

## Marsal Scores Sixth in BMW Performance 200 at Daytona

Daytona Beach, FL (27 January 2012) - Michael Marsal and Turner Motorsport co-driver Boris Said kicked off the 2012 GRAND-AM Continental Tire Sports Car Challenge championship with a strong sixth place result in the BMW Performance 200 at Daytona International Speedway on Friday.



Marsal opened the 2.5-hour event at the wheel of the No. 97 Turner Motorsport BMW M3 and wasted no time moving up the order as he made a charge forward through rainy conditions and improved 11 positions on just the first lap to run 15th. Marsal maintained his quick pace as he clicked off laps and steadily moved forward to 11th when the race saw its first caution period.

Turner Motorsport called Marsal to pit lane for a routine stop of fuel and tires and he returned to the track as the cars continued to circle under yellow. The minutes clicked past the starting driver 30 minute requirement during the extended caution period and the Turner team altered their strategy and called Marsal back to pit lane to top off on fuel and make a driver change.

Marsal handed the BMW over to Said who re-entered the field in 27th place. He quickly matched Marsal's previous fast pace and began maneuvering his way forward to the front of the field. With a drying track, the lap times kept tumbling down as Said wheeled the No. 97 BMW into the top-10 throughout the middle stages of the race, sitting in sixth when a late-race caution halted his forward movement.

The caution set up a shootout to the finish with just minutes remaining at the drop of the final green flag. It was a BMW brigade in the top ten as Said came home sixth, one spot ahead of the sister Turner Motorsport No. 96.

The result marks Marsal's best finish in the Daytona event as he looks to make a strong run for the GRAND-AM championship.

"Overall, it was pretty good," said Marsal. "We had a good start in the rain. I have to thank Joey (Hand) - he gave me some advice on what rain line to use and it worked. We used a new ABS system and it really gave us some great stopping power. The car was really great to drive and I had a lot of fun out there."

While Marsal has much to celebrate with the strong start to the 2012 Continental Tire Sports Car Challenge season, the weekend is not yet over as he returns to race action tomorrow for the 50th running of the Rolex 24 At Daytona in the No. 93 Turner Motorsport BMW GT machine.

“Today’s race was a great way to start off the weekend and I can’t wait to get going tomorrow and see what we can do in the Rolex 24,” said Marsal. “Tonight I’ll do a light work out, eat a big dinner, get to bed early and wake up tomorrow ready to drive a racecar. I’m excited - it’s a huge race and hopefully we’ll be fighting for the win at the finish.”

The BMW Performance 200 will be televised on SPEED February 4 at 12:00 PM (ET).

SPEED will carry live coverage of the Rolex 24 At Daytona with SPEED channel broadcasting the opening and closing seven hours of the event as well as streaming the overnight hours on [www.speedtv.com](http://www.speedtv.com).

Live timing and scoring of the event can be followed at [www.grand-am.com](http://www.grand-am.com).

Additionally Turner Motorsport will be live and on line here: Live Stream (live video from our pits) <http://www.turnermotorsport.com/live> Twitter (trackside updates) <http://twitter.com/Turnermotrsport> Live timing and scoring for both events can be found at [www.grand-am.com](http://www.grand-am.com).