# **BMW Team RLL**





### BMW Team RLL Wins Road America for the Third Time in Four Years

**Woodcliff Lake, N.J.** – **August 18, 2012...** For the third time in four seasons of American Le Mans Series competition, BMW Team RLL drove a BMW M3 GT across the Road America finish line first to win the four-hour Road America Road Race Showcase.

Today it was Bill Auberlen and Jörg Müller who took the GT class victory in the No. 55 BMW M3 GT, racing past the checkered flag 2.63 seconds ahead of the No. 45 Porsche and the balance of the 13-car class. The duo completed 97 laps of the 4.048-mile circuit in the four-hour contest. Auberlen, who took the program's very first win here with Joey Hand in 2009, started the race from the fourth position. He drove the opening 21 laps before handing off to Müller just before the race's first full-course caution period. Müller cycled to the front as the balance of the field pitted and then drove 30 laps before pitting from the fifth spot to hand the No. 55 machine back to Auberlen. The Californian was forced back to the pits only one lap later to tighten the left rear wheel. He returned to the race in 11<sup>th</sup> with only the Team RLL mantra "Focus Forward" in mind as he stormed up to fourth place in 17 laps. Auberlen pitted on lap 76 for new Dunlop tires and fuel, returning in fifth and, as luck would have it, just before the race's third full-course caution flag flew. With 38 minutes to go, he cycled to the lead as the race went back to green. One more yellow flag slowed the race, but Auberlen was not to be beaten.

The No. 56 M3 GT of Dirk Müller and Jonathan Summerton ultimately finished 10<sup>th</sup> after Müller was forced off course by a competitor two laps before the finish and was unable to continue. The incident dashed team hopes for a 1-2 BMW finish as the cars had been running in that order near the closing stage of the race.

With two wins and four additional podium finishes in the first seven races of the season, BMW stands second in the GT Class Manufacturer points and BMW Team RLL is second in Team points. Dirk Müller falls to third in Driver points. Bill Auberlen and Jörg Müller move up one spot to fifth.

"I am really thrilled for Bill and Jörg," **said Team Principal Bobby Rahal**. "In the last couple of years, Bill has often been in the situation to win some races and got some bad



# **BMW Team RLL**





luck. I am really very happy for Bill and really proud of the team. In Friday's practice we were two seconds off the pace. Our engineers Jay O'Connell, Bruno Couprie, and Chris Yancher really went to work and made the right changes. I think we are still at a bit of a deficit against the Porsche, particularly, and the Corvettes, but today we had a really good strategy. When Bill had to go fast, he did and he went really fast - kudos to him for doing a great job. I feel bad for Dirk and Jonathan as they were in a position to finish 1- 2 and were hit by both Corvettes. They severely damaged the #56 car. Frankly, I am not sure it's repairable. On that side of the equation I am very, very disappointed. But in the end we are one big team. Everybody worked really hard and we were able to bring it home."

**Bill Auberlen, driver No. 55 M3 GT** – "These guys are awesome. It's been a while since we were on top of the podium and we all deserve it. We were two seconds off the pace in practice and I knew the team would figure it out."

**Jörg Müller, driver No. 55 M3 GT** – "Bill did a fantastic job. The team did their job so well and that makes us all proud to be a part of this win. This is everyone on this team's victory. It was fun to be at Road America for my first time and the podium makes it sweeter. Thank you to everyone."

**Dirk Müller, driver No. 56 M3 GT** – "I was running hard in P2 and was pushed right off the track. I hope the officials are aware of what happened. Congrats to Bill and Jörg for a very well-deserved victory. We were on a 1-2 run and that would have been so fantastic for the championship."

**Jonathan Summerton, driver No. 56 M3 GT** – "It was an exciting race. Dirk did a great job. I had a little mistake in the pit, but it is all part of the learning curve. It's a shame the day ended the way it did."

Round 8 of the 2012 American Le Mans Series, the Baltimore Sports Car Challenge, will take the green flag at 4:30 p.m. ET on September 1<sup>st</sup>. Live streaming coverage is available starting at 4:15 p.m. ET on ESPN3.com. ABC television will broadcast the race at 12:00 p.m. ET on Sunday, Sept 2<sup>nd</sup>.



## **BMW Team RLL**





The Series' website offers additional content such as live in-car cameras, and timing and scoring for all users around the world. Viewers outside the U.S. can watch all ALMS races live on ALMS.com.

#### **About BMW Team RLL:**

## **BMW Group In America**

BMW of North America, LLC has been present in the United States since 1975. Rolls-Royce Motor Cars NA, LLC began distributing vehicles in 2003. 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 338 BMW passenger car and BMW Sports Activity Vehicle centers, 139 BMW motorcycle retailers, 114 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.

