

## Pre-Race Stuff

Series of bad luck for the Iron Dames continues as Michelle Gattling misses out on the 24 hours of LeMans → apparently due to foot fractures sustained during a pit stop practice (car was probably dropped on her foot)

- ❖ Sarah Bovy to fill in for Gattling in the No. 85 Manthey/ Iron Dames Porsche
- ❖ Iron Dames also announced the withdrawal of their Road to LeMans entry a couple days/week prior
- ❖ Asian LeMans announced the addition of a hypercar class for the 2026/2027 seasons
- ❖ Ben Barnicoat to return at Watkins Glen
- ❖ Ford confirms that the chassis for their hypercar will be an Oreca chassis (same as the Acura GTP)
- ❖ Hypercar (LMH/LMDH) homologation cycle extended until 2032
- ❖ 2026 WEC schedule released (I don't think Sebring and Qatar clash like speculated before)

McLaren announces details for its hypercar program:

- ❖ Partner Team → United Autosport (Team name is supposed to be McLaren United AS)
- ❖ Dallara chassis
- ❖ V6 engine (I tink)
- ❖ Team Boss: James Barclay
- ❖ Also revealed the car at LeMans (really nothing all that special about it imo)
- ❖ According to Zak Brown, they haven't ruled out competing in IMSA

## BOP It!

		ALPINE	ASTON MARTIN	BMW	CADILLAC	FERRARI	PEUGEOT	PORSCHE	TOYOTA
MIN WEIGHT (KG)	Le Mans 25	1039 (+1)	1030	1039 (-)	1037 (+1)	1042 (-1)	1039 (-8)	1041 (-1)	1053 (-)
	Le Mans 24	1038	-	1039	1036	1043	1047	1042	1053
	Spa 2025	1043	1035	1049	1042	1057	1030	1055	1069
MAX POWER BELOW 250 kph (KW)	Le Mans 25	518 (+11)	520	508 (-)	520 (+11)	517 (+9)	509 (+1)	513 (+2)	520 (+12)
	Le Mans 24	507	-	508	509	508	508	511	508
	Spa 2025	520	520	503	501	489	520	494	480
POWER TO WEIGHT RATIO < 250 kph* (kW.kg <sup>-1</sup> )	Le Mans 25	0,499 (+11)	0,505	0,489 (-)	0,501 (+10)	0,496 (+11)	0,490 (+0,005)	0,493 (+0,003)	+0,494 (+12)
	Le Mans 24	0,488	-	0,489	0,491	0,487	0,485	0,490	0,482
	Spa 2025	0,499	0,502	0,480	0,481	0,463	0,505	0,468	0,449
POWER GAIN AFTER 250 kph (%)	Le Mans 25	- 1,9	- 0,8	+ 2,2	-1,2	- 3,3	-1,8	+1,0	-1,3
	Le Mans 24	+0,9	-	+0,9	0,0	-1,7	-0,7	0,0	+0,9
	Spa 2025	-4,4	-2,7	+1,2	+3,8	+3,7	-3,7	+3,4	+8,3
MAX POWER AFTER 250 kph (KW)	Le Mans 25	508 (-3)	516	519 (+7)	514 (+5)	500 (+1)	500 (-5)	518 (+7)	513 (+1)
	Le Mans 24	511	-	512	509	499	504	511	512
	Spa 2025	497	506	509	520	507	501	511	520
MAX. STINT ENERGY (MJ)	Le Mans 25	905 (+2)	- (-)	927 (+23)	916 (+16)	905 (+16)	898 (+3)	926 (+22)	923 (+17)
	Le Mans 24	903	-	904	900	889	895	904	906
	Spa 2025	902	908	907	906	897	902	905	905

## Le Mans

Vehicles		Power				Weight		Aero			Energy	
MANUFACTURER		Max. Power below 200 kph* (curve)		Power gain after 200 kph* (%)		Weight without success ballast (kg)		Min.RW angle (°)	Max.RW angle (°)	Min. ride height (mm)	Maximum Stint Energy (MJ)	
		adj.	current	adj.	current	adj.	current	current	current	current	adj.	current
ASTON	Vantage AMR LMGT3		P15		6.0%		1340	7.0	9.3	50		686
BMW	M4 LMGT3		P6		1.6%		1320	-2.0	3.3	50		672
CORVETTE	Z06 LMGT3.R		P1		-4.6%		1333	1.2 (**)	5.6 (**)	50		682
FERRARI	296 LMGT3		P15		1.3%		1332	1.0	3.5	50		674
FORD	Mustang LMGT3		P1		0.0%		1318	3.2	5.7	50		680
LEXUS	RC F LMGT3		P2		-3.7%		1354	7.0	9.0	50		694
MC LAREN	720S LMGT3 Evo		P11		0.4%		1328	1.75	8.5	50		680
MERCEDES	AMG LMGT3		P7		3.7%		1360	0.0	6.8	50		718
PORSCHE	911 GT3 R LMGT3		P4		-1.0%		1315	6.3	10.8	50		670

