

Race-boots.com supported Richard Westbrook is one of Porsche Supercup all-stars confident heading into Rolex 24 At Daytona with Synergy Racing

ALTON, Virginia. 17th January, 2007 - Three of Europe's top Porsche racers are eager to join Synergy Racing in the Rolex 24 At Daytona, January 27-28. Englishman Richard Westbrook, Dutchman Patrick Huisman and Austrian Richard Lietz will travel to Daytona Beach, Fla., next week to team with American Steve Johnson in the No. 80 EMC Mechanical/Gamewell Mechanical Porsche GT3 Cup for the historic 24-hour race.

Huisman seeks to add to his collection of victories in the world's top endurance races with a win in the Rolex 24 At Daytona. Although the four-time Porsche Supercup champion has secured victories at Le Mans (1999), Nürburgring (2000), Zolder (1997 & 1998) and Sebring (1999), a win at Daytona has eluded him. His best finish of third came with Synergy Racing in 1999.

"Everything is there to make it a successful Daytona 24 hours. With men like Westbrook, Lietz and myself, we have a lot of experience between us," said Huisman. ***"There is a lot of potential in this new Porsche GT3, so I hope to be standing on the podium after the race."***

While reigning Porsche Supercup champion Westbrook and Lietz will make their first appearances in the Rolex 24 At Daytona, they both feel confident about their chances at victory following a successful test at Daytona earlier this month

"Racing at Daytona is completely different from what I'm used to, but it's something I absolutely loved doing during the test," said Westbrook, who became the first Englishman to capture the Porsche Supercup championship last season with four wins.

"I'm really looking forward to the 24 hours. It's one of the toughest races in the world, if not the toughest. It's not going to be easy, but we're going there with a goal and that's to win it—and I really think we've got a good chance."

"Daytona is a very special place for America, and even in Europe, everyone knows Daytona," added Lietz, who finished third in the 2006 Porsche Supercup with two victories and four poles. ***"After the test, I'm feeling quite confident we are going to be in the top three. Twenty-four hours is very long, and a lot can happen, but I think we're quite good and will do well."***

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Johnson echoes his European teammates' thoughts. He says the objective was to assemble a team that can win the race, and he believes they have done so.

"To win this race, you have to have a great crew, and we've got that in Synergy," said Johnson. ***"You've got to have a great car, and we've got a brand new Porsche (GT3 Cup) 997. And you've got to have great drivers, and that's been assembled in Huisman, Westbrook and Lietz. Now if we just keep the car on track for 24 hours and spend zero time in the pits except for scheduled stops, the objective is possible."***

Practice and qualifying for the Rolex 24 At Daytona will get underway Thursday, January 25 on Daytona International Speedway's 3.56-mile road course. The green flag will drop on Saturday, January 27 with the race concluding on Sunday, January 28. Live television coverage of the race will be available in the U.S. on Fox Sports and SPEED. Live timing and scoring will also be available online at grand-am.com.

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Notes to editors:

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