MIDNIGHT MADNESS

3 a.m.: Morrison-Cook vs. Bakeracing, Goodyear vs. BFG

BY BILL MITCHELL



The No. 98 Marrison-Cook Corvette of Don Knowles, Bob McConnell and John Helmitry survived the madness to win the Longest Day.

When was the last time a race had a four-car incident before the start? How about one where two cars ended up in a swamp? How about one with a last lap which began with the leading car and his teammate being knocked off course? Sound like a Formula Fanatic race? Does the story end with the Chief Steward putting on Steward's Stern Face No. 3 and telling everyone to put his toys away until he learns to play right?

Well, those incidents and more occurred at the Longest Day of Nelson Ledges, the third round of the Escort Endurance series. Corvettes and Porsches knocked each other off course before the green flag, not Swifts and Crossles. It was a Dodge and a Camaro in the swamp, not a Reynard and a Van Diemen. The two Morrison-Cook Corvettes got punted off course a full 24 hours and 928 laps after the first Corvette hit the front straight tire wall. It was Madness in the Mahoning Valley.

Sixty-one cars approached the starter at 3 p.m. Saturday. Freddy Baker had his General Tire-shod Porsche 944 Turbo on the pole alongside R.K. Smith in a Goodycarclad Powell Motorsports Corvette. With a horde of 'Vettes and 944s charging into Turn One, it was anticipated that the inside row of polesitter Baker, third qualifier Tommy Archer (Bakeracing Corvette), fifth starter Bob Strange (Rick Hurst Porsche 944 Turbo), Don Knowles (Morrison-Cook Corvette), and Bill Cooper (Rippie-Anderson Corvette) would be able to pin the outside row in the marbles and seize an initial advantage.

Smith came onto the front straight sooner than Baker, who then appeared to hesitate. That set off a chain reaction among the inside row which ended with T. Archer in the tires on the right side and Strange off course on the right. Knowles said he felt "like a ping-pong ball" as he bounced between cars in front of and behind him. Both cars continued, but it was a strange start to a 24-hour race.

The madness was just beginning. Twice within the first hour rain dampened the track, leading to numerous spins. Ron Grable, as experienced a driver as you can find in the series, spun three times in the first hour. But the madness was just beginning.

LET ME OUT!

Scott Lagasse, making his Escort series debut in an RCG Corvette, got first shift. He The third hour was tough on the front row starters. Baker handed over to co-driver Ross Cheever for the second stint. At 5:11 p.m., Cheever drove off the front straight onto the grass to pass another car. The Porsche slid into the tires and flipped onto the track. The Porsche was destroyed. The Fred Baker Racing truck left the track before dark, their hopes dashed in a moment's impetuousness.

Smith's problems were less dramatic and less terminal. The ECM got hot and they lost many laps replacing it. The car continued, but was involved in an unfortunate event in the middle of the night. Smith spun in the Carrousel and parked the Corvette on the tire wall.

A wrecker was dispatched to pull it off. They hooked up and were preparing to remove the Corvette when Bob Reed spun off the track and headed for the group. His Mazda RX-7 hit corner worker Bryan Bartzi and knocked him down, breaking his leg. The Mazda continued on to the tire wall, ending up atop Bartzi. Wrecker operator Willie Harshman was also hit and sustained a possible broken ankle. Smith drove to the pits and informed the stewards there was a serious problem on the circuit. The race was then red-flagged for 35 minutes.

After that incident, the pace car was sent out every time a wrecker was needed.

When the race was restarted, the SS battle was down to three cars: the No. 4 Bakeracing Corvette of Tommy and Bobby Archer, Kim Baker and Mitch Wright; the No. 1 Morrison-Cook 'Vette of Knowles, Bob McConnell and John Heinricy, The Good-CONTNUED ON INGE 54



The Nelson Ledges survival hit . .



... included rolls and rolls of racer's tape.



The RA Motorsports Cornette and the Carlson Racing Porsche duel in the rain at Nelson.

completed it respectfully, and then pitted for fuel and a driver change. But the cars were packed so tightly in the pits he couldn't get the door open. The refueling completed, he was pushed out and drove a second shift.

Fits Good, Works Great

In the fourth hour, the windshield broke on the No. 9 fCY Raring Mitsubishi Starion. With no spares available, they borrowed an Audi windshield from the retired Biezer Racing team. Now, Quattro glass doesn't just pop into a Starion. In fact, it was at least a couple of inches too big. But the team tabeicated some retaining clips, used a lot of tape and got it to work.

