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“Panoz-Perfect” Weekend

Auberlen, Liddell & Panoz Dominate Heavily-Favored Porsches at Sportsbook.com Grand Prix

Braselton, Ga. (April 17, 2005) – One of the most famous gestures in the history of sport was baseball legend Babe Ruth pointing to the fence and proceeding to slug the ball over it. On Sunday April 17 here at the Sportsbook.com Grand Prix of Atlanta, another champion’s prediction came true in the race for glory between Panoz and Porsche.

“We’ll bring some excitement to the GT2 battleground next year,” said Panoz Esperante GTLM race driver, Bill Auberlen after his first test in the racecar back in December 2004. That prediction came true on Sunday as the bumper-to-bumper battle at 150 mph literally stole the show from the headliners – the Le Mans prototype racecars of Audi and Lola.

Here’s how the Atlanta Journal Constitution called the race:

“In the span of less than five minutes, Team Panoz went from elation to knife-in-the-chest despair and back to ecstasy...(Their) race overshadowed the other three faster classes... the GT2 race stole all the attention with lap after grueling lap of tailgate racing through the 12-turn, 2.54 mile course.



And that was only the final 30 minutes.

Beginning with a practice day on Wednesday; Auberlen, his partner Robin Liddell and their Panoz Esperante GT Le Mans racer dominated the week, outpacing even the factory-backed championship-winning Porsche 911 team of Alex Job Racing in practice, qualifying and the race. Either Auberlen or Liddell won bragging rights for fastest lap in practice, qualifying and the race itself. The Panoz Team not only scored the most laps led in the race but also set new speed records for official race and qualifying laps. It was truly a Panoz-perfect weekend.

The Panoz Esperante GTLM Factory Racing Team is proud to race on Pirelli racing tires with support from Elan Power Products, Multimatic, 3-Dimensional Services, Diablo Grande Award-Winning Wines, BBS wheels, Sparco driver gear, and Bosch sparkplugs and engine management systems. The team’s next race will be run at Mid-Ohio Sports Car Circuit May 22 with coverage on CBS Sports. Check local listings for broadcast times.

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