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1st & 2nd IN IMSA GT3 GOLD CUP IN AN UP AND DOWN WEEKEND FOR NGT AT ROAD AMERICA

ELKHART LAKE, WI (August 25, 2011) – It was a difficult weekend for NGT Motorsport at Road America in Rounds 10 and 11 of the IMSA GT3 Cup Challenge by Yokohama, as both of the team's championship contenders, Henrique and Eduardo Cisneros, were caught up in incidents that put them at the back of the finishing order. On a positive note, Ludovico Manfredi earned his first two podium finishes of the year, including a second place finish behind teammate Carlos Kauffman in the second race, as Kauffman returned to the Gold Cup class after an engine failure to his Platinum Cup car in the first race of the weekend.

Round 10

Qualifying for the first race of the weekend saw the top three cars in Platinum Cup break the track qualifying record, including Carlos Kauffman, in the #24 NGT Motorsport Porsche 911 GT3 Cup car, who started second. Henrique Cisneros (#26) qualified fifth in Platinum Cup, two spots behind Tim McKenzie, who sat second to Cisneros in the championship. Eduardo Cisneros (#29) started third in the Gold Cup class, while Ludovico Manfredi (#27) qualified fourth and Andres Cisneros seventh.

As the championship comes down to the wire, tension becomes high as teams and drivers vie for the top spots in the title chase. Thus was the mood on the starting line for Friday's 18-lap Round 10. On the first lap, Henrique Cisneros passed McKenzie for third position, only to have McKenzie try to return the favor on the outside of Canada Corner. Cisneros had the apex, but the two came together, spinning Cisneros around, where he got tagged by another car, ending up in 17th. But with McKenzie finishing one spot back, the championship battle looked to still be in Cisneros' favor – until the checkered flag, when Fernando Pena, in third position in the championship, took the victory, closing the gap to McKenzie in the point chase.

Kauffman also suffered do to an engine failure to his Platinum Cup car, finishing in 14th position.

The incidents didn't stop after the first lap, as Eduardo Cisneros, starting third in the Gold Cup class, took the lead on a restart, passing pole sitter Madison Snow. Snow tried to follow his mother, Melanie was driving in the faster Platinum Class, around Cisneros in the last turn, going wide across the curbing and crashing into Cisneros in the back. The resulting flat left rear tire put Cisneros out of the race and into seventh place in the final order, as Snow took the victory, extending his championship lead.

The bright spot in the race was Ludovico Manfredi, earning his first podium of the year by finishing second in the race behind Snow. Manfredi missed the Lime Rock event, and then was slowed by a sprained ankle at Mosport, so the second place finish felt like a win.

"I had a bit of chaos around me, but I managed to stay out of it most of the time," said Manfredi. "I'm happy with my finish; it feels very good to be on the podium!"



Andres Cisneros was also caught up in a late race incident, finishing in fifth position.

Round 11

With the fastest lap in the first race determining the starting position for the second, the NGT Motorsport team was scattered throughout the starting field, with Eduardo Cisneros on the Gold Cup pole, Manfredi starting fourth and Andres Cisneros sixth in the Gold Cup class. Having only completed one lap, Henrique Cisneros started 18th – a long way from Fernando Pena, now third in the championship and starting second, but ahead of McKenzie who started in 20th position.

Knowing that Carlos Kauffmann's Platinum Cup car was not able to make it to the starting grid, the team prepped the spare Gold Cup car overnight and Kauffman started the race back in the class.

Saturday's race saw a repeat of the now heated battle between Eduardo Cisneros and Madison Snow. As the 15 year old Madison Snow tried desperately to pass Eduardo Cisneros by bumping him several times in the back on the straight, causing Eduardo Cisneros lose his car and ended in the wall at turn 4. This incident is being currently reviewed by the IMSA Officials. The crash gave the lead to Kauffman, who was able to keep some distance between himself and Manfredi, who finished second ahead of Scott Tucker.

Despite the odd occurrence of running a Platinum Cup car on Friday, a Gold Cup car on Saturday morning, then jumping into the teams GTC car in the ALMS race, Kauffman was happy to return to the top step on the podium alongside his teammate.



"It was fun being back in the Gold car, I started last and finished 1st" said Kauffmann. "I would have liked to get by Snow on the track. I'm glad to be in first place, I almost forgot what it felt like! And it was great to be there with Ludovico. The Gold Cup car felt very much the same as my Platinum Cup car, only a bit slower on the straights and in the corners."

"I had quite a few good tussles with Scott Tucker but everything was very clean and very civilized, It was a good weekend for me, I got the Hardcharger Award and my second 2nd place finish" said Manfredi. "And I'd like to give a word to Robert, who is one of our truck drivers, who couldn't be here today because he is ill."



Andres Cisneros finished just behind Tucker in fourth place, while Eduardo Cisneros collected 7th place points. Henrique Cisneros had Gearbox issues the entire Race and finished 14th in the Platinum Cup class, earning valuable championship points – Cisneros now has a 14-point lead on Pena and a 25-point lead on McKenzie in the driver standings.

NGT Motorsport will be back on the track for Rounds 12 and 13 of the IMSA GT3 Cup Challenge by Yokohama September 16 - 18 at the ModSpace American Le Mans Grand Prix Monterey at Mazda Raceway Laguna Seca, with two races on the weekend schedule – a 45-minute race on Saturday at 10:20am and a 75-minute endurance event Sunday at 12:45pm. To see all the results for NGT Motorsport and for more information on the team, visit <http://www.ngtmotorsport.com/>.

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