



A new challenge at Goodwood

Minassian joined legends such as Bobby Rahal, Gerhard Berger, Emmanuel Pirro and Rene Arnoux this weekend, as the Frenchman took part in the RAC TT Celebration event at the Goodwood Revival in Robert Sarai's 1964 AC Cobra, teaming up with former Ferrari star, Patrick Tambay. Whilst the show was primarily for the fans that turned up on mass, the competitiveness of these household names had lost nothing.

"What a crazy experience, I got to drive this very wild car the AC Cobra, it was unbelievable!" beamed Minassian. "Naturally at first I was thinking I needed to warm the tyres a little bit for get some grip, but after a couple of laps I find out that it will not change and the car will be oversteer city all the way! These cars are all about the engine, lots of power but no grip at all and very little brakes. After a few laps I got more used to it and I started to have some fun, you are sliding all the time and it is nearly as bad on the straights."

The team qualified the car in 12th position for the race, but this was not a true representation of their speed as Tambay encountered some problems during the session, which also meant Minassian did not get his allotted time in the car.

"We qualified 12th on the grid for the race, but we could have been much better. Only Patrick drove as the car had some problems when I was due to drive, but he was very fast before this so we should be ok tomorrow. This race is more a show for the fans, but I know how much Patrick wants to win and so do the all grid. It is very competitive and tomorrow it is going to be crazy."

Race day arrived and as predicted the event was 'crazy' with a grid of priceless historic racers and cars lining up, all undoubtedly worthy of victory in the main event of the weekend.

"When Sunday morning came along I was a little bit nervous going to goodwood for the race, with so little time in the car and with it being such an handful to drive," admitted Minassian. "I was going to race with an expensive car on a track with no run off! But when I got to the track I was not nervous anymore and started to get excited about the race. With all the ambiance and looking at the cars I could not wait, Patrick was really looking forward to it as well and so were the team and on top of that I was starting the race, fantastic."

Minassian got into the spirit of the event, donning a period waistcoat and flat cap, but once in the car the 'show' went out the window and being competitive was all that mattered to the team.

"It all went well in the race, I got a good start and had some massive fights, I loved it," said the ever enthusiastic Frenchman. "Desire Wilson was a hell of a racer as were all the competitors, we went up to second before the pit stop and driver change when we dropped to fourth. Patrick was pushing really hard to get back to third and was not far of the second spot at the finish line. It was a fantastic result and a lots of fun, Patrick was fantastic on and off the track as was the car and the team, I loved every minute of it and I would like to thank Robert Sarai for invited me to drive his car and Patrick Tambay for partnering me at this classic event."





Minassian now gets back to the more serious job of driving the Creation Autosportif DBA as the team next head to Istanbul and the Turkish round of the LMES series on the weekend of 5th and 6th November, where once again they will be chasing their first victory in the series.

Editorial Notes

Nicolas Minassian, 32, 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 was a front-runner in the inaugural four-round LMES Championship and will contest the series once again in 2005 for the team as well as driving in their Le Mans 24 hrs debut.

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