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2007 RACE HIGHLIGHTS

The 2007 Laguna Seca ALMS finale saw Rinaldo Capello and Allan McNish win overall in the #1 Audi R10 TDI with the P2 class #7 Penske Porsche RS Spyder of Timo Bernhard and Romain Dumas second, just 0.410 second behind!

Capello and McNish started fifth overall and first in P1 from the P1 pole won by McNish. Capello set P1 Fast Lap in the race. The duo won P1 by only 21.498 seconds over the runnerup P1 finisher, the #2 Audi R10 TDI of Mike Rockenfeller (subbing for injured Emanuele Pirro) and Marco Werner! The #2 Audi finished third overall.

Third in P1 was the Creation Autosportif Creation CA07-Judd of Jamie Campbell-Walter and Harold Primat. They started twelfth overall and fifth in P1 and finished ninth overall.

The Bernhard/Dumas Penske Porsche started second overall (and in P2) and won P2 by only 21.503 seconds over the runnerup P2 finisher, the #6 Penske Porsche RS Spyder of Ryan Briscoe and Sascha Maassen. The #6 started on the overall pole won by Maassen and Sascha also set overall Fast Lap! The #6 finished fourth overall. Third in P2 was the Luis Diaz/Adrian Fernandez Fernandez Racing Lola B06/43-Acura.

Seven cars (two P1, five P2) finished on the overall lead lap, tying the ALMS all-time Race Lead-Lap Finish record! The race was only the third in ALMS history to produce seven overall lead-lap finishers (joining 2007 Long Beach and Detroit) and the first such result on a road course rather than a street circuit! The Laguna Seca race's four hours and 351.366 miles also far exceeded the duration and mileage of the Long Beach and Detroit races.

The race was led by five racecars representing three marques, four Entrants, and two classes. Six drivers led the race and there were eight lead changes!

Maassen led the first ten laps in the #6 Penske Porsche. Allan McNish then led the next twenty-six laps (11-36) in the #1 Audi. Luis Diaz put the #15 Fernandez Lola-Acura into the overall lead for twelve laps (37-48) before McNish resumed the point in the #1 Audi for twenty-seven laps (49-75). Romain Dumas then gave the #7 Penske Porsche its first **lead of the race**, leading sixteen laps (76-91). Butch Leitzinger then put the #16 Dyson Porsche into the lead for eleven laps (92-102). Thereafter, the lead battle became #1 Audi versus #7 Porsche! Rinaldo Capello led twenty-three laps in the #1 Audi (103-125) before Dumas put the #7 Porsche back into the lead for six laps (126-131). Capello then led the race's final twenty-six laps (132-157).

All told, the #1 Audi led 102 laps, the #7 Porsche twenty-two. The #15 Fernandez Lola-Acura led twelve laps, the #16 Dyson Porsche led eleven laps, and the #6 Penske Porsche led ten laps. The marque score was Audi 102, Porsche 43, Lola-Acura 12. The class score was P1 102, P2 55. Among the drivers, McNish led the most laps, 53, with codriver Capello leading 49. Dumas led twenty-two laps in the #7 Porsche, Diaz twelve in the Fernandez Lola-Acura, Leitzinger eleven in the Dyson Porsche, and Maassen ten in the #6 Penske Porsche.

Maassen's overall and P2 pole was his fifth FQ honor at Laguna Seca (two GT, three P2) and his five FQs at one venue set a new ALMS Driver Venue FQ record!

Olivier Beretta and Oliver Gavin drove the #4 Chevrolet Corvette C6R to the GT1 victory in the 2007 Laguna Seca ALMS race!

The GT1-winning Corvette duo started seventeenth overall and second in class. They finished eleventh overall, only seven laps behind the overall winners, and only 28.487 seconds ahead of their teammates Jan Magnussen and Johnny O'Connell in the #3 Corvette. Magnussen was GT1 Fast Qualifier and the #3 started sixteenth overall and first in GT1. Jan and Johnny finished twelfth overall and Jan also set GT1 Fast Lap.

Jaime Melo and Mika Salo drove the #62 Risi Ferrari F430 GT to the GT2 victory in the 2007 Laguna Seca season finale! Melo was the GT2 Fast Qualifier and the duo started nineteenth overall from the GT2 pole. Melo also set GT2 Fast Lap as the Risi Ferrari won the class by 26.775 seconds over the runnerup GT2 finisher, the #71 Tafel Porsche 911 GT3 RSR of Dominik Farnbacher and Wolf Henzler. The Risi Ferrari finished thirteenth overall, eleven laps behind the overall winners. The Tafel Porsche started thirtieth overall, twelfth (last) in GT2, and finished fourteenth overall.

Third in GT2 and fifteenth overall, one lap behind the 1-2 GT2 finishers after starting twenty-second overall and fourth in GT2, was the Rahal/Letterman Porsche 911 GT3 RSR of Ralf Kelleners and Tom Milner. The 2007 GT2 Drivers points runnersup Jorg Bergmeister and Johannes Van Overbeek finished fourth in GT2 and sixteenth overall in the #45 Flying Lizard Porsche 911 GT3 RSR.