

KEATING MOTORSPORTS/RISI COMPETIZIONE
12 Hour Report for 24 Hours of Le Mans - 2018

No. 85 Ferrari 488 GTE-Am: **Ben Keating (USA)**
 Jeroen Bleekemolen (NLD)
 Luca Stolz (DEU)

(Le Mans, France, June 17, 2018) ...The No. 85 Keating Motorsports/Risi Competizione Ferrari GTE-Am has continued to pace the 24 Hours of Le Mans race at a steady pace and have gained positions by driving smart, solid and clean since the start of the race. They are currently second in class after starting from the 11th GTE-Am position on the grid.

The first six hours saw the three drivers, Jeroen Bleekemolen, Ben Keating and Luca Stolz, rotate in that order through the cockpit of the Ferrari F142M, V8 twin turbo, Michelin-shod race car. One small miscue saw Bleekemolen take a spin early but safely recover, while both Keating and Stolz drove steady and flawlessly.

The next six hours were much of the same, with Bleekemolen taking the wheel just after the 6-hour mark. He completed a triple stint and elevated the Ferrari to the fourth position in class and experienced several caution laps due to other cars on track mishaps. After running from the light into the dark, at 12 midnight, 9 hours into the 24-hour time slot, Bleekemolen was replaced by Stolz, who repeated the effort. He continued to climb through the field and brought the fan-favorite Ferrari into the third position.

Much of Stolz's nighttime battle was with the No. 84 WeatherTech Ferrari 488 GTE-Am of Cooper MacNeil, as they vied for second place in class in the wee hours of the morning. In the end, Stolz overtook the second position in class and passed the 488 off to Bleekemolen from that position less than 10 minutes before the halfway point of the 24-hour endurance race.

Jeroen Bleekemolen, starting driver, No. 85 Ferrari 488 GTE-Am:

"I'm really happy with my triple stint. We moved up to the Top 3 for a little while so we're back in the game, back in the race. We're not out of the fight, even for the win. Although it's a big gap, there's still a long way. It feels really good. The car is good. We have one of the strongest line-ups and we're not giving up."

"The only things difficult about going from day to night is the traffic gets a lot harder in the night. You just don't know where people are going for the gaps...the prototypes; and to keep the tires up to temperature. In the end we've made up a lot of time and we should just keep doing what we're doing, we're gaining all the time now. We're back in it and in a couple of hours we should be a bit closer."

Luca Stolz, driver, No. 85 Ferrari 488 GTE-Am:

"Got a triple stint done. It was really good. It felt way better than before. I think we picked up a little bit of downforce at the lower temperatures. I think we found something also on the tire pressures, which help the car. Now we are quite happy. I think we are between second and third (in class). We'll keep trying and try to pull away a little, but the race is still on. It was good fun racing with Cooper (MacNeil)."

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