

Successful Audi “customer” teams

The 2002 season will be remembered as one of the most successful in the motorsport history of AUDI AG. The Audi “works” team continued its triumphal march with the Infineon Audi R8 in the Le Mans 24 Hour race and in the American Le Mans Series (ALMS). In other motorsport disciplines, Audi “customer” teams and Audi importers claimed plenty of success too: the 2002 season saw champagne corks being popped open in Germany, Sweden and in the USA.

In Germany, Team Abt Sportsline continued Audi’s tradition of success in touring car racing, taking five outright victories and clinching the title in the DTM series (Deutsche Tourenwagen Masters). In 1990 and 1991, Hans-Joachim Stuck and Frank Biela won the German Touring Car Championship in their Audi V8 quattro cars respectively, to be followed by many more title victories in a number of Super Touring Car Series around the globe. Audi works driver Laurent Aiello celebrated his 2002 triumph at the wheel of an Abt-Audi TT-R developed by Abt Sportsline. Young Swedish driver Mattias Ekström rounded off the success of the Kempten-based team with third position.

Roberto Colciago proved that the Audi A4 quattro is still a winning car in its eighth racing season with the Italian’s overall victory in the fiercely contested Swedish Touring Car Championship. The KMS Team, supported by the Swedish Audi importer, won the title with the Audi A4 quattro for the third time, having already clinched the championship in 1999 and 2001.

In the USA, Champion Racing successfully defended its 2001 title: for the second consecutive time, Italian-born US resident Michael Galati won the GT title of the North American Speed World Challenge in an Audi S4 quattro.

Indeed Champion Racing was a tough opponent of the Audi “works” team in the American Le Mans Series (ALMS). The Florida-based outfit, supported by Audi North America, finished runners-up in the ALMS Teams’ standings in a year-old R8.

The Japanese Audi importer also trusted in the tried and tested Audi sports racing car: Audi Sport Japan Team Goh finished seventh overall in a 2001-spec R8 in the 2002 Le Mans 24 Hour race and secured pole position in the Suzuka 1000 km race.