



Minassian heads to California for ALMS finale

Following the highs and lows of Petit Le Mans, Nicolas Minassian is ready to hit California and give the fans something special to watch. Creation Autosportif along with Minassian and his teammate, Jamie Campbell-Walter, are clearly the minnows in an Audi dominated series and are a favourite with the fans as they take the fight to the mighty front-runners.

It is the first time since the ALMS was founded in 1999 that the cars will race into darkness at the Californian circuit, which will create an additional challenge for the drivers and more excitement for the fans.

"I am very excited to come here again, it is a very challenging track with lots of elevation and not too much time to rest also I know the track a little from testing in Champ Car for Chip Ganassi so this may help," said Minassian. "Going down the corkscrew in the dark will be different though..."

The 'Blue Rocket' has been on the pace of the Audi's all year, but has not quite been able to match them when it comes to reliability. Creation Autosportif have worked extremely hard to challenge the 'Gods' of endurance racing and at times have had them on the back foot and looking nervously over their shoulder, with two pole positions and two podiums. All this in only their first year with both car and drivers and it is not over yet.

It is thought that Laguna Seca will suit the DBA down to the ground and the team are extremely confident of a good result. **"It's going to be different at Laguna Seca," Minassian said. "That's going to be our race. We're going to show those two Audis something. We're really confident and the team has prepared the car tip top as usual."**

"Laguna Seca is a sort of track where you need to qualify at the front as there are not many places to overtake, unless you do a banzai somewhere which you don't do in endurance racing!! I think we'll be in good shape here," he commented. "A win would be nice!! I just can't wait to get there and push push push."

Minassian who has not been further back than the second row on the grid all season and who just missed out on pole at Road Atlanta, will be looking to notch up his third pole position of the year and lead by example at the front of the field.

Qualifying for the LMP1 class is on Friday 15th October at 3.05pm local time and the four-hour race gets underway on Saturday 16th October at 4.00pm.





Editorial Notes

Nicolas Minassian, 31, lives in England with his wife Jayne. Minassian was runner up in the French F3 Championship in 1995, British F3 in 1997 and the FIA F3000 Championship in 2000. He has tested with both Williams and Honda in Formula One and competed in the Champ Car World Series with Ganassi Racing before taking the 2002 ASCAR title with RML. With Creation Autosportif, Minassian is a front-runner in the inaugural four-round LMES Championship and will contest the final two rounds of ALMS with the team.

Jane Darke
JARL Motorsport / Minassian PR
jane@jarlmotorsport.co.uk
www.nicolasminassian.com
(+44) 7811 876574

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