

GRAFF RACING TAKES CENTENARY 24 HOURS OF LE MANS' CHEQUERED FLAG



Once again, Graff Racing held onto its word to never give up and reached the end of the Centenary edition of the 24 Hours of le Mans, despite several unlucky episodes for the team.

Following François Hériau's dropping out, Roberto Lacorte was the team's only driver not to have raced with the Oreca 07. Despite this, he got up to speed quickly and the team was making important progress after every session.

The team's objective in qualifying was to reach Hyperpole with Giedo van der Garde. While he was very close to that top 6, he eventually had to serve a couple of penalties which placed him 22nd in LMP2, and 7th in Pro-Am.

Giedo made a good start and climbed back to the top 5 during his first stint before a first initial contact made him lose a few places. Roberto Lacorte and Patrick Pilet then went into the car to finish Saturday with no mistake, despite the rain's sudden arrival, which surprised several other drivers.

All hopes of good results were taken away at night as Giedo van der Garde was hit from behind by another car while entering a slow zone. Despite the serious damages, Giedo managed to bring the car back to the pits. Our whole technical team, mechanics and engineers, worked hard to get the car back on track after one hour spent in the pits.

The rest of the race happened with no major incident and the objective was to claim the podium in the Pro-Am category. But Le Mans remains unpredictable and Patrick Pilet suffered from a broken suspension, forcing the team to take the car again for repairs for half an hour.

Roberto Lacorte took the chequered flag of the Centenary of the 24 Hours of Le Mans in 37th place overall, 17th in LMP2 and 4th in Pro Am.

Roberto Lacorte, driver #39: *"It was a bittersweet 24 Hours of Le Mans. We had a great race and all three drivers performed well, without making mistakes. On the other hand, we could fight for the podium and we had a fantastic pace that could have brought us to victory. However, a GT driver made two mistakes entering the slow zone, first hitting me and then destroying our car when van der Garde was driving his stint, forcing the team to do an extraordinary job."*

Giedo van der Garde, driver #39: *"This was one of the most intense Le Mans I have driven. Especially because I really had the feeling, we could've gotten the podium and it was taken out of our hands because of bad luck. I know that's also a part of Le Mans, but because of the car that hit us, it was an extra bitter one. The upside? A lot of learnings and an even bigger determination for next year."*

Patrick Pilet, driver #39: *"Those 24 Hours had a really particular taste as I was returning to Graff Racing. Despite several incidents, I am very satisfied with the work accomplished by the team and my teammates. We were unfortunately hit from behind by another car in a slow zone but we fought until the end and we reached the chequered flag. We showed great things, we had the potential to fight for the category win and I hope the adventure can carry on and we can show our true potential."*

Pascal Rauturier, Team Manager: *"I would like to thank our drivers and the team who all faced incredible challenges. The first victory is to cross the finish line and this objective has been met! I remain disappointed about the final result which does not reflect the amount of work deployed by the team. We had everything to finish on the podium. I am already thinking of the next 24 Hours of le Mans and I hope we will be a part of it to celebrate Graff's 50th anniversary."*