"Amazingly, it fit good and it just worked great," said ICY driver Ed Erlandson. The team got back in the tace and finished 30th and ninth in SSB.



The driver's meeting at Nelson: do's and don'ts for the 24 hours.

SCCA/ESOORT ENDURANCE CHAMPTONSHIP

TERE SCOREBOARD—After 3 of 6 more

Nelson	Ledges (mr	ie 25-29, 1	986	
	58	SSGT	SSA	SSB
First	BFGoodrich	Goodyear	Thyo	Yokohama
Second	Goodyna	Toyo	Goodyear	Woloobarra.
Third	BFGoodrich	General	Yokoharras	Goodyear
Pole	General	General	Goodyear	Toyo

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The state of the s	Pinte	Seconds	flinds	Poles
Goodyeas	2	6	3	3
Toyo	4	2	1	3
Yokohama	4	3	-1	L
BPGoodrich	3.	1 1	.1	3
General	0	0	-1	2
Bridgestone	0	-D	1	1

SHOCK ABSORBER SCORECARD

Nelson Ledges, June 28-29, 1085

	55	SSGT	SSA	SSB
First	Bilstein	Bilstrin	Dilico	Koni
Second	Blistein	Steri	Mouroe	Honi
Third	Rissen.	Soni	Tokiou	Honi
Pole	Kont	Some	Monroe	Tokico

