



Porsche at the Le Mans 24-hour race

12/06/2024 Two Porsche 963 have advanced into the so-called 'Hyperpole' in qualifying for the 24 Hours of Le Mans. In this 30-minute session, the eight fastest drivers in each category will make a bid for pole position on Thursday at 8 pm. Kévin Estre qualified the No. 6 Porsche 963 for the Porsche Penske Motorsport works team. As eighth quickest, the Hertz Team Jota outfit will send one of the hybrid prototypes from Weissach into the Hyperpole session, too. In the LMGT3 class, Austria's Klaus Bachler progressed into the critical shootout at the wheel of Manthey PureRxcing's Porsche 911 GT3 R.

Qualifying

In ideal weather conditions with scattered clouds and an air temperature of almost 20 degrees Celsius, the qualifying got underway with a jostling congregation at the pit exit. The reason: whoever is first on the racetrack has the clearest run in the early stages and thus the chance of advancing into the Hyperpole on Thursday. Right from the start, many competitors set impressive lap times. For this session, the three Porsche Penske Motorsport 963 were driven by the works drivers Nick Tandy from

Great Britain (No. 4), the Australian Matt Campbell (No. 5) and Kévin Estre. At the wheel of the No. 6 car, the Frenchman qualified for the Hyperpole in 3:25.501 minutes. His Porsche 963 currently ranks first in the FIA World Endurance Championship WEC. The sister cars, which also put out 511 kW (695 PS), are expected to start the 24-hour race on Saturday at 4 pm from positions 10 and 19.

"That was a close and gripping qualifying session with a tightly packed field in the Hypercar class," stated Thomas Laudenbach, Vice President Porsche Motorsport. "We would've preferred to have had more works-run Porsche 963 reach the Hyperpole, so we're disappointed. We now need to look at the results and draw the appropriate conclusions with a view to the race on Saturday. Unlike in previous practice sessions, I think we got a better idea in the qualifying of how we stack up against the competition and we have some orientation in this regard."

"In the end, the top eight were separated by just seventh tenths of a second – that gives a clear indication of just how close the qualifying was on this 13-kilometre course," explains Jonathan Diuguid, Managing Director Porsche Penske Motorsport. Our number 6 car made it into the top 8, the other two works cars simply couldn't get a clear run. Nick Tandy was particularly unlucky in our number 4 car and so was Matt on his second flying lap. We're getting good feedback from the drivers about the performance of our cars so we're feeling optimistic as we head into the upcoming race."

Hertz Team Jota's No. 12 Porsche also made it into the Hyperpole thanks to Callum Ilott (UK). As all the lap times of another competitor were subsequently cancelled, the customer team moved up to eighth place. In P17, the British team's second hybrid prototype missed out on advancing into the next heat, as did the identical racing car fielded by Proton Competition, in which former Porsche Junior Julien Andlauer from France qualified 14th.

In the LMGT3 class, the two Porsche 911 GT3 R campaigned by Manthey EMA and Manthey PureRxcing fought for a top-eight result in qualifying. Klaus Bachler gave the seasoned customer squad from Germany's Eifel region good reason to celebrate: the Austrian planted the No. 92 Porsche 911 on fifth place. The sister car is expected to tackle the endurance classic from 16th on the grid.

Live streaming of the race

The 92nd edition of the 24 Hours of Le Mans gets underway this coming Saturday, 15 June at 4 pm. The official apps of the FIA WEC and the Le Mans organiser ACO offer a paid live stream and live timing.

Drivers' comments on the qualifying

Kévin Estre (Porsche 963 #6): "We had an hour to turn the fastest lap possible. A lot was going on out on the track – with 62 cars there was obviously a lot of overtaking. I did my best and ultimately it worked. Half a tenth of a second was the deciding factor in our favour. We now need to see where we can make tweaks to improve before the race. But right now, I'm excited about competing into the

Hyperpole on Thursday."

Matt Campbell (Porsche 963 #5): "I'm thrilled for our colleagues in the number 6, but personally I'm a bit disappointed – I would have preferred to reach the Hyperpole, as well, but luck wasn't on my side today. Cars kept getting in my way, so I had to slow down. It's a shame. Now we'll start from P10 on the grid, which isn't as ideal."

Callum Ilott (Porsche 963 #12): "That was close, but our eighth place is not bad at all considering we're only a tenth of a second behind the fastest Porsche 963 from the Porsche works team. I reckon I got the most out of it, although with 62 cars out on the track, it was very hard to get a clear lap. One thing is sure, it's what happens in the race that counts."

