

FRUSTRATING END OF SEASON FOR GRAFF RACING IN PORTIMAO





Weather conditions have severely impacted both ELMS and Le Mans Cup races in Portimão which prevented Graff Racing from shining.

Le Mans Cup

The last race of Michelin Le Mans Cup took place in very humid conditions. James Sweetnam had qualified the #39 JSP320 in 12th position while George Nakas set the 26th time with #8.

Following an incident in Free Practice, James Sweetnam had to serve a drive-through penalty early in the race which put him down the order as the rain intensified. Despite the conditions, he managed to get back to the leading pack before passing the baton to Samir Ben in 13th place. In the meantime, Fraser Ross started his recovery with #8.

After an hour and a half of racing, the race was stopped due to unpracticable race conditions. #39 finished 13^{th} and #8 crossed the line in 16^{th} place.

#39 finished the championship in 23^{rd} place and #8 in 27^{th} place after 7 races. We will remember James Sweetnam's pole position in Barcelona during the opening round.

ELMS

After their podium on Friday, Graff and Ultimate wanted to keep the momentum going for the 4 Hours of Portimao. For the first time this season, Jean-Baptiste Lahaye was the qualifying driver on a drying track. He took the gamble to start the session on slicks and despite leading the last ten minutes of the session, he was finally overtaken by three other drivers. He still set the 4th fastest time, the best result in qualifying this season.



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The race was delayed by a storm and was cut short by one hour due to a red flag. Eric took the start on a wet track and then left the wheel to Jean-Baptiste when the track started to dry out. Once again, Jean-Baptiste took the gamble to start on slicks and was comfortably leading the category until a mechanical issue forced the team to retire the car midrace.

Ultimate and Graff end the ELMS season in 8th place in the LMP3 standings with 2 podiums in 6 races.

Pascal Rauturier, **Team Manager**: « Despite the difficult weather, our team managed to offer a good set-up and a good car to our drivers. This new podium rewarded our team's efforts, but this engine issue cut us short on our victory quest on Sunday. We are a bit disappointed not to have been able to convert this speed, but we are determined to finish the year on a high with the last two rounds of Ultimate Cup Series. »



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