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Late-Race Incident Ruins the Day for XM Radio Acura Team at Petit Le Mans

Braselton, Ga. (Oct. 4, 2008) – A late-race incident forced Franck Montagny, Marco Andretti and Tony Kanaan to a seventh-place finish in LMP2 and 16th overall at Saturday’s Petit Le Mans.

Starting from the fourth position, the trio remained among the top three through the majority of the race. Kanaan started the day for Andretti Green Racing and came for the first driver change in second position in the LMP2 class. Andretti took over and four hours in, took the overall lead for the XM Radio Acura team.

After Andretti turned the car over to Montagny for the third portion, the team consistently stayed with the Porsches through Montagny’s stint and Kanaan’s second run. Montagny took the wheel for the final time with just over three hours remaining in the race. A full-course caution came out with under two hours left in the race, which pulled the XM Radio Acura in for the final pit stop, which was for fuel only. On the ensuing restart, two cars spun in front of Montagny with a piece of debris making contact with the car and forcing the team to retire early.

The final race on the 2008 American Le Mans Series schedule takes place Saturday, Oct. 18 at Laguna Seca for the Monterey Sports Car Championships. The race will be broadcast on a tape-delay basis on NBC Sports Sunday, Oct. 19 at 2 p.m. (EDT). The race can also be heard live on XM Satellite Radio, channel 144.

Franck Montagny, #26 XM Radio Acura:

“One car spun to the right, another spun to the left, I tried to go between the two to avoid contact but a piece of debris hit me. It broke the front suspension and there was nothing for me to do. It is just unfortunate because we had a chance to be there challenging for the LMP2 win. The XM Radio Acura crew did a great job all weekend. They worked hard yesterday to repair the car after the morning incident for qualifying and gave Tony (Kanaan), Marco (Andretti) and me a great car for the race.”

Marco Andretti, #26 XM Radio Acura:

“It was unfortunate. The XM Radio Acura was really good. We definitely had the best strategist behind us to put us in a really great position at the end. We had the car to win. It’s a bummer.”

Tony Kanaan, #26 XM Radio Acura:

“We kept ourselves in position all day long. Franck (Montagny) and Marco (Andretti) did a great job. We had a car to win today. We were the car to beat. You know, unfortunately, this is racing. Sometimes you win and sometimes you lose. But, I am happy to be back in the XM Radio Acura and can’t wait to go to Laguna (Seca).”

Petit Le Mans Race Results – LMP2 Class		
Pos.	Name	Laps
1	Briscoe/Castroneves	394
2	Bernhard/Dumas	394
3	Maassen/Long/Collard	392
4	M. Franchitti/Leitzinger/Lally	390
5	de Ferran/Pagenaud/Dixon	388
7	Montagny/Andretti/Kanaan	347
Detroit Sports Car Challenge Race Results – Overall		
Pos.	Name	Laps
1	Capello/McNish/Pirro	394
2	Minassian/Sarrazin/Klein	394
3	Luhr/Werner	394
4	Briscoe/Castroneves	394
5	Bernhard/Dumas	394
16	Montagny/Andretti/Kanaan	347

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