



Press Information

Adelaide, 30 December 2000

Crocodile R8 on pole position

Crocodile hunters get ready: In tomorrow's season final of the American Le Mans Series at Adelaide the Audi R8 will again start from pole position. During the 30 minutes of qualifying on the Adelaide street circuit, Rinaldo Capello who teams up with Brad Jones and Allan McNish set the fastest time in his Audi R8 sporting a crocodile design. Only 1.7 tenths of a second behind the no. 77 car Emanuele Pirro, sharing the cockpit with Frank Biela, put his Audi R8 on the second position on the grid.

The race starts on Sunday at 16:15 hours and ends after 5:45 hours or 1000 kilometres, whichever comes first. Allan McNish (#77) and Frank Biela (#78) are to start the race in the two Audi R8s.

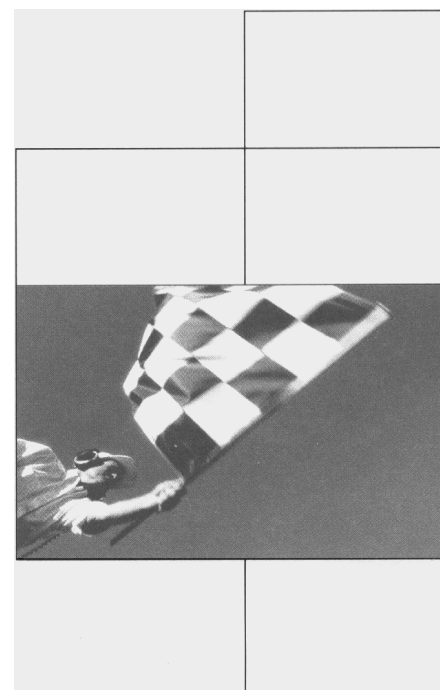
Quotes after qualifying

Rinaldo Capello (#77): "I thought I could improve my pole position time on the third lap. But unfortunately I made a little mistake, perhaps because I wanted to push too hard. Now the job of today is done. The only thing I hope is that Allan will be okay for the race tomorrow and celebrate his championship."

Frank Biela (#78): "Of course you are not completely happy when you're not on pole position. But the practice sessions were fine and so was the qualifying. More important than the starting position is that we can keep the Panoz behind us. We have done that in every session so far and so I'm very confident for the race."

Emanuele Pirro (#78): "To be honest: The car was perfect today and I should have done better than I did. I lost very little time in almost every corner and all this together only left second position for us today. I wanted to do really well at this special event but it hasn't worked out yet. But we still have tomorrow. The race is another story and I would still bet a lot of money on our car."

Reinhold Joest, Team Director Audi Sport North America: "Again drivers, mechanics and engineers did a marvellous job when finding the optimum set-up for this circuit which is new to us in such a short time. It's great to achieve first and second position on the grid at such a great event here at Adelaide. Now I hope we can turn it into a good race result as well."



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Dr Wolfgang Ullrich, Head of Audi Sport: "Today we experienced what we have seen throughout the whole season: Again our two cars are very close to each other and again the R8 proved that it feels at home on every racetrack we visit. Dindo was very motivated today which paid out in pole position. But everybody is absolutely satisfied with the set-up of both cars so I'm sure we can expect a thrilling race tomorrow."

The starting grid at Adelaide

1. Capello/Jones/McNish (Audi R8)	1m 23.803s
2. Biela/Pirro (Audi R8)	1m 23.978s
3. Brabham/Murphy/Bright (Panoz)	1m 24.989s
4. Katoh/O'Connell (Panoz)	1m 25.168s
5. Magnussen/Graf (Panoz)	1m 26.859s
6. Bernard/Collard (Cadillac)	1m 27.551s
7. Tinseau/Goossens (Cadillac)	1m 27.751s
8. Schiattarella/de Radigues/Simon (Lola)	1m 28.816s
9. Konrad/Slater/Heath (Lola)	1m 32.960s
10. Beretta/Wendlinger/Dupuy (Chrysler)	1m 34.602s

Current photos and information are available on the internet: www.audi-sportpress.com (password required)

