

For Immediate Release November, 2004

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The Racer's Group Podium Finish at California Speedway



Fontana, CA - October 31, 2004 Ian James closed out the 2004 Grand American Rolex Sports Car Series in style for TRG today, as he sealed 3^{rd} place in the GT drivers championship for himself and teammates RJ Valentine and Chris Gleason with a 3^{rd} place finish in the #66 F1 Air/Gleason Agency Porsche. The race result was decided in the last two laps of the race, as James won a position from the #33 Maserati, which had to stop very late in the race for fuel. "It was a great race for us," Ian said. "The car was hooked up like it's been all season, and RJ and Chris put me in a great position to take the podium finish today. It's been a great season and I'm thankful to Chris, RJ and TRG for everything this year."

Chris Gleason remarked, "I had a great stint in the car, and as usual the TRG Porsche ran like clockwork. It was my first time to this track, but I was able to come up to pace quickly. It was a fun race with no problems whatsoever, and it's a great way to finish the season."

Valentine stated, "It was a picture-perfect year with the exception of us getting caught up in a wreck at VIR that pushed us out of 3rd place in the series. But, overall, TRG, Kevin, Chris and Ian made it a year above all to remember."

Kevin Buckler and Pat Flanagan rounded out TRG's excellent day today with a 5th place finish in the GT class. Co-driving the #67 Monster Cable/TRG Porsche, the duo ran a quick and competitive race, leading for two laps as the three leading BMWs pitted early 45 minutes into the race. Flanagan, who considers California Speedway his home track, said, "The car was a little loose, and the track was a bit greasy out there. It was a good challenge for me to be out there with the DPs - it took me a while to get accustomed to the closing speeds. The GT3 RS is more race car than I'm used to driving, but it was a great time racing out there today."

Team owner Kevin Buckler said, "It's been an extraordinary season for all of us at TRG, and I'm very proud of RJ, Chris and Ian for earning 3^{rd} place in the championship. All three of them drove really well for the entire season - the consistency that it takes to place as high as 3^{rd} in a major driving championship is hard to attain, and they did a fantastic job. Pat and I had a fun race today, and it was great to race with him. He knows this track like the back of his hand, so I knew he'd do a good job in the car. "

He continued, "It's going to be a busy off-season preparing to make the expansion to DP racing next year, but we're going to work our butts off to go to the Daytona test and show our stuff. This was a terrific season in Grand-Am, and I'm looking forward to being back in a big way next year."

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