

Motorsports

The RS Spyder dominated the 2007 American Le Mans Series with an unprecedented string of victories. Eight overall first-place finishes and all four championships in the LMP2 class (Team, Driver, Engine, and Chassis)—it was a perfect season for Porsche. Follow us on a journey from highlight to highlight.

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# Figure Eight





## Long Beach, California Triple crown

The biggest success for Porsche in the American Le Mans Series: with a threefold overall victory on the streets of Long Beach, the RS Spyder creates a sensation and sets a new record in the racing series with the fastest sports cars in the world.

“This victory on a course that was new to us and against such strong competitors is an achievement we can be proud of,” says Porsche’s head of motorsports, Hartmut Kristen. Timo Bernhard and Romain Dumas finish first ahead of Sascha Maassen and Ryan Briscoe. Andy Wallace and Butch Leitzinger come in third and secure the first podium finish for the Porsche-supported U.S. private team Dyson Racing.



## Houston, Texas Bumped up

On the infamously bumpy surfaces of the Houston city course, which is marked out especially for this race in the parking lot of a football stadium, the RS Spyder remains on the fast track.

In one of the most exciting races of the season, Bernhard and Dumas collect the second consecutive overall victory for Porsche. The competition, which included the more powerful Audi R10, has no chance against the RS Spyder. “The last 30 minutes of the race were the most exciting of my life,” says Bernhard at the finish as he starts to unwind. “It got really close again at the end. But our car was fantastic and the pit-stop strategy worked out perfectly once again.”





## Salt Lake City, Utah Olympic heights

Peak in the valley: a strong will to win and a clever pit-stop strategy enable defending champions Maassen and Briscoe to give Porsche its third straight overall victory in the Olympic setting of Salt Lake City.

In the turbulent starting phase, Dumas loses the advantage of the pole position. Later, he and his partner Timo Bernhard play masterful catch-up and finish third. In the LMP2 class, the four RS Spyders take the first four places—a performance of Olympic proportions. “In terms of the championship,” Kristen predicts, “this result is extremely valuable.”



## Lime Rock, Connecticut Tanksgiving

The RS Spyder continues its winning ways in the picturesque state of Connecticut. Maassen and Briscoe provide Porsche with its fourth consecutive overall victory, while Bernhard and Dumas complete the double. What is more, this is accomplished despite the fact that the RS Spyders have E10 fuel in their tanks for the first time and lose five percent of their power due to the smaller restrictor mandated.

“A terrific race,” raves Kristen and declares: “The show in the American Le Mans Series wouldn’t be half as good without the first-class competition in the LMP2 class.”



## Mid-Ohio Pitted against time

Sensational start to the second half of the season: at the fast and demanding Mid-Ohio Sports Car Course, the RS Spyders repeat their triumph of the previous year with a double overall victory. Bernhard and Dumas win; Maassen and Briscoe finish second.

Dumas heads into his last pit stop in second place and is no longer hopeful of overall victory. “We were concentrating on the class victory, but then the folks from Penske had me ready so quickly that I was able to take the lead,” he explains at the finish. “The competition lost time in the pits—we gained time. That was the key to our victory.”



## Road America, Wisconsin The perfect storm

A cliffhanger finish accompanied by thunder and lightning—and a grand overall victory for Bernhard and Dumas. The race on the legendary Road America, which is a less than ideal course for the RS Spyder due to its long straights and quick corners, is one of the most exciting of the season—and not just because of the violent thunderstorm.

“This was one of our most gratifying wins, since it wasn’t to be expected on this course,” says Bernhard. “We performed flawlessly, both in the pits and on the course. On the last laps I was passing in places I would normally never pass. It was absolutely insane.”



## Mosport, Canada Dream team

The only guest appearance by the American Le Mans Series in Canada proves to be a valuable one, bringing Porsche its first title of the season. As Bernhard and Dumas collect the seventh overall victory in a row just outside Toronto, Penske Racing again clinches the team title in mid-season.

“To take top honors in the overall competition for the third time in a row is a dream come true,” says Dumas, who had won the pole position for the RS Spyder with a fantastic qualifying lap. The exciting race also impresses Kristen: “You can’t offer spectators any better racing than that.”





## Detroit, Michigan Great feeling

Pure excitement on the streets of Motor City: three laps before the finish, Dumas manages to move to the inside to pass the Audi R10 leading the pack and goes on to capture the eighth straight overall victory. “That was a world-class move,” his teammate Bernhard exclaims.

Celebrating the victory in team director Roger Penske’s hometown, Dumas glows with pride and attempts to describe the special moment: “That was one of the best wins of my career. To pass a much more powerful car on a course where passing a sports prototype is virtually impossible is a feeling beyond description.”

## Road Atlanta, Georgia On the road again



Bernhard (right) and Dumas (left) crown the strong performance of the RS Spyders at the venerable 1,000-mile race at Road Atlanta with the tenth class victory of the season—and the clinching of the drivers’ title. After 9:19 hours, they are only 0.923 seconds short of overall victory at the finish.

“Racing doesn’t get more exciting than that,” says Kristen (center). “The fans really got their money’s worth.” And Bernhard is jubilant: “You can’t have a better season than this.”

## Laguna Seca, California The big finale



With first and second place in the LMP2 class at the final race in Laguna Seca in the “Golden State,” Porsche’s most successful season in the American Le Mans Series draws to a close. In a fabulous four-hour race, Bernhard and Dumas claim the class victory ahead of Maassen and Briscoe.

Porsche Motorsports Director Kristen sums it all up: “We have exceeded our goal by far. This success was possible only because all those involved performed their jobs perfectly.”