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NGT DOMINATES IN ROUND 1 OF THE PATRÓN GT3 CHALLENGE BY YOKOHAMA

Sebring, Fl. March 22 – NGT Motorsport kicked off the new 2010 season of the Patrón GT3 Challenge by Yokohama with profound excellence. With only one event of the season completed and a new driver lineup, the team has garnered 3 new official track records, 4 podium celebrations including 2 first place Gold Cup Class wins, and the Yokohama Hard Charger Award. It is clear NGT Motorsport will have a significant presence in the Patrón GT3 Challenge by Yokohama this year.

After only attending one race in the 2009 Patrón GT3 Challenge, NGT chose to focus their efforts on their Porsche Club Racing program – and the decision proved to be prudent. The team entered twenty-seven Porsche Cup events, achieving victory at the Porsche Club of America (PCA) Daytona race, the Porsche BMW Owners Club (PBOC) Winterfest at Sebring, and the Formula & Automobile Racing Association (FARA) 6 Hour Enduro race at Homestead, as well as gaining several additional victories.

Using the event of the 2009 season as a platform, NGT focused specifically on testing and developing their cars and drivers. The team collaborated to learn as much as possible about the new Yokohama tires that would be a part of the upcoming 2010 season, hoping to gain any advantage that might help them in the 2010 Patrón GT3 Challenge by Yokohama. Clearly their focus and determination has paid off

NGT Motorsport began the 2010 season with a ten car entry in January, competing in Winterfest 2010 at Sebring International Raceway. The team took a first place victory, as well as valuable track time on the challenging Sebring racetrack. From there, NGT continued to put down laps at the Sebring track, entering five Porsche 911 GT3 Cup cars in the Winter Support Series Test, sanctioned by IMSA. Even in testing, the team set the fastest laps in Gold class.

The 2010 Patrón GT3 Challenge by Yokohama debuted with Rounds 1 and 2 at the 58th Annual Mobil 1 Twelve Hours of Sebring. From the start of the event, it was clear that NGT Motorsport was a formidable force on the track. The team dominated the grid on Promoter Test Day, as well as during the official Practice sessions. During Qualifying, #24 Carlos Eduardo showed the competitors what he could do, setting the new official qualifying track record for Sebring International Raceway in a 2009 Porsche 911 GT3 Cup car, part of the Gold Cup Class, by turning a 02:09.521 on his second lap.

Teammate #26 Henrique Cisneros fought a tough battle, failing to run a single clean lap, but still managed to post a fifth place qualifying lap of 02:11.119, while brother #29 Eduardo Cisneros was close behind in seventh, with a 02:11.271. The third of the Cisneros brothers, #25 Andres, qualified fifteenth with a 02:13.645.

The fifth teammate, #27 Ludovico Manfredi, suffered the entire event with a twisted ankle, but still managed to secure the seventeenth qualifying position with a 02:13.963. Satisfied and focused, the team prepared for the races to come.

With Round 1 of the Patrón GT3 Challenge by Yokohama only minutes from the green flag, the team of NGT Motorsport agreed that the primary goal was for all five entries to take the checkered flag and finish – but they achieved so much more.

As the checkered flag dropped on the first race of the 2010 Patrón GT3 Challenge by Yokohama, NGT Motorsport found themselves with two drivers on the Gold Cup Class podium. #24 Carlos Eduardo took first place in the Gold Cup Class, setting a new official Race track record for Sebring International Raceway, with a 02:10.420. Carlos drove with incredible precision, holding off competitor #4 K. Smith.

NGT teammate #26 Henrique Cisneros was disappointed with his starting position, but showed determination as he attempted to chase down his first-place teammate. With a 02:11.423, Henrique finished third and joined Carlos on the podium.

Not allowing his injury to affect his driving ability, veteran NGT driver #27 Ludovico Manfredi pushed from the middle of the field, finishing in ninth place with a 02:13.744.

Andres Cisneros moved his #25 machine up the grid to finish fourteenth, running strong for the entire race. Brother and teammate #29 Eduardo Cisneros showed incredible determination and focus during the race; contact with another car moved Eduardo back to eighteenth place, but that didn't deter him. Eduardo still managed to post a 02:11.322 – 1-tenth faster than his third-place winning brother, #26 Henrique Cisneros!

Round 2 of the Patrón GT3 Challenge by Yokohama began with a starting grid determined by the fastest lap times of Round 1. #24 Carlos Eduardo started first in class, eighth overall. A spin by another car in Turn 1 gave Carlos the opening he needed. Only 30 seconds into the race, Carlos had moved his 2009 Porsche 911 GT3 Cup Car into second place overall, competing head-to-head with the 2010 Porsche 911 GT3 Cup Cars of the Platinum Cup Class.

Watching #24 Carlos Eduardo compete with the Platinum Cup Cars certainly gave Team Owner, Ramez Wahab, more excitement than he bargained for. Ramez said, "I know Carlos wants to beat the 2010 Porsches – but oh my goodness! I just hope it goes well!" And it did. Carlos managed to fend off eleven Platinum Cup cars behind him for the entire 45 minutes of the race, while simultaneously setting another Race track record with a 02:09.491.

As the checkered flag fell, Carlos brought his #24 home for a first-place Gold Cup Class finish, and an incredible third-place finish overall. Teammate #26 Henrique Cisneros chased Carlos hard, driving an amazing race and finishing second in class with a fast lap of 02:10.239. Brother #29 Eduardo Cisneros also had a terrific race, running in third-place in class for the majority of laps, but a spin in the end landed him in sixth. #27 Ludovico Manfredi finished eighth, breaking his own fast lap with a 02:13.148 – overtaking eight other competitors – earning him the Yokohama Hard Charger Award for advancing the most positions within the grid. #25 Andres Cisneros fought a valiant battle, making a strong fifteenth-place finish.

Team Owner, Ramez Wahab, was overwhelmed with excitement. "What a week, I still can't believe it," he said. "It went way better than I hoped. In the beginning, I was concerned because we were unsure if IMSA would approve Carlos [Eduardo] and the three Cisneros brothers because of their lack of racing experience – they had only 5 to 6 club races under their belts prior to entering the Patrón GT3 Challenge by Yokohama. And now...I can't believe it."

NGT Motorsport received recognition from series partners and associated sponsors such as Porsche Motorsport North America, Pagid, Sachs, and Yokohama. All commented on the professionalism and obvious cohesion that the team had.

NGT Motorsport would like to thank the Crew and Drivers for their dedication and unparalleled commitment to the team and its goals. Gratitude and appreciation is also extended to the loyal customers and friends of NGT – we can't win without you!

NGT continues their quest for the championship in the Patrón GT3 Challenge by Yokohama on May 21 – 23, 2010, with Rounds 3 and 4 at the 2010 American Le Mans Series Monterey Presented by Patrón, held at Mazda Raceway Laguna Seca. Please visit www.ngtmotorsport.com for the latest updates.