(\*) speed threshold may be reviewed

## Practice/Qualifying

- ❖ No. 63 Iron Lynx Mercedes gets into the barriers in FP1 and gets smashed up causing a red flag
- ❖ No. 8 Toyota and No. 57 Kessel Ferrari LMGT3 come together toward the end of FP2

### Qualifying 1

Bad luck continues for Iron Lynx as the No. 60 has some sort of issue during qualifying for LMGT3 and LMP2 and causes a red flag

- ❖ First part of qualifying ended under a red flag due to a Ferrari GT3 off somewhere
- ❖ No. 15 BMW repeatedly gets laps deleted for track limits (not locked in I guess)
- ❖ One of the Peugeots gets a puncture
- ❖ No. 35 Alpine has a spin and almost screws themselves
- ❖ With around 2 minutes left, the No. 15 BMW goes quickest briefly → (got beat by the No. 12 JOTA Cadillac but at least Dries locked in)

Marco Sorensen manages to drag the No. 009 Aston Martin into hyperpole briefly to hyperpole → unfortunately got beat by the No. 4 Porsche Penske of Felipe Nasr (good effort though)

- ❖ Some thought that he was robbed because his lap got impeded in the Ford chicane
- ❖ No. 7 Toyota misses hyperpole oddly enough
- ❖ Both Aston Martins miss hyperpole
- ❖ Unsurprisingly, both Peugeots miss hyperpole (completely cooked program)

No. 6 Porsche Penske DQ'd from qualifying due to the car being underweight → car to start from the back of the grid

- ❖ In other news though, the No. 009 Aston Martin makes it to hyperpole as a result of the No. 6 Porsche Penske getting booted out of hyperpole! (happy Aston Martin Valkyrie noises)

### **Hyperpole 1 (LMP2/LMGT3)**

- ❖ Session is red flagged due to the No. 54 Vista AF Corse Ferrari going off into the gravel and getting stuck
- ❖ Others did some off roading too like one of the Lexuses and an LMP2
- ❖ One of the McLaren GT3s randomly breaks in the middle of the session

### **Hyperpole 2 (LMP2/LMGT3)**

- ❖ FOX briefly took over the WEC broadcast as they display some of the world's worst TV coverage during LMGT3/LMP2 hyperpole 2
- ❖ No. 27 Heart of Racing Aston Martin on pole for LMGT3
- ❖ VDS Panis Racing LMP2 on pole for LMP2

### **Hyperpole 1 (hypercar)**

- ❖ Somewhat drama filled session
- ❖ No. 5 Porsche Penske loses a wheel (but still makes it into hyperpole)
- ❖ No. 15 BMW locks up
- ❖ No. 101 Wayne Taylor Cadillac is the only Cadillac to not make it to hyperpole due to their lap being deleted for track limit infringements
- ❖ Two out of three Ferraris do not make it to hyperpole 2 (everyone cheered...well maybe not Ferrari fans)

### **Hyperpole 2 (Hypercar)**

- ❖ For the 5th time throughout qualifying sessions, BMW has a lap deleted due to track limit violations, this time it was the No. 20 that had their lap deleted
- ❖ No. 8 Toyota spins
- ❖ Cadillac has a front row lockout in hypercar with the No. 12 of Alex Lynn getting pole and the No. 38 getting second

### **Free Practice 4**

- ❖ No. 63 Iron Lynx Mercedes comes to a stop on track
- ❖ No. 93 Peugeot spins
- ❖ FCY for the No. 23 United Autosport LMP2 comes to a stop on track due to a front right puncture

## **2025 24 Hours of LeMans**

- ❖ Good race or no? (The biggest storyline this race seemed to be the amount of bugs)
- ❖ Good opening stints from Estre and Andlauer
- ❖ First "incident" of the race due to the No. 22 United Autosport LMP2 and the Ziggo Sport Ferrari getting together (clumsy move from the P2 car really)
- ❖ No. 93 Peugeot bins it coming out of the Porsche curves trying to manage GT traffic → gets into the barriers and loses the engine cover as well as other parts of the rear of the car (car was able to get back to pit lane)
- ❖ No. 33 Corvette turns the No. 150 Ferrari