Julien Andlauer (Porsche 963 #99): "We didn't get a clean run – but we weren't the only ones. I get the impression that our Porsche is handling quite well in the corners but we're obviously losing time on the long straights. We need to adjust our setup so that we achieve a better top speed and improve traction. I would've liked to qualify further up the grid, but now we'll have to battle our way up the order in the race."

Klaus Bachler (Porsche 911 GT3 R #92): "What an intense session – my team sent me out on the track twice with fresh tyres. I was unlucky the first time because I was hampered by slower cars. When I went out the second time, things went better. I made it into the Hyperpole with fifth place. I'm delighted and satisfied with the result. Hopefully, we can fight for pole position in the LMGT3 class on Thursday."

Richard Lietz (Porsche 911 GT3 R #91): "I tried twice, as well. Between the two attempts we readjusted the setup – unfortunately, this suddenly resulted in more understeer and then we ran out of time. We have to live with that now. My grid position isn't great, but we have 24 hours on Saturday and Sunday to work our way up."

Qualifying result

Hypercar class:

1. D. Vanthoor/Marciello/Wittmann (B/CH/D), BMW #15, 3:24.465 minutes
2. Bourdais/van der Zande/Dixon (F/NL/NZ), Cadillac #3, -0.177 seconds
3. Fuoco/Molina/Nielsen (I/E/DK), Ferrari #50, -0.266 seconds
7. Estre/Lotterer/Vanthoor (F/D/B), Porsche 963 #6, -0.586 seconds
8. Ilott/Stevens/Nato (UK/UK/F), Porsche 963 #12, -0.680 seconds
10. Campbell/Christensen/Makowiecki (AUS/DK/F), Porsche 963 #5, -0.842 seconds
14. Andlauer/Jani/Tincknell (F/CH/UK), Porsche 963 #99, -1.527 seconds
17. Hanson/Button/Rasmussen (UK/UK/DK), Porsche 963 #38, -1.825 seconds
- 19 Tandy/Nasr/Jaminet (UK/BR/F), Porsche 963 #4, -1.897 seconds

LMGT3 class:

1. Barker/Hardwick/Robichon (UK/USA/CDN), Ford #77, 3:55.263 minutes
2. Schandorff/Iribe/Millroy (DK/USA/UK), McLaren #70, -0.143 seconds
3. Juncadella/Koizumi/Baud (E/JP/F), Corvette #82, -0.842 seconds
5. Bachler/Malykhin/Sturm (A/UK/D), Porsche 911 GT3 R #92, -0.926 seconds
16. Lietz/Shahin/Schuring (A/AUS/NL), Porsche 911 GT3 R #91, -1.763 seconds

All results on fiawec.alkamelsystems.com.

Statistics, drivers' comments, schedule

Porsche takes on this year's 24 Hours of Le Mans (15/16 June) as the most successful manufacturer. Before the 92nd edition of the classic gets underway, teams and drivers prepared for the unique characteristics of the Circuit des 24 Heures at an official test day last Sunday (9 June). Public roads make up a good nine kilometres of the 13.626-kilometre-long circuit. They are only closed to everyday traffic for the practices, qualifying and race. Racing cars from the Stuttgart sportscar manufacturer have contested the world's largest endurance race since 1951. This year, more than 320,000 spectators are expected.

The Le Mans event marks the annual highlight on the FIA World Endurance Championship WEC calendar. The first running of the race was in 1923 to showcase automotive innovation, durability and performance. The only time the classic was not contested was in 1936 due to a general strike in France as well as during WWII and the reconstruction between 1940 and 1948. The famous 24 Hours of Le Mans will be contested at the Sarthe for the 92nd time this year.

In addition to the prospect of securing its 20th outright victory at Le Mans, Porsche celebrates a special anniversary: 50 Years of the Porsche Turbo. The turbocharged engines were developed in motorsport from 1971 and migrated into the road-going 911 just three years later. In 2024, the Porsche 963 hybrid prototype will also be powered by a bi-turbo engine. A classic example of the motorsport commitments from Stuttgart: Porsche advances innovations on the racetrack, subjects them to the toughest tests in fierce competition before they successfully flow into series production shortly afterwards.

Drivers' comments ahead of the race

Mathieu Jaminet (Porsche 963 #4):

"The 24 Hours of Le Mans is without a doubt the most important race of the year. I'm not the only one who thinks this, all drivers feel the same. As a Frenchman, this is particularly true. Even on the test day, we local heroes noticed the special attention. It's great to feel like stars for a week! After the race, however, it's back to normal life very quickly."

