina is part of BMW Group's global manufacturing network and is the exclusive manufacturing plant for all X5 and X3 Sports Activity Vehicles and X6 Sports Activity Coupes. The BMW Group sales organization is represented in the U.S. through networks of 338 BMW passenger car and BMW Sports Activity Vehicle centers, 138 BMW motorcycle retailers, 105 MINI passenger car dealers, and 30 Rolls-Royce Motor Car dealers. BMW (US) Holding Corp., the BMW Group's sales headquarters for North America, is located in Woodcliff Lake, New Jersey.

Rahal Letterman Lanigan Racing BMW's partner, Rahal Letterman Lanigan Racing, based in Hilliard, Ohio and co-owned by three-time IndyCar Champion and 1986 Indianapolis 500 winner Bobby Rahal, Mi-Jack co-owner Mike Lanigan and CBS LATE SHOW host David Letterman, has been competing for nearly two decades, compiling 22 victories, 31 poles and two series championships (1992, 2010) as well as claiming an Indianapolis 500 victory (Buddy Rice Parts in 2004). In 2009 the team joined BMW of North America to campaign the new BMW M3 in the American Le Mans Series, and in 2010 won both the Manufacturer and Team Championships in the GT category.

Journalist note: Information about the BMW and its products is available to journalists on-line at www.bmwusnews.com.

Video interviews and on-board clips are available at www.youtube.com/BMWNAMotorsport.

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Information about Rahal Letterman Lanigan Racing is available via at: www.rahall.com.

