

02 Jarama, 19 May 2001

All Audi front row at Jarama

Tom Kristensen and Emanuele Pirro made it an all Audi front row for the second European round of the American Le Mans Series (ALMS) at Jarama (Spain). Kristensen took his second pole position in a row, setting the fastest lap during Saturday's qualifying session in 1m 22.285s. Pirro was only 0.4s behind in the companion Infineon Audi R8.

While Tom Kristensen and Rinaldo Capello have already the maximum score from the two European ALMS races by winning at Donington, Emanuele Pirro and Frank Biela will try to beat their team mates on Sunday to get maximum points as well. Only the higher score of the two European rounds can be counted for the ALMS overall result.

As the sun is predicted to come back at Jarama on Sunday, the race will be very hard for both the drivers and the tyres. The race runs over the distance of 2:45 hours, Rinaldo Capello and Emanuele Pirro will be starting in the two Infineon Audi R8 sportscars.

Stefan Johansson made it an Audi 1-2-3- in qualifying setting the third fastest time on the difficult Jarama track.

Quotes after qualifying

Rinaldo Capello (#1): "The track is new for me, and yesterday I could drive only a few laps. But today was good, after two laps I could press very hard. I am very confident for the race."

Tom Kristensen (#1): "This track is not easy, but it becomes easy if you have a good car like the Audi R8. The car is working very well. Jarama is completely opposite to Le Mans. You need to get a lot of mechanical grip out of the car for the slow corners. I am very pleased."

Frank Biela (#2): "I am expecting a very exhausting race. To fight head to head for 2:45 hours will be pretty hard. The track is very demanding and physically hard."

Emanuele Pirro (#2): "Considering we are going through quite a tough time during the last races, I am quite happy. The car starts to feel a lot better. We will fight for the win, because we finished second in the other European ALMS race - so the only thing we can use is a win."

Stefan Johansson (#7): "On my fast lap I got stuck behind one of the Panoz cars who had a small spin in the hairpin. I had to go off the line and there was a lot of gravel on the road. I lost maybe half a second."

Guy Smith (#7): "I have never been here before. It is a great track and it seems to suite the car very well. Obviously it is very hard on the tyres which

will be crucial for the race. Stefan qualified very well, now we have to work out a good strategy for the race.”

Reinhold Joest, Team Director Audi Sport North America: “Our engineers and drivers had a hard time to find the right setup for this demanding track. Yesterday we were not happy at all, but we worked late into the night and analysed the data. Today we were able to see the result: Our two R8 sportscars are on the front row of the grid.”

Starting grid at Jarama

1. Capello/Kristensen (Infineon Audi R8)	1m 22.285s
2. Biela/Pirro (Infineon Audi R8)	1m 22.665s
3. Johansson/Smith (Audi R8)	1m 23.040s
4. Magnussen/Brabham (Panoz)	1m 23.883s
5. Graf/Lagorce (Panoz)	1m 24.381s
6. de Radigues/van de Poele (Reynard)	1m 27.015s
7. Hawkins/Goddard/Saldana (Lola-Nissan)	1m 30.052s
8. Duno/Graham (Reynard)	1m 30.972s
9. Lambert/McKellar (Saleen)	1m 31.583s
10. Konrad/Seiler/Brun (Saleen)	1m 32.298s

Find updated photos and information on the internet:
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