

Zaugg, Palmer & Orido represent Europe, North America & Asia

All championships represented in top qualifying times for the World Final in Vallelunga

22 November 2013, Vallelunga. All three of the Lamborghini Blancpain Super Trofeo series from around the world were competitively represented on the qualifying timesheets for this weekend's World Final that is being hosted for the very first time near Rome. The event brings together teams and drivers from Lamborghini's three single-make Super Trofeo racing series in Europe, Asia and North America.

As a precursor to tomorrow's two races, a forty minute qualifying session took place today in wet track conditions. Adrian Zaugg and Federico de Nora set an early provisional pole on the Campagnano Di Roma circuit, and held P1 to the flag. The North American series was strongly represented by the young hotshoe, Andrew Palmer, who qualified in fifth. The remarkable story of this 19 year old, who had never raced a car until October looks set to continue following a mighty impressive win at Virginia International Raceway this year. Tight on Palmer's heels however was the Lamborghini Jakarta entry of Indonesian racer Johnson Yaptonnaga and his Japanese team-mate, Manabu Orido, who closed out the 40 minute session in sixth overall and in so doing, was the quickest of the Asian competitors.

Tomorrow's first race commences at 0930hrs CET and is streamed live with full English language commentary at <http://squadracorse.lamborghini.com/en/live>

The European Poleman....

Adrian Zaugg (RSA)/Federico De Nora (ITA), #3, Bonaldi Motorsport (EUROPE), 1:46.829, P1

How does it feel to be taking part in the first Lamborghini Blancpain Super Trofeo World Final?

It's a great gathering and it's really impressive to see all drivers from the US and Asia. It's an honour to be part of it and to measure ourselves against the very best Lamborghini drivers in the world.

Are you an ambassador for your series here at the World Finals?

Absolutely. We want to prove to the whole world that the European standard is the most advanced and we're the quickest and most competitive, but in truth, it is pretty hard to tell. And then of course as much as represent the series you race for, you must remember that we are also individuals and I'm half South-African myself! So yes, it is important that we do well as series, but ultimately it is just another way to grade yourself and you want to be on top, no matter your nationality.

What would it mean to you win a race or even the World Title here this weekend?

First of all, it was nice to grab the sixth pole of the year here and I must give huge thanks to the guys at Bonaldi who always give me the best car possible, and that alone is a great achievement. In terms of race pace, there are many PROs out there again. Federico (De Nora) is doing a very good job and he is very consistent. But going for the win will be very hard as the circuit is very short and lap times are closer than any other circuit we have raced at this season. There are a whole handful of strong drivers to look out for - Gagliardini, Viberti etc - but our biggest threat is Amici, as has been the case all season.

Are there any notable differences in approach that you have identified from competitors from other series?

The thing is, when you're racing, all you focus on is your driving, what you're doing inside the car and how your car is performing. You focus on your own job. I mean, Michael Schumacher could have been in the other car, and I wouldn't have noticed, so no, not really, there are some good drivers out there and the only real detail you focus on is their pace.

What does the World Final say about Lamborghini's growing commitment to motorsport?

I think it's a great idea, for sure. To be able to come together on a circuit like this, and challenge each other, it's fantastic really. I think everyone will share in the pleasure of being part of this weekend.

Let's imagine it's your choice, where would you host the World Final next year?

Probably in South Africa in front of my home crowd! But seriously, there are so many venues to choose from. It's great to be here although it's colder than expected! I think it would be fair to everyone to alternate the regions every year. Asia, Europe and North America, perhaps.



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The North American Perspective....

Andrew Palmer (USA), #114, GMG Racing (NORTH AMERICA), 1:47.731, P5

Andrew Palmer is a 19 year-old Mathematical Economics student at Pomona College in Claremont, CA. Besides representing his college as a track and field athlete, he recently graduated from karting to racing and in only his second race, he claimed a debut victory at VIR late in the North American series.

How does it feel to be taking part in the first Lamborghini Blancpain Super Trofeo World Final?

It's definitely a special honour to be here representing the United States and learning so much from these talented drivers. It's definitely a really cool environment, being over here in Europe. The racing is very different, the track feels very different and you're really aware of the history and the 'old school' parts as well as the modern aspect of racing here. And it's interesting for me to be here in Italy, as this is where my Grandparents originated from - we were 'Palmeris' before they dropped the 'i'!

Are you an ambassador for your series here at the World Finals?

Yes I guess so. It's very unique, especially as it is first ever World Final for Super Trofeo. All of us from North America are very capable drivers, so I hope we can prove to the Europeans that we can stand up and compete with them, man-for-man.

What would it mean to you win a race or even the World Title here this weekend?

It would be so special. Winning at the World Final would be tremendous, especially given with the calibre of the competition here. Some of these guys are accomplished, professional drivers. I'd love to win here, for the US, and take it back home.

