

Communications Motorsport

Jürgen Pippig  
Telephone: +49 (0)841 89 34200  
E-mail: motorsport-media@audi.de

Eva-Maria Veith  
Telephone: +49 (0)841 89 33922  
E-mail: eva-maria.veith@audi.de

16 August 2008

## **Audi youngsters outrun veterans for the first time**

- **Prémat/Rockenfeller on second row at the Nürburgring**
- **49 thousandths of a second ahead of Capello/McNish**
- **Grid positions four and five for the two Audi R10 TDI cars**

**Ingolstadt/Nürburg – At the fourth round of the Le Mans Series at the Nürburgring, the Audi youngsters Alexandre Prémat (26) and Mike Rockenfeller (25) won the qualifying duel against their more seasoned team-mates Dindo Capello and Allan McNish for the first time. The Frenchman Alexandre Prémat was 49 thousandths of a second quicker than the Italian Dindo Capello in the qualifying for the 1000-kilometre race at the Nürburgring.**

The two Audi R10 TDI cars of Audi Sport Team Joest will start from positions four and five at 12:05 on Sunday, but were hindered from displaying their full potential in Saturday's qualifying. Prémat and Capello were the first drivers to go out on the track. Because a car stopped behind them in the pit lane, causing a traffic jam, they started their timed laps precisely at the time when cars were still leaving the pit lane. Both Audi drivers got stuck in dense traffic and lost about seven tenths of a second behind slower cars. In addition, Capello, while braking, was struggling with locking front wheels on his Audi R10 TDI.

Before the 1000-kilometre race at the Nürburgring, Alexandre Prémat and Mike Rockenfeller are heading the standings with the same points score as the Peugeot drivers Marc Gené and Nicolas Minassian. At the first three races of the Le Mans Series they finished in second place each time.



## Quotes after qualifying at the Nürburgring

**Alexandre Prémat (Audi R10 TDI #2):** "Unfortunately, I was obstructed by two two slower cars at the beginning of the qualifying. This cost me six, seven tenths. But I'm looking forward to tomorrow: We've got a very good car for the race. From position four we can again make it onto the podium."

**Mike Rockenfeller (Audi R10 TDI #2):** "I watched the qualifying from the grandstands. It was too bad that a couple of slower cars drove in front of Alex's (Prémat) nose. When you leave the pits you've simply got to look into your rear view mirror. Still, we're satisfied. We're on second row and are going to attack. We wanted to be closer to our team-mates here or perhaps even a little in front of them – and we managed that."

**Dindo Capello (Audi R10 TDI #1):** "In qualifying I lost seven tenths of a second in the last turn behind a Porsche. That cost us third place on the grid. But the bigger problem is the fact that for two days the front wheels of our car have been locking while braking. We've definitely got to solve this problem before the race."

**Allan McNish (Audi R10 TDI #1):** "After our fond memories of Le Mans the qualifying result is of course a bit disappointing. We've got difficulties coming up with good balance here. The car doesn't absorb the bumps well enough. We've still got a lot of work to do."

**Ralf Jüttner (Technical Director Audi Sport Team Joest):** "That the two Peugeots are in front comes as no surprise, and neither does the gap. But that the Aston-Martin-Lola is in front of us as well is a bit of a blemish. But our two cars got stuck in traffic on fresh tyres. When they finally had a free lap the tyres were already less than perfect. In a 1000-kilometre race, grid positions four and five are really not that bad, though. We're going to correct that tomorrow."



### **The starting grid at the Nürburgring**

- 1 Gené/Minassian (Peugeot) 1m 39.492s
- 2 Lamy/Sarrazin (Peugeot) 1m 39.515s
- 3 Mücke/Charouz (Lola-Aston Martin) 1m 40.951s
- 4 Prémat/Rockenfeller (Audi R10 TDI) 1m 40.978s
- 5 Capello/McNish (Audi R10 TDI) 1m 41.027s
- 6 Panis/Lapierre (Courage-Oreca-Judd) 1m 42.292s
- 7 Verstappen/Bleekemolen (Porsche) 1m 43.169s
- 8 Ortelli/Ayari/Duval (Courage-Oreca-Judd) 1m 43.519s
- 9 Elgaard/Nielsen (Porsche) 1m 43.608s
- 10 Nakano/Valles (Epsilon Euskadi-Judd) 1m 43.649s

- Ends -

**Photographs and information available at [www.audi-motorsport.info](http://www.audi-motorsport.info)**

AUDI AG sold a total of 964,151 cars in 2007 and thus achieved its twelfth consecutive record year. With revenue of € 33,617 million and profit before tax of € 2,915 million, the company attained its best figures ever. Audi produces vehicles in Ingolstadt and Neckarsulm (Germany), Győr (Hungary), Changchun (China) and Brussels (Belgium). At the end of 2007, production of the Audi A6 started in Aurangabad, India. The company is active in more than 100 markets worldwide. AUDI AG's wholly owned subsidiaries include Automobili Lamborghini Holding S.p.A. in Sant'Agata Bolognese, Italy, and quattro GmbH in Neckarsulm. Audi employs about 57,000 people worldwide, including 45,000 in Germany. The brand with the four rings invests more than € 2 billion each year in order to sustain the company's technological lead embodied in its "Vorsprung durch Technik" slogan. Audi plans to significantly increase the number of models in its portfolio by 2015 to 40.