Michael Christensen (Porsche 963 #5): "It's always incredibly difficult to gauge your chances before the

start of the race. Nobody knows how the competition will stack up. We've already achieved some excellent results in this year's FIA WEC and the IMSA series. The car's great, the team is in top form and the drivers are fighting fit. Everything's ready. We'll do our best to be in the lead at the flag."

Kévin Estre (Porsche 963 #6): "Judging from the way the WEC season has panned out so far, we're heading into the highlight event with high expectations and great anticipation. As a first step, we want to perfect the setup then qualify well and advance into the Hyperpole. It's the only time I'm competing at home in France and it's the biggest event. It'll be a memorable experience to drive in front of so many spectators again. I can hardly wait to get going on Saturday at 4 pm."

Will Stevens (Porsche 963 #12): "It's wonderful to be driving in Le Mans again. Our team has already achieved big successes on this racetrack in the LMP2 class. We're very familiar with this race and its special features. We've learned a lot from the races so far this season and now we're keen to implement this knowledge to the best of our ability and prepare ourselves perfectly for the big Le Mans challenge."

Jenson Button (Porsche 963 #38): "I've contested Le Mans twice so far and this year I'm racing for a team with extremely high ambitions. I really like that. At the WEC race in Spa, we showed that we're able to run at the front if everything goes right. That gave us a great deal of confidence. If we draw on all our experience, then there's no doubt we have every opportunity to achieve something really big."

Neel Jani (Porsche 963 #99): "We believe we have a good chance. It's not that we're dreaming of an overall win, but we might be good for a podium spot. That's our goal. We still have some work to do on the setup and we still need to figure out our race strategy. We'll implement all the insights we've gained over the past weeks and months to be as well prepared as possible in time for the start."

Morris Schuring (Porsche 911 GT3 R #91): "This is my first Le Mans race. It's quite funny looking at the numbers among our crew: My teammate Richard Lietz is competing for the 18th time and I'm only 19 years old. I'm the young rookie. I'm incredibly proud to be part of this team. We're ready. If we do everything right, we'll achieve something great – it'll be a result that will make the Porsche family proud."

Klaus Bachler (Porsche 911 GT3 R #92): "Given that the Le Mans circuit is not a dedicated racetrack, we expect the grip conditions to change a lot during the week compared to other tracks. We have the best team behind us! The goal is to win our class. We've spent months preparing for this challenge and we'll do our utmost to make our big dream come true."

Porsche's unparalleled track record at Le Mans

In 1951, Porsche sent a delegation to the 24-hour race in Le Mans for the first time. With success: the two Frenchmen Auguste Veuillet and Edmond Mouche promptly clinched class victory at the wheel of the Porsche 365/4 SL Coupé. Since then, the Porsche brand has been represented on the grid of the world's greatest endurance race every year. To date, a total of 855 Porsche racing cars have contested

the classic. Thanks to 19 overall victories and 110 class wins so far, the sports car manufacturer from Stuttgart is by far the number one on the list of achievements of the organiser Automobile Club de l'Ouest (ACO).

24 Hours of Le Mans – Porsche's outright victories

1970 – Herrmann (D) / Attwood (GB) – Porsche 917 KH
1971 – Marko (A) / Van Lennep (NL) – Porsche 917 KH
1976 – Ickx (B) / Van Lennep (NL) – Porsche 936
1977 – Ickx (B) / Haywood (USA) / Barth (D) – Porsche 936/77
1979 – Ludwig (D) / D. Whittington (USA) / B. Whittington (USA) – Porsche 935 K3
1981 – Ickx (B) / Bell (GB) – Porsche 936
1982 – Ickx (B) / Bell (GB) – Porsche 956
1983 – Schuppan (AUS) / Haywood (USA) / Holbert (USA) – Porsche 956
1984 – Pescarolo (F) / Ludwig (D) – Porsche 956
1985 – Barilla (I) / Ludwig (D) / Krages (D) – Porsche 956
1986 – Bell (GB) / Stuck (D) / Holbert (USA) – Porsche 962C
1987 – Bell (GB) / Stuck (D) / Holbert (USA) – Porsche 962C
1994 – Dalmás (F) / Haywood (USA) / Baldi (I) – Dauer Porsche 962 LM
1996 – Wurz (A) / Reuter (D) / Jones (USA) – TWR Porsche WSC-95
1997 – Kristensen (DK) / Alboreto (I) / Johansson (S) – TWR Porsche WSC-95
1998 – Aiello (F) / McNish (GB) / Ortelli (F) – Porsche 911 GT1
2015 – Bamber (NZ) / Tandy (GB) / Hülkenberg (D) – Porsche 919 Hybrid
2016 – Jani (CH) / Lieb (D) / Dumas (F) – Porsche 919 Hybrid
2017 – Bernhard (D) / Hartley (NZ) / Bamber (NZ) – Porsche 919 Hybrid

