

PRESS RELEASE

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Information Contact: Laura Baker
781-228-2108

RJ Valentine Grand Prix of Miami Race Report



Homestead, FL – March 6, 2005 RJ Valentine and Kelly Collins finished 19th in the GT class at the Rolex Sports Car Series Grand Prix of Miami, after a suspension issue forced the duo to retire after 72 laps. RJ Valentine, who qualified the car in 21st position, started the race and drove hard until the third yellow flag, when he handed the car over to teammate Kelly Collins.

Collins drive brilliantly until an overtaking Daytona Prototype made hard contact with him, forcing the car to limp to the garages for a front upright change. After the extensive repairs, Valentine took the car back out on track, only to retire in a few laps time, due to violent shaking coming from the suspension.

“The PTF crew did a great job of trying to fix the damage from Kelly getting hit,” RJ said, “but in the end, the damage was too much to be fixed quickly. In the interest of safety, we decided to retire the car. It was pretty undriveable after the upright change, so obviously something else in the suspension got whacked pretty good when the DP ran into Kelly.”

Rules changes instituted over the winter, intended to equalize the competition among the GT cars, have adversely affected the performance of the BMW M3, and the lack of top speed was noted by Valentine.

“The PTG BMW M3 has great balance and is fantastic under braking,” he said, “but at the moment we’re getting eaten alive by the Porsches on the straights. It’s a little disheartening to see the Porsches – which we can beat through most of the corners – pull away through the oval at Homestead. Certainly, Grand-Am needed to close the performance gap among the GT cars after BMW took the championship last year, but I think the rules are too strict.”

Among the rules changes mandated by the sanctioning body was a cut in displacement to the M3’s V8 engine – the cars are allowed only 3.2L of displacement, a significant deficit to the Porsche 911 GT3 Cup’s 3.6L engine.

The next race on the Grand American Rolex Sports Car Series schedule is the Grand American 400, to be run at California Speedway in Fontana, California April 1-3. Television coverage will be live on Speed Channel at 4:00pm ET. PTG demonstrated the overall pace of the BMW M3 in the 2004 Fontana event, capturing a 1-2 finish en route to the driver’s and team championships.

To learn more about Valentine and his businesses, visit: <http://www.MBAGroup.com> (a holding company and small business network)

To learn more about PTG Racing and the BMW M3, visit: <http://www.ptgracing.com>

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