



## Press Information

Ingolstadt, 9 August 2001

### Two races within one week for Audi

After the drama in Portland, where Frank Biela and Emanuele Pirro battled fiercely to finish second, Audi Sport North America has no time to catch its breath. The team is already on its way to a "double-header" in the ALMS (American Le Mans Series). On 19 August, both Infineon Audi R8 contest the Canadian Mosport race, with the ALMS round in Mid-Ohio just one week later. The target is clear: After being beaten for the first time this season, the Audi drivers want to strike back.

Dr Wolfgang Ullrich knows that this is not an easy task. "I am sure, the Panoz team will also be strong in Mosport. Had they not experienced technical problems there last year, things would have been extremely tight for us," he said. However, the Head of Audi Sport remains confident. "We are familiar with the circuit, so the qualifying session should be enough to find a winning set-up for our cars." Team director Reinhold Joest agrees: "Last year we competed in wet and dry weather, so we are prepared for all situations."

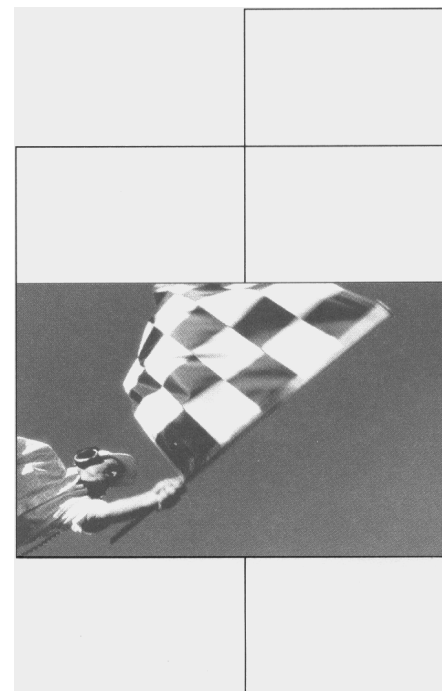
The Audi drivers unanimously describe the 2.459 mile circuit south of Toronto as very quick. "This track features just one very narrow corner, however it has many other difficult bends where you can't afford to make a mistake," says Frank Biela, who last year captured the pole position at Mosport, setting a new track record.

The Champion Team would like to challenge the Audi Sport North America squad for the pole position. At the last round in Portland, the Audi customer team achieved a partial success: Johnny Herbert secured his first podium finish in the ALMS in the 2000-spec R8 together with Andy Wallace. "With every mile we become more and more familiar with ourselves and the car," says Johnny Herbert. "So it's great that we now compete two races back to back. In this way we hopefully can reach our target sooner – to beat the works cars."

The great unknown is the race just six days later in Mid-Ohio. None of the Audi drivers has competed on the circuit in the US State of Ohio before. Only Rinaldo Capello will get a first impression during this weekend's ChampCar event. The ALMS points' leader will drive several demonstration laps: "I'll try to take note of all the track's peculiarities and pass them on to my team mates."

Reinhold Joest, who knows the 2.258 mile circuit from contesting several races there in the early nineties, expects a tough weekend. "The track layout is unique and is certainly more difficult than Sears Point or Portland. The twisty rollercoaster passages are particularly challenging," he says. Tom Kristensen, who has visited Mid-Ohio as a spectator, agrees: "It's a typical American race track - extremely narrow with uphill and downhill sections."

Drivers and engineers face special challenges in Mid-Ohio. They have only one testing session and one free practice to optimally set-up the Infineon



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Audi R8 for the track. "For this reason we have to utilise every second and concentrate totally on our work. We can't afford to waste time discussing details in the set-up, but work quickly and effectively," explains Head of Audi Sport Dr Wolfgang Ullrich.

### Schedule in Mosport

Friday, 17 August	
14:00 – 15:30 hrs	Testing
Saturday, 18 August	
09:50 – 10:50 hrs	1st free practice
13:20 – 14:20 hrs	2nd free practice
16:40 – 17:00 hrs	Qualifying
Sunday, 19 August	
09:00 – 09:30 hrs	Warm-up
13:00 – 15:45 hrs	Race

### Schedule in Mid-Ohio

Thursday, 23 August	
16:30 – 18:00 hrs	Testing
Friday, 24 August	
08:45 – 09:45 hrs	Free practice
16:40 – 17:00 hrs	Qualifying
Saturday, 25 August	
08:00 – 08:25 hrs	Warm-up
13:00 – 15:45 hrs	Race

Find updated photos and information on the internet:  
[www.audi-sportpress.com](http://www.audi-sportpress.com) (password required)

