

PRESS RELEASE

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RJ Valentine Mont Tremblant Race Report

Mont Tremblant, QC – May 21, 2005 –RJ Valentine, driving the #21 F1 Air/PTG BMW M3 this weekend, had a short race day, as a crash which sent his co-driver Bill Auberlen to the hospital for examination ended the team's race. Auberlen was transported to a local hospital, examined, and released with a clean bill of health. The team started the race from 7th position, after Kelly Collins qualified the car with a flying lap of 1:40.058. The day wasn't totally lost for BMW Team PTG, as the two cars that finished the race came home 1-3.

Valentine said, "It was a wet, wild weekend. Kelly did a great job qualifying the car, and just after the start, he led for a while, which was a good highlight. We had a bit of a problem with a brace that was holding our penalty ballast in place - it's very dangerous to have lead weights loose in the cockpit! When Billy got in the car, he was gaining on the leaders at about two seconds a lap, but he hooked a wheel and hit the wall. He hit pretty hard, so I'm very happy that he was unhurt."

Joey Hand had a rare weekend, as he drove both the #22 PTG BMW and the #16 F1 Air/PTG BMW, giving him a double podium finish. As he started in the eventual 3rd placed #16 car, however, he won't score championship points from the winning #22 car.

RJ summed up, "I'm happy for Ian, Chris, and Joey. To take a win in a six hour race is incredible, and because it's Ian's first Rolex Series win, it's that much more special. We all had to work just that much harder to stay in contention in the car because of the weight penalty, but it's been a great weekend. Even with the penalty, the longer format races like Mont Tremblant play very well to BMW's strengths."

RJ Valentine, F1 Air and the Grand American Rolex Sports Car Series race next on June 10-12 at the Sahlen's 6 Hours of the Glen, in Watkins Glen, NY. The race will be broadcast live on Speed Channel.

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