- ❖ Some infighting between the JOTA Cadillac team for whatever reason (welcome back Qatar!)
- ❖ No. 88 Mustang loses a wheel and gets into the barriers at Tetre Rouge (first official retirement of the race)
- ❖ Random FCY (might've been for some LMP2 nonsense as one of the Algarve Pro Racing LMP2 had a puncture from some type of contact)
- ❖ Both Alpines get pit lane speed penalties
- ❖ No. 60 Mercedes slow on track → makes it back to pit lane and goes to the garage
- ❖ No. 95 United Autosport McLaren breaks down on the Mulsanne straight (second retirement)
- ❖ No. 83 Ferrari gets into the gravel (car also gets team orders at one point as well, so maybe it's not a true "privateer" entry)
- ❖ A slew of drive through and stop and go penalties whacks a handful of people such as the Ferrari hypercars, the No. 15 BMW, the Toyotas and the Porsche Penskes and some GT cars
- ❖ No. 311 Cadillac goes to the garage briefly (apparently some issue with the torque sensor and other stuff) → the car went back out eventually
- ❖ No. 46 BMW just randomly dies at the Porsche curves and goes straight on into the gravel → the marshals are able to recover the car out of the gravel and it gets back to pit lane (car goes in the garage and then goes back out and then goes back into the garage for an official retirement) (second year in a row that the 46 BMW has had an issue at Le Mans, specifically at this time of the race)
- ❖ No. 7 Toyota had apparently been driving around most of the race with one side of the car practically sliced open, looking as though it was attacked by a velociraptor → apparently it had been damaged since the very beginning of the race due to contact with one of the Peugeots
- ❖ First Safety Car of the race for the No. 24 Nielsen Racing LMP2 in the tire barriers
- ❖ No. 93 Peugeot spins under Safety Car

Second WRT BMW also breaks and spends a significant time in pit lane → was later revealed the issue was due to hitting a rabbit on track (RIP to the rabbit)

- ❖ This car is eventually retired after spending a significant amount of time in the garage
- ❖ No. 101 Wayne Taylor Racing ends their horrible LeMans run with an engine failure at about the halfway point
- ❖ No. 18 IDEC Sport LMP2 loses the right rear wheel

### **Daybreak/Closing stages of the race**

- ❖ Iron Dames Porsche gets spun by the No. 87 Akkodis Lexus
- ❖ As much as the commentators spoke about how reliable the hypercars had been during the night hours, but the reliability seemed to wear off for some as day break happened
- ❖ No. 51 Ferrari spins at pit entry
- ❖ No. 311 Cadillac retires at some point

- ❖ FCY for debris
- ❖ Drive through penalty for the No. 38 Cadillac
- ❖ No. 8 Toyota suffers a left-wheel nut failure
- ❖ No. 78 Akkodis Lexus suffers a left rear suspension failure and DNFs
- ❖ No. 28 IDEC Sport loses a wheel (a DNF for both IDEC cars)
- ❖ No. 59 United Autosports McLaren breaks down and causes a FCY

Both the No. 20 and No. 15 BMWs go to the garage (not sure what kind of vex BMW has over them when they get to Circuit De La Sarthe)

- ❖ 20 car had engine issues for whatever reason, I guess the car decided it had enough
- ❖ Worth noting that earlier in the race, the 15 car encountered issues with the engine just shutting itself off once or twice but it seemed fine (until it wasn't)
- ❖ The 20 car eventually went back out but (only to shortly get a 20 second penalty for pit lane infringements) not sure if the 15 ever did
- ❖ Side note: Oddly enough, the car that all the 20 BMW drivers were in for the parade thing that happens before the race every year actually broke down. So maybe you could argue that was a bad omen (or not, depending on if you engage in superstitious behavior. Either way their Le Mans campaign this year was nothing to write home about)

Race basically comes down to the Ferraris and the No. 6 Porsche Penske sandwiched in between them

- ❖ No. 83 AF Corse Ferrari (the alleged "privateer" entry) wins overall
- ❖ No. 199 AO Racing LMP2 wins in Pro/Am
- ❖ No. 42 LMP2 wins overall in LMP2
- ❖ No. 92 Manthey Porsche wins in LMGT3
  
- ❖ Both Aston Martin Valkyries finished their first 24 hours of Le Mans (and first 24 hour race) without any significant issues or lengthy trips to the garage. Both cars also came away with a top 15 result!
- ❖ No. 50 Ferrari hypercar (finished 4th) DQ'd from the race due to a technical infringement → four bolts found missing from the rear wing support, rear wing also deflected by 52 mm (beyond the 15 mm limit)