

# PRESS RELEASE

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## **Sportscar Stalwart RJ Valentine Earns Historic Victory At the Rolex 24 Hours at Daytona**

*“RJ Valentine – Victorious at Rolex 24 At Daytona After 23 Attempts”*



Braintree, MA (January 26, 2009) – Boston-area racer and businessman RJ Valentine claimed a thrilling victory this week-end at Daytona International Speedway in the 47<sup>th</sup> running of the prestigious Rolex 24 Hours at Daytona – the pinnacle triumph in the world of professional road racing. With one of its best driver lineups ever, Valentine and teammates Andy Lally, Jörg Bergmeister, Patrick Long and Justin Marks claimed the GT victory in the No. 67 TRG Construct Corps/CRG Porsche GT3.

The victory also proved historic, as Valentine at age 65, became the oldest driver to win the Rolex 24. “It doesn’t get any better than this – winning the Rolex 24 Hours at Daytona. In over 30 years of racing, this is the greatest thing that’s happened to me. Perseverance pays off – I’ve been at this a long time, this is my

23rd Daytona 24,” states Valentine, who is also a principal of the year old New Jersey Motorsports Park. “Competing with some of the best drivers in the world is such a thrill. I still can’t believe it. So much of the credit goes to my teammates and TRG, led by Debra and Kevin Buckler, as well as Porsche Motorsports. Everyone involved did a tremendous job with our car.”

Valentine has come close at the Rolex 24 before – in 2006 his team took 2<sup>nd</sup>, had the lead for part of the race in 2007 and placed 4<sup>th</sup> in 2008. He continued, “23 years is a long time to do anything, but to finally take the win and earn the winner’s Rolex is really sweet. I’ve raced here at Daytona against a lot of legends – everyone from Derek Bell to Dale Earnhardt – but taking that checkered flag was both a huge thrill and a huge honor.”

The victory marked the third in Rolex 24 triumph for Bergmeister, the second Rolex 24 win for Lally, and the first for Long and Marks. Notably, Valentine teamed with Lally in 2007 to win 5 Grand-Am races, as well as two seconds and a third. This one, Valentine’s first victory in the Rolex 24, capped a dominating weekend for TRG, which led 301 of the 695 laps. In fact, TRG drivers never looked back after Valentine’s teammate Andy Lally inherited the lead from Farnbacher Loles Racing Porsche GT3 driver Kevin Roush, who pulled off the course on Lap 553 with a broken driveshaft.

With second place going to the No. 66 TRG AXA/Mitchell Rubber Porsche GT3, TRG claim a 1-2 sweep in the GT class. It also marked the second straight season two GT cars finished in the top 10 in the overall standings.

It was a battle down to the wire between the 2 TRG cars and Farnbacher Loles Racing. The No. 86 Farnbacher Loles Racing Porsche GT3 was up front a race-high 268 laps, and during the late-night and mid-morning hours, the No. 86 and Nos. 66 and 67 TRG Porsche GT3s swapped the lead multiple times.

But when Roush pulled off the track - in nearly the same fashion as Farnbacher Loles Racing’s No. 87 Porsche GT3 hours earlier - during the final four hours, it gave TRG all it needed to earn the team’s first Rolex 24 victory since 2003, when Bergmeister and team owner Kevin Buckler won overall and in the GT class with Michael Schrom and Timo Bernhard.

The No. 66 TRG AXA/Mitchell Rubber Porsche GT3, piloted by Spencer Pumpelly, Ted Ballou, Tim George Jr., Emmanuel Collard and Richard Lietz, finished one lap off Valentine's pace. The car actually led 152 laps - three more than the No. 67 – and as late as the final three hours. Not only did TRG sweep the top two positions, but Porsche swept the podium. The No. 33 Wright Motorsports Phillips Way Racing Porsche GT3 to third.

The next action for the Grand-Am Rolex Series will be April 26, with the Bosch Engineering 250 at Virginia International Raceway.

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#### **Race Notes**

- The 52 car lead changes in the Rolex 24 were the second most in Rolex Series and Rolex 24 history (64, 2008).
- The last time three drivers from the U.S. were involved in the overall winning team in the Rolex 24 was 2004.
- The victory extended a four- year streak in which at least one driver from the U.S. was part of the overall Rolex 24 winning team.
- The 735 laps completed by the winning drivers were the fourth most in Rolex 24 history, despite setting Rolex Series and Rolex 24 records for most cautions (25) and laps run under caution (116). The Rolex 24 lap record stands at 762 in 1992.
- The 1- 2 finish by TRG in GT was the first 1- 2 finish in the Rolex 24 At Daytona since 2000 (GTO class, Viper Team Oreca).
- The Rolex 24 victory was the first for TRG drivers RJ Valentine, Justin Marks and Patrick Long, while Andy Lally and Jorg Bergmeister both own multiple victories. All five drivers had previously won Rolex Series GT class races.
- The victory was the first for Porsche in the GT portion of the Rolex 24 since 2003, when TRG also won overall.
- Porsche dominated the top 10 in the GT class, taking four of the top five and seven of the top 10.

To learn more about Valentine and his businesses, visit:

MBA Group — <http://www.mbagroup.com>

F1 Air, a Premier Class Jet Charter Service — <http://www.F1Air.com>

F1 Boston, America's premier karting and entertainment center — <http://www.f1boston.com>

F1 Outdoor — <http://www.f1outdoor.com>

Kiss Barriers — <http://www.kissbarriers.com>

Rimo Karts — <http://www.rimokarts.com>

SSC East – <http://www.ssceast.com>

National Financial Partners — <http://www.nfp.com>

Racing Means Business — <http://www.racingmeansbusiness.com>

ShotSpotter — <http://www.ShotSpotter.com>

Enforsys — <http://www.Enforsys.com>

Valentine's personal website — <http://www.RJValentine.com>  
To learn more about TRG and the Porsche 911 Cup Cars, visit:  
<http://www.theracersgroup.com>  
For the latest racing news, visit: <http://www.grand-am.com>



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