

BMW Team RLL



BMW Team RLL - Long Beach ALMS Preview

Woodcliff Lake, N.J. – April 9, 2012... Following a four-week intermission after BMW Team RLL's GT class victory at the 12 Hours of Sebring American Le Mans Series curtain-raiser, the second act of the team's ALMS GT class title defense will be set in the streets of Long Beach, California on April 14.

Last year Joey Hand and Dirk Müller had starring roles as Long Beach race winners and, ultimately, GT class driver's champions. This year's story has begun much as the last with Hand and Müller sharing a second consecutive Sebring 12 Hour victory – this time supported by Jonathan Summerton, of Kissimmee, Fla., as third driver.

Only two hours long, the Long Beach race is not only the shortest of the season, but the tight confines of the 1.968-mile, 11-turn temporary street circuit set a stage for high drama and conflict.

Bill Auberlen co-drove to a podium finish with Tommy Milner in both 2009 (P3) and 2010 (P2), but it was Milner that played the villain last year when the now Corvette driver's contact with Auberlen during an overly-ambitious pass knocked Auberlen (and 2011 co-driver Dirk Werner) back to a seventh place finish. This season, Bill Auberlen and Jörg Müller will co-drive the No. 55 M3 GT at Long Beach. The race will be Müller's first at Long Beach.

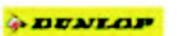
"We look forward to returning to Long Beach after having won there last year," said **Bobby Rahal, Team Principal.** "Long Beach is such a huge event, such a historic event that any time you do well there you feel particularly good. We have had pretty good luck in Long Beach with three podiums in a row including a win last year. Last year we won at Sebring and then again in Long Beach – two-for-two – and we're going to try to do that again this year. The cars are good at Long Beach and we will have good driver lineups, as always. I feel optimistic but it's a tough race as we saw last year with the 55 car that was running very well but got taken out by one of the Corvettes. You have to assume the worst

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maybe because it is a street race, but I think we have a good chance to repeat our success. I look forward to being in Long Beach and having a great weekend.”



Bill Auberlen, driver No. 55 M3 GT – “It’s great to be home for my favorite race. The entire event really impresses me and the overall feeling of excitement is contagious! I know the BMW Team RLL guys will give Jörg and I the support to win, but this street race is tight and tough.”

Jörg Müller, driver No. 55 M3 GT – “I’m really looking forward to Long Beach as it will be the first time for me driving an event together with IndyCar. I have never been on this circuit before but I’ve watched a lot of video. I’m a big fan of street circuits and have won races in Monaco, Pau and Macao.”

Joey Hand, driver No. 56 M3 GT – “Long Beach is an event I look forward to every season. You can feel the entire place radiate with energy on every lap. Dirk and I won the race from the pole last year so obviously our goal is to repeat and continue to keep him and BMW Team RLL at the top of the point standings.”

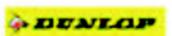
Dirk Müller, driver No. 56 M3 GT – “After two really busy weeks with the factory BMW Z4 at the Nordschleife with BMW Team Schubert, I am looking forward to one of my favorite race venues! I won LBGP already a couple of times, but it is always very special and it is always a different race. The walls are hungry and you need to be careful not to attack too hard too early! Personally I do very much like street circuits and for sure Long Beach. There are so many friends and fans and together with IndyCar, it is just a perfect weekend! With our victory from Sebring in the bag we are fully motivated to keep our streak alive.”

The American Le Mans Series at Long Beach race will take the green flag at 4:30 p.m. PT on Saturday, April 14. The race will stream live on ESPN3.com beginning at 7:15 p.m. ET and will be broadcast on ESPN2 television beginning at 7:30 p.m. ET. Live timing and scoring will be hosted on americanlemans.com.

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About BMW Team RLL:



BMW Group In America

BMW of North America, LLC has been present in the United States since 1975. The BMW Group in the United States has grown to include marketing, sales, and financial service organizations for the BMW brand of motor vehicles, including motorcycles, the MINI brand, and the Rolls-Royce brand of Motor Cars; DesignworksUSA, a strategic design consultancy in California; a technology office in Silicon Valley and various other operations throughout the country. BMW Manufacturing Co., LLC in South Carolina is part of BMW Group's global manufacturing network and is the exclusive manufacturing plant for all X5 and X3 Sports Activity Vehicles and X6 Sports Activity Coupes. The BMW Group sales organization is represented in the U.S. through networks of 339 BMW passenger car and BMW Sports Activity Vehicle centers, 139 BMW motorcycle retailers, 112 MINI passenger car dealers, and 32 Rolls-Royce Motor Car dealers. BMW (US) Holding Corp., the BMW Group's sales headquarters for North America, is located in Woodcliff Lake, New Jersey.

Rahal Letterman Lanigan Racing

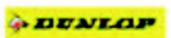
BMW's partner, Rahal Letterman Lanigan Racing, based in Hilliard, Ohio and co-owned by three-time IndyCar Champion and 1986 Indianapolis 500 winner Bobby Rahal, Mi-Jack co-owner Mike Lanigan and CBS LATE SHOW host David Letterman, has been competing for nearly two decades, compiling 22 victories, 31 poles and two series championships (1992, 2010) as well as claiming an Indianapolis 500 victory (Buddy Rice in 2004). In 2009 the team joined BMW of North America to campaign the new BMW M3 in the American Le Mans Series. In 2010 the team won both the Manufacturer and Team Championships in the GT category. In 2011 the team swept all three GT titles – Manufacturer, Team and Driver.

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