The schedule (all times CEST)

Thursday, 11 June

14:00 – 15:00 hrs: Autograph session (pit lane)

14:00 – 18:00 hrs: Pit walk

15:15 – 16:30 hrs: Pitstop Challenge

Wednesday, 12 June

14:00 – 17:00 hrs: Free practice 1

19:00 – 20:00 hrs: Qualifying

22:00 – midnight: Free practice 2

Thursday, 13 June

15:00 – 18:00 hrs: Free practice 3

20:00 – 20:30 hrs: Hyperpole

22:00 – 23:00 hrs: Free practice 4

Friday, 14 June

15:00 – 20:00 hrs: Track walk for fans

16:00 – 19:00 hrs: Drivers' parade (city centre)

Saturday, 15 June

12:00 – 12:15 hrs: Warmup

16:00 hrs: Green light 24 Hours of Le Mans

Sunday, 16 June

16:00 hrs: Chequered flag 24 Hours of Le Mans

Preview

Porsche is keen to add to its illustrious record at the 24 Hours of Le Mans. At the 92nd edition of the world's biggest endurance race, the three Porsche 963 racing cars fielded by the Porsche Penske Motorsport works team are targeting their 20th outright victory. For each lap completed by the three factory cars, Porsche will donate 750 euros towards the "Racing for Charity" initiative.

A total of 23 prototypes from nine different brands, including three customer Porsche 963 from Hertz Team Jota and Proton Competition, will pit themselves against each other in the top Hypercar class. In the new LMGT3 category, 23 vehicles from nine manufacturers will also battle for victory. Porsche is represented in this class by two 911 GT3 R entries from its Manthey partner team.

To increase the chances of clinching its 20th overall win, Porsche Penske Motorsport again fields three Porsche 963 this year. The works cars can be differentiated by the colours of their wing mirrors, the Porsche lettering on the windshield and the rear fin. As usual, those parts of the two regular cars from the FIA WEC will be painted black (No. 5) and white (No. 6). The No. 4 vehicle will feature red accents on those areas. Top drivers from the Porsche works squad will crew the hybrid prototypes from Weissach. The odds in the fiercely contested Hypercar class also look promising for the three identical racing cars from the customer teams Hertz Team Jota and Proton Competition.

"There can only be one goal for Porsche at Le Mans – to win. We hold the record number of victories and we're determined to add another triumph to our record. That puts big pressure on everyone involved. We're by no means underestimating our rivals," says Thomas Laudenbach, outlining the intention of the Stuttgart sports car manufacturer. The Vice President Porsche Motorsport adds: "The top Hypercar class is extremely competitive with a total of 23 prototypes from nine different manufacturers. That's precisely what motivates us. We want to underline our expertise and technical skills in the world's toughest race. That applies not only to our factory team but also to the strong customer teams with their Porsche 963. We're also looking strong in the LMGT3 category. Manthey's two 911 GT3 R will be well placed to fight for class victory."

“Our preparations have gone very well – at the first races of the year on both sides of the Atlantic as well as at last Sunday’s test drives,” explains Urs Kuratle. The Director Factory Motorsport LMDh is excited about the highlight of the FIA WEC season: “It’s great to see how the suspense continues to build among everyone in the team. Everyone is working with total concentration. We’re united by one big goal: we want to bring home Porsche’s 20th overall victory. I’m curious to see how the competition evolves over the next few days.”

“We got off to a great start on the test day for this year’s Le Mans race,” states Jonathan Diuguid, in reference to the official pre-test last Sunday. Looking ahead to the race week, the Managing Director Porsche Penske Motorsport adds: “We expect similarly good conditions in practice, qualifying and on both race days. If this happens, then our insights from the test will have been very valuable. We’ll then need to focus on making further tweaks to the cars.”

“Racing for Charity”: Porsche donates towards helping ill children

The sports car manufacturer will donate 750 euros for each lap completed by the three works-run Porsche 963 racing vehicles. After the racing highlight of the year, the total amount will be donated to three non-profit organisations that, among other things, support and care for seriously ill children worldwide: Kinderherzen retten e.V., Interplast Germany e.V. and the Ferry Porsche Foundation.

