



Porsche secures a podium finish for the 963 and a one-two in the GT class at Watkins Glen

28/06/2026 The Porsche 963 is back on the winners' podium in the IMSA Championship: the customer team JDC-Miller MotorSports finished third in the 6-hour race at Watkins Glen. The factory team from Dr. Ing. h.c. F. Porsche AG finished the sixth round of the season in fifth and sixth places. In the GTD class, the customer teams Manthey 1st Phorm and Wright Motorsports took the top two places with the 911 GT3 R.

The 6-hour race in the US state of New York was marked by accidents and eight safety car deployments for much of the race. Thanks to sound tactics and strong performances from works driver Laurin Heinrich from Germany and his team-mates Tijmen van der Helm from the Netherlands and Kaylen Frederick from the USA, JDC-Miller MotorSports ultimately secured third place. The two hybrid prototypes from Weissach fielded by the Porsche Penske Motorsport factory team were also on course for a podium finish at times.

"As expected, the race was difficult for us," says Urs Kuratle, Director Factory Motorsport LMDh. "We got the most out of our two factory cars under these conditions. Porsche Penske Motorsport seized every opportunity that arose and performed flawlessly. That was all that was possible today. Congratulations to our customer team, JDC-Miller MotorSports. The entire team there, along with our factory driver Laurin Heinrich, did a very good job."

In the IMSA manufacturers' championship, Porsche remains in second place after the sixth race of the season. Laurin Heinrich is second in the drivers' championship, whilst the works driver pairings of Nasr/Andlauer and Estre/Vanthoor occupy fourth and sixth places respectively. In the IMSA Michelin Endurance Cup, which comprises the endurance races at Daytona, Sebring, Watkins Glen, Road America and Road Atlanta, Porsche remains at the top of the standings.

Porsche 911 GT3 R puts in a strong performance in both GT classes

In the GTD Pro class, the customer team AO Racing suffered a stroke of bad luck. Thanks to a good strategy and clean driving, the two Britons Nick Tandy and Harry King were in contention for victory in the 911 nicknamed 'Rexy' right up until shortly before the end of the race. However, a late drive-through penalty dropped the team back to eighth place 18 minutes before the chequered flag. For Manthey's car number 911, the race was over after two hours: whilst running in fourth place, Dutch driver Loek Hartog made contact with the barriers at Turn 6, causing irreparable damage to the 911 of the customer team from Meuspath in the Eifel region.

Things went better for Porsche Motorsport's partner teams in the GTD category. The Manthey 1st Phorm 911 GT3 R, driven by factory driver Richard Lietz from Austria and his team-mates Ryan Hardwick (USA) and Riccardo Pera (Italy), secured class victory. Second place went to American Adam Adelson, Briton Callum Hlott and Tom Sargent from Australia, who crossed the line in the identical car from Wright Motorsports. The 911 from RS1 finished the race in ninth place.

The seventh round of the IMSA WeatherTech SportsCar Championship will take place on 12 July at Canadian Tire Motorsports Park near Toronto. Only the LMP2, GTD Pro and GTD classes will compete there. The next outing for the Porsche 963 in the top GTP category will be on 2 August at Road America in the US state of Wisconsin. The race near the town of Elkhart Lake lasts six hours and, as of this year, forms part of the IMSA Michelin Endurance Cup.

Further information and links

High-resolution photos: Porsche at Watkins Glen

All results and overall standings: Alkamelsystems

75 Years of Porsche Motorsport: The history of #Raceborn

Watkins Glen statistics: The race in numbers

Drivers' comments on the race

Kévin Estre (Porsche 963 #6): "At times, we were quite far ahead with our car. However, we had one drawback: in order to keep up with the pace at the front, we used more fuel. That meant longer refuelling times during the pit stops. We achieved a good result given our circumstances. Hopefully we'll be right up there again in the next race."

Julien Andlauer (Porsche 963 #7): "We've had a few frustrating race weekends now. Despite everyone involved doing a very good job, we couldn't manage better than fifth and sixth place. We're not going to let it get us down, though. We'll be back on the attack at Road America next month."

Laurin Heinrich (Porsche 963 #5): "What a rollercoaster ride we've been on! I made good progress up the field during my first stint, but then we suffered significant setbacks that temporarily set us back a lap. Nevertheless, we stayed calm throughout and got on with the job. That allowed us to fight our way up from last place to third. It was great fun. Thanks to all my colleagues in the GTP class. Together, we thrilled the fans today with some fair battles."

Ryan Hardwick (Porsche 911 GT3 R #912): "We fought our way from the very back to the front. That was really impressive. I also drove alongside Richard Lietz and Riccardo Pera at the 2025 WEC season finale in Bahrain. There, too, we fought our way from the back to victory – and even to the title. Everyone drove brilliantly today and the team was perfect. In a race full of incidents, we made it through the distance cleanly and are now celebrating a fantastic victory."

Adam Adelson (Porsche 911 GT3 R #120): "I'm thrilled! In recent years, Porsche's GT cars have often been unlucky at Watkins Glen. It's wonderful that we've rewritten that story today. I'm delighted, but at the same time I'm naturally a little disappointed: we finished second behind another Porsche. That means we, too, actually had everything we needed for a win. Congratulations to our colleagues at Manthey. They did a great job and deserve it."

MEDIA ENQUIRIES



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Image Sublines

Path: Porsche secures a podium finish for the 963 and a one-two in the GT class at Watkins Glen/Images/img_5.jpg

Title: Kévin Estre (FRA), Porsche Penske Motorsport (#6), Race, IMSA WeatherTech SportsCar Championship, Round 6, Watkins Glen, USA, 2026, Porsche AG

Subline: Kévin Estre

Path: Porsche secures a podium finish for the 963 and a one-two in the GT class at Watkins Glen/Images/img_6.jpg

Title: Julien Andlauer (FRA), Porsche Penske Motorsport (#7), Race, IMSA WeatherTech SportsCar Championship, Round 6, Watkins Glen, USA, 2026, Porsche AG

Subline: Julien Andlauer

Path: Porsche secures a podium finish for the 963 and a one-two in the GT class at Watkins Glen/Images/img_7.jpg

Title: Laurin Heinrich (DEU), JDC-Miller MotorSports (#5), Race, IMSA WeatherTech SportsCar Championship, Round 6, Watkins Glen, USA, 2026, Porsche AG

Subline: Laurin Heinrich

Path: Porsche secures a podium finish for the 963 and a one-two in the GT class at Watkins Glen/Images/img_8.jpg

Title: Ryan Hardwick, Manthey 1st Phorm, Race, IMSA WeatherTech SportsCar Championship, Round 6, Watkins Glen, USA, 2026, Porsche AG

Subline: Ryan Hardwick

Link Collection

Link to this article

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