

# News



## American Le Mans Series Six Titles for Porsche

**Clean sweep for Porsche in the American Le Mans Series 2008: the RS Spyder and the 911 GT3 RSR fought off strong competition to win all six titles. Porsche was again the most successful manufacturer in the racing series for the world's fastest sports cars.**

At the end of this year's final event, Porsche motorsports director Hartmut Kristen celebrated the emphatic result in his own particular way by withdrawing behind the pit-lane fence at the Laguna Seca Raceway for a few moments of quiet reflection. "I am extremely pleased," he said. "We have won every single title available to us and seen off some very strong competition."

Porsche's collection of titles was almost complete before the last race had even begun. In the LMP2 drivers' championship, Timo Bernhard and Romain Dumas had already successfully defended their title in the RS Spyder and also won the team title for Penske Racing. In the GT2 class, 911 GT3 RSR drivers Jörg Bergmeister and Wolf Henzler and their Flying Lizard Motorsports team had also already been confirmed as the driver and team

champions. The checkered flag signaled not only the end of the four-hour race in Laguna Seca, but also the conclusion of a perfect season for Porsche. Only then was it officially confirmed that Porsche had won the manufacturer's title in the two most competitive classes—LMP2 and GT2.

The race marked the end of a thrilling season. The overall victory at the 12 Hours of Sebring race was unforgettable. Bernhard and Dumas in the RS Spyder not only left the rest of the LMP2 class trailing in their wake in Florida's legendary endurance race, but also saw off the LMP1 class cars from Audi and Peugeot, which had considerably superior power-to-weight ratios as well as over 200 hp more. "Overall victory in Sebring guarantees you a place in the history books," was Bernhard's apt appraisal. For Dumas, it

**Porsche success in the USA: The drivers and teams with the RS Spyder**

was the cornerstone for a championship that he admitted had taken much more out of him than last year's triumph.

The RS Spyder also won another title. It was not only this year's most successful sports prototype, but with its direct fuel injection (DFI) engine, it was also the most environmentally friendly. At the Road Atlanta meeting, it won the "Green Challenge 2008" award for the vehicle with the best overall fuel efficiency.



**Champions: Romain Dumas (left) and Timo Bernhard won the LMP2 drivers' title**