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Emanuele Pirro fastest Audi driver

- **Audi R10 TDI on the fifth row of the grid at Laguna Seca**
- **Last race with the Audi R10 TDI for Emanuele Pirro**
- **First sportscar race for Christijan Albers**

Ingolstadt/Laguna Seca – Emanuele Pirro has captured the LM P1 pole position at Laguna Seca (U.S. state of California) in his last race with the Audi R10 TDI. On Friday, the Italian won the qualifying battle against his team-mate Lucas Luhr.

Team Audi Sport North America's two Audi R10 TDI prototypes will line-up on the fifth row of the starting grid for the finale of the American Le Mans Series. In unexpected hot conditions, the LM P1 cars had no chance to match the qualifying pace of the lighter LM P2 prototypes. With gaps of 1.1 and 1.7 seconds respectively, Pirro and Luhr qualified ninth and tenth.

Pirro was on a quicker lap when the qualifying session had to be stopped because of a car stuck in the gravel. Luhr was complaining about an understeering car on the slippery track and did not find a clear lap.

Audi had captured the titles in the LM P1 class of the American Le Mans Series already prior the finale. The Audi R10 TDI is undefeated at Laguna Seca so far.

The race starts on Saturday at 2:45 p.m. local time (11:45 p.m. in Germany) and runs over a distance of four hours into the darkness.



Starting driver in the number 1 Audi R10 TDI will be Christijan Albers from the Netherlands who will be competing in his first ever sportscar race at Laguna Seca. Lucas Luhr will be the start driver in the sister car.

Quotes after qualifying at Laguna Seca

Christijan Albers (Audi R10 TDI #1): "The car is not easy to drive, especially on a new track. I have to get used to everything. But there is a good atmosphere in the team and we work together well. I'm going quicker every lap. So I'm quite happy. 'EP' did a very good qualifying. I'm excited about tomorrow because this will be my first sports car race in my career and my first rolling start. I'm looking forward to it."

Emanuele Pirro (Audi R10 TDI #1): "It's been an exciting qualifying which I enjoyed very much. If you need to build a track tailor made for the lighter LM P2 cars you would build a replica of Laguna Seca. We have to do what we can. Our car is well balanced. We know that the R10 TDI will perform a lot better versus the light cars in the race. And the race is long."

Lucas Luhr (Audi R10 TDI #2): "We waited a little bit at the beginning to find a gap. Unfortunately I came out just in traffic which was not good. On top of that I hate understeer – if 100 is bad I had 250. We have to try to improve the car for the race. This will be quite some work."

Marco Werner (Audi R10 TDI #2): "Of course we are not content. Because of the sand the track conditions keep changing from lap to lap. If somebody is running over the kerbs the conditions are getting even worse. Right now, however, we are not happy with the car. We hope it will be cooler tomorrow. This should help us."

Dave Maraj (Team Director Audi Sport North America): "The lap times are close to last year except for the pole setter. It seems that the track was a little bit slower today due to the hot weather."



The starting grid at Laguna Seca

- 1 Brabham/Sharp (Acura/Honda) 1m 10.103s
- 2 Fernandez/Diaz (Acura/Honda) 1m 10.202s
- 3 Dumas/Bernhard (Porsche) 1m 10.351s
- 4 de Ferran/Pagenaud (Acura/Honda) 1m 30.451s
- 5 Montagny/Kanaan (Acura/Honda) 1m 10.567s
- 6 Maassen/Long (Porsche) 1m 10.586s
- 7 Castroneves/Briscoe (Porsche) 1m 10.606s
- 8 Smith/Dyson (Porsche) 1m 11.010s
- 9 Albers/Pirro (Audi R10 TDI) 1m 11.264s (1st in LM P1)
- 10 Luhr/Werner (Audi R10 TDI) 1m 11.825s (2nd in LM P1)

- Ends -

Photographs and information available at www.audi-motorsport.info

AUDI AG sold a total of 964,151 cars in 2007 and thus achieved its twelfth consecutive record year. With revenue of € 33,617 million and profit before tax of € 2,915 million, the company attained its best figures ever. Audi produces vehicles in Ingolstadt and Neckarsulm (Germany), Győr (Hungary), Changchun (China) and Brussels (Belgium). At the end of 2007, production of the Audi A6 started in Aurangabad, India. The company is active in more than 100 markets worldwide. AUDI AG's wholly owned subsidiaries include Automobili Lamborghini Holding S.p.A. in Sant'Agata Bolognese, Italy, and quattro GmbH in Neckarsulm. Audi employs about 57,000 people worldwide, including 45,000 in Germany. The brand with the four rings invests more than € 2 billion each year in order to sustain the company's technological lead embodied in its "Vorsprung durch Technik" slogan. Audi plans to significantly increase the number of models in its portfolio by 2015 to 40.