

### **Horag Racing to debut Its brand-new Porsche RS Spyder at Sebring**

by Linda K. Mansfield

**SEBRING, Fla., March 8** - The start of a new racing season is always exciting. So is the debut of a brand-new race car. Combine the two and one understands the excitement level of the Horag Racing team of Sulgen, Switzerland. It will debut its brand-new Lista- and Lista Office-sponsored Porsche RS Spyder No. 27 next Saturday, March 15, in the Mobil 1 Twelve Hours of Sebring presented by Fresh from Florida at Sebring International Raceway in Sebring, Florida.

The team and its drivers - Didier Theys of Scottsdale, Ariz.; Fredy Lienhard of Niederteufen, Switzerland and Jan Lammers of Zandvoort, the Netherlands - will compete in the Le Mans Prototype 2 (LMP2) class in the American Le Mans Series (ALMS) season opener before focusing on the Le Mans Series (LMS) in Europe later this year.

A total of 10 LMP2 cars are entered in the 35-car field for the 56th edition of the Sebring race. Half are Porsche RS Spyders, which will battle three Acuras, one Lola and one Zytek.



Theys won the Twelve Hours of Sebring in 1998. He's beginning his 31st year in a career in which he's finished on the podium more than 55 times in sports car races all over the world, with 18 victories, 19 second-place finishes and 19 third-place finishes prior to the start of the 2008 season.

Lammers, a past winner at Le Mans, has two seconds and one third overall in this particular event. Although he's won lots of other races, including the Rolex 24 with Theys, Lienhard hasn't been on the overall podium at the Sebring Twelve Hours. That's something he'd love to change on Saturday night.

Practice starts on Monday morning. The LMP1 and LMP2 qualifying is at 3:35 p.m. Eastern on Thursday. The race starts at 10:05 a.m. Eastern on Saturday.

Driver pre-race quotes follow:

Didier Theys: "For us, it'll be the toughest race of the year. We have better equipment this year, but we're running against teams that are very good and that have been testing a lot, including testing at Sebring. You have the two Penskes, of course, and the two Dysons, and the three Acuras. They're close to being factory teams. They have a full season behind them and they've been testing at Sebring, and they're top teams with top drivers. So especially in qualifying, they will be better than us. But the race will be a different story. Anything can happen in a race, so we have a chance if we can keep a good pace and stay out of trouble. We'll try to get the right speed to stay with them, and hopefully we'll be there at the end. Twelve hours is still a long race. We'll try to keep everything clean for 12 hours and get a good result.

We have to be realistic. We wish we had more testing over the winter, but we just didn't have the budget for it. But unfortunately we didn't have the funding to test other than the two days we did in Spain.

Sebring is very bumpy. It's the longest race our team will do this year. It will be the biggest crowd we race in front of too.

Fredy Lienhard: "It will be a huge challenge for me to get up to speed again, and I will go through lots of ups and downs. That is why I really don't want to say too much except that I am amazed that I am still doing this! Sebring is always a pleasure. I like the ambiance, and overall I've done pretty well on that track, so let's be optimistic!

I know that our team manager, Markus Hotz, is under a lot of pressure too, and I'm keeping my fingers crossed for him too!

Jan Lammers: "Sebring is the ultimate classic; it is absolutely one that I would love to add to my c.v. I have done quite a few races there, and with my kids living in Florida it is sort of my 'home race;' obviously that gives it a special touch for me.

I did Daytona many years ago with Fredy and Didier so we know each other and we should be a solid package. Didier and Fredy are a known strong pairing, and I hope I can do the job to support them.

The new Porsche is great. When I had my seat fitting I found it hard to get out, that's how much I liked it! Driving at full speed over those 'runways' will be another great experience! We will have fun with ambition, and that could prove to be a tough act to beat."