The race

The 24 Hours of Le Mans marks the fourth round on the FIA World Endurance Championship WEC calendar and is the highlight of the season. Due to the long distance, double points will be awarded towards the world championship. Porsche tackles the 92nd edition of the world’s greatest endurance race leading all world championship standings. The classic event, which was contested for the first time 101 years ago, offers other novel features: for instance, the deployment of three safety cars at once on the track. The reason for this is that each lap of the Circuit des 24 Heures in Le Mans is extremely long at 13.626 kilometres. This year’s race gets underway on Saturday, 15 June, at 4 pm CEST.

The storied circuit south of the city with its 150,000 inhabitants consists mainly of public roads. Normally, hundreds of trucks and cars drive over the legendary Mulsanne Straight every day on their way from Le Mans to Tours. The fast Porsche curves are both famous and notorious: high speeds and narrow run-off zones pose special challenges and ensure spectacular race action. The unique racetrack in the Sarthe department is only open to the teams to go testing once a season. This took place last Sunday.

TV and live streaming of the race

The official apps of the FIA WEC and the Le Mans organiser ACO offer a paid live stream and live timing

from the 24 Hours of Le Mans. The full TV distribution list is available at fiawec.com.

An overview of the drivers and vehicles

Hypercar class (Porsche 963):

Porsche Penske Motorsport #4: Mathieu Jaminet (F) / Felipe Nasr (BR) / Nick Tandy (UK)

Porsche Penske Motorsport #5: Matt Campbell (AUS) / Michael Christensen (DK) / Frédéric Makowiecki (F)

Porsche Penske Motorsport #6: Kévin Estre (F) / André Lotterer (D) / Laurens Vanthoor (B)

Hertz Team Jota #12: Callum Ilott (UK) / Norman Nato (F) / Will Stevens (UK)

Hertz Team Jota #38: Jenson Button (UK) / Phil Hanson (UK) / Oliver Rasmussen (DK)

Proton Competition #99: Julien Andlauer (F) / Neel Jani (CH) / Harry Tincknell (UK)

LMGT3 class (Porsche 911 GT3 R):

Manthey EMA #91: Richard Lietz (A) / Morris Schuring (NL) / Yasser Shahin (AUS)

Manthey PureRxcing #92: Klaus Bachler (A) / Alex Malykhin (UK) / Joel Sturm (D)

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Image Sublines

Path: Porsche at the Le Mans 24-hour race/Images/img_1.jpg

Title: Porsche 963, Porsche Penske Motorsport, Kevin Estre, Andre Lotterer, Laurens Vanthoor, Qualifying, FIA WEC, Le Mans, 2024, Porsche AG

Subline: The Porsche 963 No. 6 qualified for Hyperpole

Path: Porsche at the Le Mans 24-hour race/Images/img_2.jpg

Title: Porsche 963, Hertz Team Jota, Will Stevens, Callum Ilott, Norman Nato, Qualifying, FIA WEC, Le Mans, 2024, Porsche AG

Subline: Hertz Team Jota's Porsche 963 (No. 12)

Path: Porsche at the Le Mans 24-hour race/Images/img_3.jpg

Title: Matt Campbell, Porsche Penske Motorsport, Qualifying, FIA WEC, Le Mans, 2024, Porsche AG

Subline: Matt Campbell

Path: Porsche at the Le Mans 24-hour race/Images/img_4.jpg

Title: Klaus Bachler, Manthey Pure RACING, Qualifying, FIA WEC, Le Mans, 2024, Porsche AG

Subline: Klaus Bachler

Path: Porsche at the Le Mans 24-hour race/Images/img_6.jpg

Title: Thomas Laudenbach (Vice President Porsche Motorsport), Qatar, 2024, Porsche AG

Subline: Thomas Laudenbach, Vice President Porsche Motorsport

Path: Porsche at the Le Mans 24-hour race/Images/img_7.jpg

Title: Urs Kuratle, Director Factory Motorsport LMDh, 2024, Porsche AG

Subline: Urs Kuratle, Director Factory Motorsport LMDh

Path: Porsche at the Le Mans 24-hour race/Images/img_8.jpg

Title: Jonathan Diuguid, Managing Director Porsche Penske Motorsport, 2024, Porsche AG

Subline: Jonathan Diuguid, Managing Director Porsche Penske Motorsport

Path: Porsche at the Le Mans 24-hour race/Images/img_9.jpg

Title: Circuit des 24 Heures, Le Mans, 2024, Porsche AG

Subline: Circuit des 24 Heures

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