6		Tinta	Seconds	Thirds	Poles
Ē	Bilatein	ь	8	- 1	1
B	Kuni	2	4	5	4
	Bokies	4	1.1	2	4

Year To Date Besults - After S of 5 racin

Monroe

RESULTS

SCCA Escort Endurance Cup—Round Three June 28-29, 1986/Nelson Ledges

2.0-mile course-24 hours

OA/POS	CLPOS	DRIVERS	CAR	LAPS	QUAL, POS (CL/QUAL)	QUAL TIME
	55/1	Knowles/Heinricy/McConnell	Corvells	920	7[7-88]	1:17.09
2	55/2	Corper/Nelson/Johnstone/Pilgrim	Corvelle	916	939-88	1:17.88
3	5501	GmbleCarmdneNtryner	Corvette	908	4 4-88	1:16.96
4	5594	Milledge/Nierop/Ubon/Units	Porscite 944 Terbo	901	10(10-88)	1:18.02
5	55/5	Net Ecologos/ingulagol/iemere	Corvette	899	848-88	1:17.12
60	5596	Peakan Nati Joreal de Welsteins Francouling	Porecke 964 Torbo	807	15(15(88)	108.97
7	5897	Strange/O'Stran/Morton	Poreche 964 Torbo	506	5(5 88)	1:17.02
8	550.8	Dinkal's Archer/jackson/fullivan	Corvette	585	11/11/88	1:18.04
97	Art	Rutherfred/Kong/Wolin/Veglace	Mitechieni Starkon	678	37 3.AI	1:25.20
10	A/2	Ulkm/fivans/florack:	Dodge Shelly Turbo	671	HATHOE .	1:24.77
II.	52979	Philipp/Lagrasc/Withenburg	Corvetta	969	19(19-55)	1:24-01
12	8/1	SnorthGreen/Landon/Peterson	Honda CRX-8	866 864	27 3-6 16 16-55	1.18.48
13	38/10	Bogan/Williama/Freed/Pojol/Brond	Persona 944 Rebo Honda CRX-Si	963	2844-34	1-24.57
14	262	Hanso Gayland Stewart	Corveta:	868	17)17-551	1.18.08
15	88'11"	Sharman/ChercyCeppos/Good	Presche 944	866	DNO	DNU
18	G1/1 G1/2	McIntosh MacIntos Birli	Presche 944	855	419 GD	1.26.75
17	B/S	Colom/Parker/Lopham/O'Nell	Volomagen Scirroco	863	40:10-01	1 25,19
19	B/4	KisenDarcy/Oug/Salerno Woodact/PottenGuthrierFameli	Paugon 506 Turbo	852	25(2-R	1:24.27
20	85	Pagnon/Hoys/Briody/Nagr)	Nissan 2008X Turbo	849	196-R	5.28.03
21	QT/S	Ridgeth/Tous/Careres/Saleen	Reed Saleen Mustang	845	2243-GT:	123.14
22	GT/4	Titus/Saleen/Smaldone	Reed Saleen Mustang	235	30(3-677)	122.00
23	B/6	Connolly/LowthenShafenMaloy/Gall	Nissan 2008X Turbo	335	36(740)	1,091,12
24	55/13	Lobenberg/Hillin/Wolcombile/Hillin/Hastrup		834	14(14-68)	1:18.27
25	GT%	Mayriglan/May/Ashley	Rend Mustang GT	834	21[7-G1]	124.80
26	B/7	Scholtz/Little/Resemblum/Defreedst	Mitsubishi Surion	827	39(3-8)	126.46
37	55/13	P. Hacken'K, Hacken'tireman'				
		K. Mathewson/Coghill III	Porsche 944 Torbo	827	12(12-88)	1:18.17
28	TI/II	Werner/Grant/Grosem/Suburtion	House CRX St	310	52(17-B)	1:28:30
39	GT/E*	Michael Durwitchers/Rose	Pontiac Trons Am	809	21(2/01)	1:23.02
30	109	Refrestont/Server/Erlandson/Hescet/Virtule	Mitsubishi Station	AD6-	4411-24	1:26.83
31	23/14	Bernay/Graham/Perkins/Gaylord	Corvette	806	6(6-88)	1:17.03
32	55/15*	K. Baker/B. Archer/T. Archer/Wright	Corvette	105	2[3-88]	1:16.96
33	C707	McQueentimus/Snasfield/Colucci	Poroche 944	797	285-017	1:24.33
34	G1781	MarbleWlandWattenhol/D. Baker/Goodwi		775	\$2/8-GT[1:25:09
35	B/10	Lianes Lights/Arendas	Wilkswagen Schoon	764	48(14-B)	1:25.94
36	1/3	Spencer/Hogdal/Wheeler/R. Curtes/Rec-		748	42[5.0]	1:33,14
37	7//4	Schumeber/Etsingen-Praton	Triumph TRI		58(10A) 51(16 B)	1-28-00
35	B/11	KvensPeslayTemplexon	Honda CIUSAS Nissan 3000X	726	58(7-A)	1-26-00
39	A/6*	Ruth/Hardymon/Miller	Nissan Metrix	703	41J4A	1:25.63
40	R/12	Criss/GuernHopper	Mitsulrahi Starion	671	24(1-8)	1:24.18
48	A/7	Timbrook/GH/Shelby/Langlord Schleaps/Foo/Glendening/Abbott	Manda BX-7	630	58(7-A)	1.28.60
48	AW	Sweet/Downer/Norrie	Mesubahi Starion	607	34(2-A)	1.05.92
44	1972*	Duncand Jerman/Jacobs/Cousiness	Nissan 2008X Turbo	601	54(19-8)	1:28:01
45	ARP*	Broomalittenry/Hannemann/Shephend	Dedge Shelly Barbo	544	47(6A)	126.94
45	B74*	Tomic/Connen/World	Uryata Colica	622	83(5-10)	125.47
47	A/10°	TimDown/Unrechillrose@andolph	Chryndet Camano	497	59(11-A)	133.66
46	1975	Walks/Finia/Bonneman/Hart	Harrin CRX-Si	413	50[15-0]	127.89
49	B'16*	B. Pate/P: Pate/Schwortsoff	Volkawagen Scirocco	391	45(1.2-3)	126.84
50	B/17	OverlowRess/Alondam/Frank	Volvo 740 Turbo	318	38(8-11)	126.28
51	B015	Eunken/Carden/Aksander	Tryon MR2	317	55(19-3)	129.09
52	88/16*	L Sanchez/L Sanchez/E CorteoDinan	Corvette	317	13/13/22	1:18.81
53	85/17*	R.K. Smith/BudyLockhart	Corvette	306	2 2 - 62 9	1:16.90
54	88/16	Niscl/Pryor/Kost/Lawrence	Persone 944 Techno	254	19(18-626)	1:19:28
56	A/11	Miteller/Sheeirs/Deep/Kryder	Fund Thursderbind 7.	213	57(9-A)	1:30.21
56	GT/9*	Certen/BuffurutSciled	Audi Quetro Turbo	142	49(10-GT)	1:27.73
57	55/19*	F. Beiser F. Choever Freme l'Grunnile	Porsche 944 Torto	89	1[3-88]	1:16:23
58	GD10.	E. Mattewson/G. Mathewson/				1,22,22
200	-	Delvecchio/Strong	Porsche 944	57	Z14-G17	1:23.32
59	Milde	Anson/Johnson/Wather/Ingram	Nissan 2005Z Turbo	29	46(13-B)	1:25.90
60	G2011.	HoppenBurel/Leathers	Audi Quatro Tinbo	15	29(6-03)	1:24.71

*Not Banning at the Firtsh

Tire Battlefront

BFGoodrich: The Comp T/A "R" scored the overall win on the Morrison-Cook entry. Some teams were getting four hours out of this super-study compound. BFG also took third in SS on the other Morrison-Cook car.

