

AIM Autosport Finishes 12th at Barber Motorsports Park

(Leeds, AL) 22 July 07-- AIM Autosport achieved its goal of faster pitstops during the Grand-Am Rolex Sports Car Series Daytona Prototype race at Barber Motorsports Park on Sunday, but a struggle to find grip on the 2.3 mile road course left the rookie team 12th at the checkered flag. The high heat and humidity in Birmingham, Ala., made the race even tougher.

Mark Wilkins of Toronto started the race from eighth on the 17-car grid. Fighting understeer on the slick track, he dropped to 11th before pitting for a driver change near the halfway mark of the 2.5-hour race. The speedy AIM crew gained a position during the pitstop, sending Burt Frisselle of Lynchburg, Va., back on track in 10th place. He also fought for grip and lost two positions to finish 12th.

race report

car	time	driver	action
61	start	Wilkins	
	15m	Wilkins	pit – fuel
	1h11	change	pit – Frisselle in, four tires, fuel

Burt Frisselle "The team did a perfect job today; both stops were killer and we even got a position in the pits, so we really hit it.

"We're just a little bit behind this weekend and we have to work on that. Sometimes you have a 12th-place car and when you finish 12th, you've done a good job. It's important to finish there instead of crashing or not finish at all. Today we had a 12th-place car and we finished 12th, but we're going to work really hard for the next race because nobody here is happy with a 12th-place car. We're not used to struggling, so I don't think any of us will sleep well tonight. We'll be up tomorrow, ready to come up with some good ideas."

Mark Wilkins "We worked really hard on our pitstops this weekend and the guys did a really good job today. We made up a spot in the pits, which was great.

"This track is very low-grip and we were struggling with rear grip, trying to get the power down and carry the speed. It's tough when you're fighting a loose car – you want to get back to throttle and you can't. Some of these teams have been able to figure it out and they're throwing down some amazing times late in the stint. We'll just keep working at it, figure out where to find the grip and go from there. We're going to our home track in Montréal in a couple of weeks. We have a lot of experience there, so hopefully we'll be a bit quicker."

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