



## Minassian to start seventh at Le Mans 2005

Nicolas Minassian completed only five laps in the final qualifying session for the 2005 24hrs of Le Mans and will start seventh on the grid.

The team, looking to the race conditions, installed the engine that will be used for the 24 hour event and not wanting to put unnecessary mileage on the Judd opted to sit out the majority of the final two hours of running.

"We know the guys at the front have an advantage over a single lap qualifying run due to the 2005 Le Mans regulations, and it is always a lottery whether you get a clear lap or not," said Minassian. "It makes sense to focus on the race rather than pushing hard all the time to try to challenge the front runners. Qualifying is not really important in a race like this, we can compromise on grid position as long as we are there when it counts on Sunday afternoon."

Autosport describe the Creation Autosportif team as having one of the best driver line-ups in the race and Minassian agrees.

"We have a great team and I have fantastic team-mates," said Minassian. "Andy [Wallace] is a very fast driver, you can always learn something from a someone like him and me and Jamie [Campbell-Walter] have been team-mates for a while now and understand the car and each other. We have a good team and are happy with where we are for the start."

There is a day off from track action tomorrow as the drivers and teams take to the streets of Le Mans for the traditional driver parade. At 6pm (CET) this customary parade will commence in the heart of the town - an unmissable event for the fans.

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## 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 took the LMES Championship by storm in the inaugural four-round series in 2004 and stays with the team for 2005.

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