Toyou Hight cars were on Toyo tires for the Longest Day. The Coyote Mitsubishi Starion took the SSB pole the Dave Wolin Misubishi secred the SSA class win and the Lelbam Porsche finished second in SSGT.

Goodyear: By far the largest supplier, 28 teams used 1.100 of the new "S" compound. Lap times were lower and the wear good, with teams getting three boars or more per set. Goodyear took the SSGT win on the Carlson Porsche, the SSA pote and second in SSA on the Team Shelby entry, finished second overall on the Rippie-Anderson Corvette and was third in SSB on the COI Scirocoa.

Yokohama: Yokohama had four cars running on its A14R performance tires. Its support this effort, Yokohama brought 1,400 tires and used nowly 200 for the Quantum Engineering Houda CRX Sis, the Overbut Volvo and the Spancer RX 7. The Quantum Houdas rook first and second in SSB and 12th and 14th overall, while the RX 7 was third in SSA.

General Tire: A newcomer to motorsport, General has quickly made a name for itself. At Nelson, General scored two pole positions the frontronning Persche 944 Turbo of Fred Baker and the SSGT Salsen Mustang, which also finished third in GT. —John Borquist

SOCA/ESCORT ENDURANCE CHAMPIONSHIP SportsCar Drivers Cup Standings

Wines of or others	
55	\$5.4
1. BH Cooper	I. Mile Batherford
Parker Johnstone 18	Bay Kong
3. Don Knowkis 15	S. Davie Wegher
John Heinney Lä	4. Garth Ullom
5 & Archar 9	Tim Pages
T. Archer 9	6. Peter Excell
Bub McConnell	7. Jack Broomall
8. Run Gnable	Neil Harnemann
Bobby Carneline 8	Bill Spencer
10. Run Nelson 6	10 Holt Criss
GT	SSIS
Ci.	Oct 1
L. Paul Melmosh	1. Sorti Gaylord
L. Paul Melmosh 21	I. Sortt Gayland
t. Paul McInjosh 31 2. Geoff Frows 16	1. Sorti Gaylord Lance Stewart
L. Paul Melmosh 21	I. Sorti Gaylord Lance Stewart
Paul McIntosh	
1. Paul McIntesh 21 2. Gooff From 16 Gregg Docae 16 4. Kees Nierop 12 Bick Time 12	1. Sortt Gaylord
1. Paul Melmesh 31 2. Geoff From 18 Gregg Docan 18 4. Kees Nierop 12 Bick Time 12 Steve Saleen 12	I. Som Gaylord
1. Paul Melmosh 21 2. Geoff From 18 Gregg Docan 18 4. Kees Merop 12 Bick Time 12 Steve Saleen 12 7. Bruce Melmoss 9	1 Sortt Gaylord
1. Paul Melmesh 31 2. Geoff From 18 Gregg Docan 18 4. Kees Nierop 12 Bick Time 12 Steve Saleen 12	1. South Gaylord
1. Paul Melmosh 31 2. Geoff Frown 18 Gregg Docae 18 4. Kees Merop 12 Bick Time 12 Steve Saleen 12 7. Bruce Melmos 9 Larry Bleft 9	1 Scott Gaylord
1. Paul Mointesh 31 2. Geoff Frown 18 Gregg Docae 18 4. Kees Merop 12 Bick Time 12 Steve Saleen 12 7. Bruce Michaes 9 Larry Riefi 9 Dr. Barney Ganfree 9	Scott Gaylord Lance Stewart John Green Sen Hause Denna Sue Landon Beuce Short Dang Peterson Norma Rancount Bobert Hays