Are there any notable differences in approach that you have identified from competitors from other series?

You're always going to see an obvious sort of aggression from the European drivers, which we emulate in the US. Coming from a karting tradition, you see this all the time. Last week I was at the Karting World Finals, and there are a lot of Europeans out there. They're going to do their thing, being very aggressive and you've got to work with it. The Asian style is a little harder to define. They like to go very deep into braking zones and sometimes miss the corners, but there are equally fast guys out there too. It's pretty cool being able to race with all these different approaches, with talent from around the world.

What does the World Final say about Lamborghini's growing commitment to motorsport?

I think it totally furthers the brand, makes people get really, really excited about the Super Trofeo series, something which they really look forward to every year. And don't forget, it pushes all the teams to be more competitive.

Let's imagine it's your choice, where would you host the World Final next year?

I think it would be really cool to host it in Abu Dhabi. I have friends racing in GP3 and GP2 and European F3 and they say it's just spectacular. Stunning space-like buildings, the desert, I am sure it'd make for a great atmosphere.



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The view from the East...

Johnson Yaptonnaga (IDN)/Manabu Orido (JAP), #263, Lamborghini Jakarta (ASIA), 1:47.920, P6

Johnson Yaptonnaga is the CEO of Lamborghini Jakarta and Manabu Orido is a seasoned racing driver with 25 years experience including drifting and more recently GT3 racing with Lamborghini in Asia

How does it feel to be taking part in the first Lamborghini Blancpain Super Trofeo World Final?

Brilliant, it is great to be here. The track is a lot of fun and we're enjoying our first trip to Europe and in fact our first season in general, so it's been a good year with plenty of new experiences.

Are you an ambassador for your series here at the World Finals?

Yes definitely. I'm from Jakarta and Orido is from Japan so we're here to represent the Asian series. It's our first year racing together, and our third race as a team, so we're young, but keen to represent our part of the world well here at the Finals.

What would it mean to you win a race or even the World Title here this weekend?

Well, we always try our hardest of course, and aim for the podium, if not for the win. Today's qualifying went very well, we finished 6th and finished top of the Asian crews, so it is going well and we hope tomorrow will be good, but we will see how it goes.

Are there any notable differences in approach that you have identified from competitors from other series?

We have noticed that it is cold! But seriously, so many of the Europeans are PROs, so there is strong competition from these guys and we're running as PRO-AMs.

What does the World Final say about Lamborghini's growing commitment to motorsport?

We think the idea of a World Final is genius, very good. It is a special experience to be able to come to race in Europe and fight with so many other teams and perhaps that feeling is stronger as it is our first time visiting this part of the world.

Let's imagine it's your choice, where would you host the World Final next year?

Well, you might expect us to say somewhere in Asia, but we enjoy the travelling, so we are going to say how about the US for next year? Maybe Las Vegas?

- Ends -



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Blancpain

Founded in 1735 by Jehan-Jacques Blancpain, the watch brand bearing his name is the oldest in the world. Blancpain is currently engaged to the renewal of mechanical watchmaking and to passing on exceptional expertise from one generation to the next through constant investment in human resources, production facilities and research. This approach is its strength and the expression of our long-term vision, even though it goes against the tide of a certain tendency to seek immediate profit.

From the creation of components through to watch design, Blancpain is distinguished by its ability to develop exceptional movements. Over the past 8 years, the Manufacture has indeed developed no less than 29 new calibres.

Through its various models, Blancpain preserves its heritage of precision and elegance, while also displaying an innovative and occasionally provocative spirit. Its range encompasses the sportive L-evolution line, the legendary Fifty Fathoms diver's watch, as well as the classic Villeret collection, the high complication from Le Brassus collection and the Women models.

Pirelli

Founded in 1872, Pirelli is the world's fifth largest tyre manufacturer based on revenues. With a presence in over 160 countries, the company now has 22 tyre manufacturing facilities on five continents and employs some 34,000 people.

Having been involved in motor racing since 1907, Pirelli is currently the single tyre manufacturer for Formula 1™ for the 2011-2013 championship seasons and for the World Superbike Championship. This is an important challenge in terms of technological innovation and is a key means of promoting the Pirelli brand.

In 2013, Pirelli underlines its status as the global tyre manufacturer with the biggest commitment to motorsport. In total, the Italian firm supplies 138 different championships across the world, excluding Formula One, both on the road and on the track. One of the most important engagements is the Lamborghini Blancpain Super Trofeo, supplied exclusively by Pirelli, which highlights the strong technical collaboration that the two Italian icons have shared since 1963.

Contact Us

All media enquiries including requests for additional photography should be directed to: media@supertrofeo.com and please see the official Automobili Lamborghini press website by clicking [here](#)

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