

## **SIXTH PLACE IN CANADA FOR MAZDA TEAM JOEST**

### **MAZDA NARROWLY MISSES TOP-FIVE AT CANADIAN TIRE MOTORSPORTS PARK**

Bowmanville, Ontario. (July 8, 2018) – Tristan Nunez and Oliver Jarvis teamed to finish in sixth place in Sunday afternoon's IMSA SportsCar Grand Prix at Canadian Tire Motorsports Park in the No. 77 Castrol/ModSpace Mazda RT24-P.

Their teammates, Jonathan Bomarito and Harry Tincknell, did not see the finish in the No. 55 Mazda RT24-P after running as high as third place in the two hour and forty-minute race, the seventh round of the IMSA WeatherTech SportsCar Championship. Bomarito, who started the race in fourth position, made an opening-lap move to move the Mazda up to third position.

With six full-course caution periods, the race presented a challenge for the engineers and strategists making calculated decisions on fuel consumption and pit stops, as well as dropping the drivers into the clutches of other cars with an advantage in straight line speed down the long backstraightaway at CTMP. After also running as high as third, the race for Tincknell ended with a wheel bearing failure in the closing minutes of the race, causing him to spin into a gravel trap. Nunez and Jarvis advanced three positions over the course of the race to move their No. 77 Castrol/ModSpace Mazda RT24-P from ninth to sixth.

The next round of the IMSA WeatherTech SportsCar Championship that will feature the Prototype class cars will be the Continental Tire Road Race Showcase at Road America in Elkhart Lake, Wisconsin on August 3-5.

## **QUOTES**

John Doonan, Director, Mazda Motorsports

"I'm really proud of our drivers and how they managed traffic today. They did what they had to do to put us in a position to score a podium by driving forward on multiple occasions solely by working the traffic effectively. Unfortunately, several other circumstances, including the current balance of performance, prevented us from getting the result that their efforts deserved. We will regroup for Road America and change what needs changing so we can fight for a win."

No. 55 Mazda RT24-P

Jonathan Bomarito

"This was a pretty tough finish for us after both Harry and I ran in third place and a podium finish was in our grasp. I think we are hurting a little bit in a straight line but the guys had the car working really well through the first half of the lap. The heat made things really hard on the tires, and that affected the whole field, but our Mazda Team Joest guys responded to it well and kept us in the hunt. We'll put it behind us and try again at the next one."

Harry Tincknell

"I feel pretty fortunate that where we went off was in a relatively safe place with a lot of runoff. But it's a tough day when you go from challenging for a podium and then not finish the race. All the guys worked hard to give us every chance possible, with setup and strategy, but then the cautions didn't quite help us at the end there and then, of course, we had a problem and didn't finish the race anyways. It's a shame, but we know we have a car that should be on the podium so all we can do is keep pushing."

No. 77 Castrol/ModSpace Mazda RT24-P

Tristan Nunez

"It was a pretty challenging day for sure, so I'm glad we were able to come out CTMP with a decent finish. We had great pit stops and good strategy, but this was probably the best finish we could have gotten today. The Mazda RT24-P worked really well here, but we have a situation where we have a hard time on restarts and on the long straightaways. We'll learn from here and go for a better finish at Road America.

Oliver Jarvis

"I think we got the best finish we possibly could have this weekend. It's a bit frustrating because we know we have a good car and the team executed well today, but the current Balance of Performance puts us in situation where we can't really take the fight to the competition. Tristan did a great job to start the race and we had good pit stops, but even though we had a quick car we just couldn't get further up the field. Hopefully we can have a better race next time out at Road America."

#### Mazda Motorsports

Mazda Motorsports boasts the most comprehensive auto racing development ladder system of any auto manufacturer in the world. The Mazda Road to 24 (#MRT24) program offers a number of scholarships to advance drivers up the sports car racing ladder, beginning with the Global MX-5 Cup series and culminating with the Mazda Prototype team. The Mazda Road to Indy (#MRTI) is a similar program that includes Mazda-powered categories of USF2000, Pro Mazda and Indy Lights. In grassroots road racing, more Mazdas race on any given weekend in North America than any other manufacturer. Follow all of the latest news at [MazdaMotorsports.com](http://MazdaMotorsports.com), @MazdaRacing on Twitter, and MazdaMotorsports on Instagram and Facebook

#### Mazda North American Operations

Mazda North American Operations is headquartered in Irvine, California, and oversees the sales, marketing, parts and customer service support of Mazda vehicles in the United States and Mexico through nearly 700 dealers. Operations in Mexico are managed by Mazda Motor de Mexico in Mexico City. For more information on Mazda vehicles, including photography and B-roll, please visit the online Mazda media center at [InsideMazda.MazdaUSA.com/Newsroom](http://InsideMazda.MazdaUSA.com/Newsroom).

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