SSCA/ESCORT ENDURANCE CHAMPIONSHII MANUFACTURER'S STANDINGS:

or 3 of 6 races

After 3 of h races	SSA
20	00.11
1. Curvette:	1. Micsobishi
2. Porecha	2. Dodge
	S. Maada
	4. Nicsarc
	6. Triumph
nem .	6. Ford
SSB	7. Cheurolet
1. Hoods	44
2. Nissan	GT
3. Mitsubishi 2835	1. Forsche
4. Peugeot 2668	2 Ford27
6. Wilkswogen 2270	3. Pontine 24
6 Tryota	4 Chevrolet 20
7. Volvo	6. Andi
8 Mazda	6. Nissan

MIDNIGHT MADNESS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 51

year-shod Bakeracing car had completed 546 laps at 5 a.m., while the BFGoodrich cars of Morrison-Cook each had 545. The Rippie-Anderson 'Vette of Cooper/Parker Johnstone was nine laps back in fourth. The leading Porsche 944 Turbos were farther back, running sixth through eighth.

The lines were drawn: Morrison-Cook vs. Bakerseing, Goodyear vs. BFG.

The three-car battle continued into midmorning. Most of the Corvettes were threatening to overheat. Dirt and debris from the deteriorating track filling radiators. The Morrison-Cook cars pitted more often to clean radiators than to refuel. The No. 5 Bakeracing Corvette was circulating at a slow pace with overheating problems. The No. 1 Morrison-Cook car fell out of the battle for the lead when the mount for the steering rack broke. They only lost 35 minutes repairing it, but it was far too much time.

The Bakeracing Corvette survived until the afternoon but finally retired due to a blown head gasket. That left the No. 98 M-C car firmly in the lead, about nine laps up.

WRECK AND CONTINUE

The last hour always seems to bring additional excitement. There were enough spins that the pace car came out three times to allow cars to be removed from tire walls. In a sprint race the dispatch of a wrecker usually means one less car in the race, one less car to pass. But many of these Escort cars were pulled off the unbanded tires and continued. The walking wounded also came out of the pits to finish the race. The field almost made it to the finish behind the pace car. The announcer was under 20 seconds on his countdown to checkered when the pace car slid into the pits and the starter waved the green for a final lap of madness.

The two M-C cars led into Turn One ahead of one of the Powell Motorsports Corvettes. What followed might best be described as a three-rail billiard shot. The Powell car hit the No. 1 Vette [Carradine driving), which then collected the leading No. 98 car and all three were off in the grass!

Both M-C Corvettes staggered to the finish line. The No. 98 car won with 929 laps, while the No. 1 car was third at 902 laps.

For Knowles, it was a record seventh career showroom stock enduro victory.

The No. 74 Rippie-Anderson Corvette was second at 916 laps, despite a broken right rear shock which caused the right rear



The Woodner-Farrell Racing Peugeot took fourth in SSB.



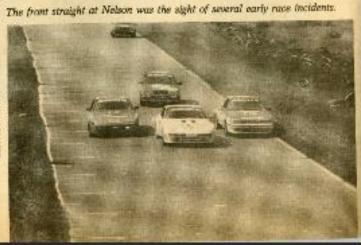
Team Shelby No. 53 was second in SSA.



The Quantum Engineering Hondas finished first and second in SSB and ahead of all GT curs.



The Le Team Racing Parache (ABOVE) on its way to second place in GT.



wheel to bounce rapidly every time that tire was unloaded in a left-hand turn.

The No. 7 Porsche 944 Turbo of Carlson Porsche finished fourth with 901 laps. The Rick Hurst 944 Turbos claimed sixth and seventh a couple of laps farther back.

SSA: MITSUBISHI/TOYO

The Mitsubishi Starion of Mike Rutherford, Ray Kong, Dave Vegher and Dave Wolin won SSA after a battle with the Team Shelby Dodge Turbos. The Toyo-shod No. 87 Starion completed 878 laps to 871 for the No. 53 Dodge of Tim Evans, Garth Ullom and Larry Parmele. The Starion led continuously from the fifth hour and finished ninth overall, 23 laps ahead of the SSGT winner.

The No. 53 Dodge had a 10-minute stop to repair oil lines. They had a serious oil leak



Third in SSB went to CGJ Racing's 16 valve Scirocco.

