

PRESS RELEASE

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RJ Valentine and F1 Air Finish 2nd at Rolex 24 At Daytona

Daytona Beach, FL – January 29, 2006 RJ Valentine claimed a career-high finish at the 2006 Rolex 24 of Daytona Sunday, teaming with Andy Lally, Marc Bunting and Johnny O’Connell to take 2nd place in the GT class at the epic race. O’Connell and Lally turned in heroic double and triple-stints as the sun rose, in an attempt to chase down the eventual winning Porsche. The #65 F1 Air Pontiac GTO.R finished just one lap behind the winners, and lapped the 3.56 mile Daytona International Speedway course 690 times, racing 2,456.4 miles in 24 hours. The #65 F1 Air Pontiac swapped the lead numerous times with the winning #36 Porsche 911, but in the end, the Porsche’s top speed advantage on Daytona’s famed banking proved too much for the stout GTO.R.

On the whole, both Pontiac GTO.Rs ran excellent races. The sister #64 Pontiac GTO.R of Jan Magnussen, Kelly Collins, Paul Edwards and Andy Pilgrim led early in the race before being felled by a suspension failure. #64 finished in 13th position in the GT class, but ran the fastest lap in the class after a lengthy garage stay for repairs.

“We had a fantastic race,” RJ commented. “and it was fantastic to watch Andy and Johnny drive like that late in the race. Both of them were uncomfortable in the seat – and they both went above and beyond the call of duty trying to chase down the #36 car. Johnny’s legs and back were cramping up like crazy, and Andy could hardly walk when he got out of the car – he was limping really badly – but neither of them put a wheel wrong the entire time. To top it all off, both of them severely bruised the bottom of their feet on the brake pedal – it requires a lot of effort to push and over the course of several hours, it takes a toll.”

"Overall, it was a great race. The TRG team was flawless, the support from GM and Pontiac was phenomenal, and the reality was everyone did a fantastic job. My time in the car was good – it was like going out for a Sunday drive. The GTO.R is a proper race car, responsive, provides a lot of feedback. I had one Maalox moment when I spun, but the track was getting slippery and I was on new tires – I didn't hit anything, so it was harmless."

"Winning the Rolex 24 has been a dream of mine for 20 years now, and this is the closest I've got to reaching it. It feels great to be on the podium, and now it just makes me want the win even more. We were running neck and neck with the #36 car for 15 hours, swapping the lead back and forth. The whole time, other cars were falling by the wayside, but our car and the #36 just kept plugging along. It's pretty remarkable that we ended up less than 2 minutes behind them on the track after 24 straight hours of racing."

In other news, the filming wrapped up this weekend for a six-part documentary about the TRG team and the development of the GTO.R. Sean Heckman, who produced the show, brought five full film crews to the Rolex 24, after filming Valentine at his various facilities earlier in January. The program will tentatively air in April on InHD, a new basic cable channel offering from InDemand.

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To learn more about Valentine and his businesses, visit:
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To learn more about TRG and the Pontiac GTO.R, visit:
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