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Andy Soucek and the Bentley Boys win Blancpain GT Series Endurance Title

It's been one rollercoaster of emotions for Andy Soucek and his colleagues Soulet and Abril in the #8 Bentley at Montmeló circuit in Barcelona this weekend. On one hand, they were able to celebrate the Blancpain GT Series Endurance Cup with Bentley Team M-Sport, which is a perfect ending to a great season in this prestigious championship. However, they also feel gutted for having seen their title options for the Driver championship vanish, where they had to settle for an equally praiseworthy second place in the final standings.

Qualifying took place on Sunday morning and did not go according to the Bentley Boys' plan. Under tricky conditions, with a drying track after several showers, they had to put it all into one last attempt in the dying moments of Q3. Traffic was dense, which made the task immensely difficult for Soucek, who was unable to get a clear lap and had to settle for P28 on the grid. So to keep the championship aspirations alive, a huge comeback would be required.

Monegasque driver Vincent Abril was the one to unravel this comeback, and he drove a memorable stint. Already in the first few laps he had climbed to P17, and their title rival Lamborghini #63 had fallen back to P9, so at that stage the odds were still good.

Once again, Team M-Sports' tactical decision of making an early pit-stop proved providential for Soucek, who got very close to the Top Ten drivers once all cars had made their stops. In just a few laps he closed the gap to a row of cars lead by P5 who was within reach. With his title rival then already in a podium position, Soucek knew he had to attack a.s.a.p. to try to reach P5, even if the track characteristics do not favour overtaking manoeuvres at all. He made a captivating display of all his abilities during a dozen of impressive laps, where he climbed to P9 for a short moment. Then, he suddenly got hit from behind and the brave Continental GT3 suffered a fatal gearbox damage which forced a devastated Soucek into the box to retire with 1:20 h to the finish.

In these difficult moments, Soucek immediately received congratulations and cheers from his fans, friends, sponsors, Team and family, and thanks to this boost he was able to pull himself together and overcome the huge blow, as well as to reflect on a season whose final result, bar this unexpected and abrupt ending to their title aspirations, is more than remarkable.

Soucek comments on the Barcelona weekend:


"It's obviously not how we had expected to end the season, nevertheless I am happy as we gave it all just until the very end. It's been a very strong season, in which we scored one win at Paul Ricard and a P2 finish at the Spa 24h. I am very proud of the season we have delivered, and securing the Team championship title is a lovely reward for the work that everybody at Bentley Team M-Sport has done.

In 2016 we came in third in the championship, we've finished second this season, so the way seems set as to what we are expected to deliver next year.

I'd like to thank all of my fans, sponsors family and friends for all the impressive support I have received from them along this complicated weekend".

Stay tuned with Andy's official accounts on the social media:

 @Asoucek & @bentleyracing

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