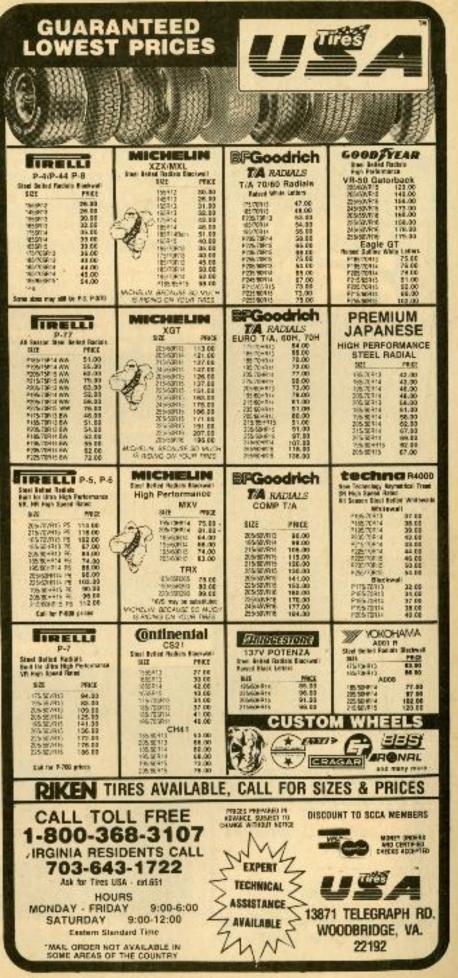


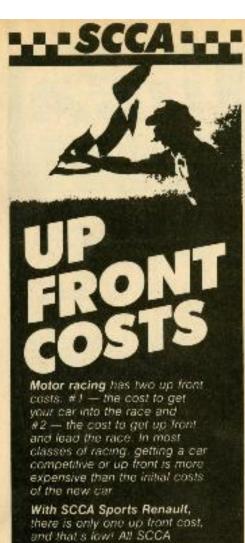
Racing through the night at Nelson.

somewhere. It never got fixed, but the team coped by adding two quarts of oil every hour. That was more fortunate than the No. 52 Dodge. About dawn, Neil Hannemann was running down the back straight when he tangled with another car. Whatever the sequence of events, Hannemann ended up sliding across the grass. He hit the tire wall and completed a 1½ gainer over the tires and into the swamp. He landed upside down with water sceping into the car. "Once I saw the water coming in, I got out in a real hurry," Hannemann said.

SSB: QUANTUM HONDAS

The Quantum Engineering Honda CRXSi's finished 1-2 in SSB. The No. 33 car had a clear run to victory, three laps ahead of the No. 35 team car. The Yokohama-shod pair finished 12th and 14th overall, ahead of all the GT cars and all but two of the SSA





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MIDNIGHT MADNESS

cars, Bruce Short, Donna Sue Landon, Doug Peterson and John Green drove the winning car. The No. 35 car had to replace a windshield. The glass was removed from one of the practice mule cars sitting behind the pits and the installation completed in 13 minutes, but it cost them dearly.

The CGI Racing Scirocco GTX was third in SSB, 13 laps behind the class winner. The Woodner-Farrell Peugeot was fourth and the Harvey's American Instrument Nissan 200SX Turbo fifth.

SSGT: VALLEY FORGE

The SSGT class deserves the Valley Forge survivors award. A pair of Porsches finished 1-2 on the same lap, but don't expect to see the No. 11 Carlsen Porsche of Paul McIntosh, L. Bleil and Bruce MacInnes on a Porsche poster at your local dealer. It was a well-deserved win since the Porsche 944 started last with no qualifying time. But in

A Very Used Car

he Spotser-Tarr Racing Camaro has 30,000 miles on the odometer. The majority of that was put on by rental drivers at National and Regional races, and even a few Drivers Schools. The car has survived three rollowers in its life-two in the 1984 Longest Day. It was originally a T-top, but now sports a solid roof. At this year's Longest Day, the car's race ended early when it spun into a swamp after just 47 laps. - John Rorquist

the process of completing 855 laps they suffered a lot of body damage. They finished 16th overall with the hood missing and the right front fender panel bashed back to allow tire clearance.

The Porsche of Le Team Racing was second. Third and fourth went to the Saleen Mustangs with drivers Steve Saleen, Rick Titus, Lisa Caceres and Alice Ridpath rotating between both cars. The Mustangs led the class until the 10th hour when the team began breaking wheels. [...]



Rick Titus, Ron Smaldone and Steve Saleen drave their Saleen Mustang to fourth in GT



The GT-winning Carlson Porsche finished with no hood and a bashed fender.