

KW Motorsport 2006 News Archive

01.06.2006 CREATION - ALL ROADS HEAD TO LE MANS

Every professional sports car team has one aim in mind when they start out in the world of international motor sport. To race at Le Mans. Actually, every team probably has two aims one is to get to, and the other is to win the classic 24 Hours of Le Mans event, the most famous sports car race in the world. In only its fourth full season of racing, the Bicester, Oxfordshire based Creation Autosportif team will be heading for Le Mans for the second time in its history and with a new car, the Creation CA06/H, an LM P1 prototype built to 2006 Hybrid specification and a direct competitor to the successful Pescarolo car.

Frenchman Nicolas Minassian will be taking his 7th Le Mans start alongside Swiss/Bolivian driver Felipe Ortiz and Italian Beppe Gabbiani, both of whom have previously competed at La Sarthe. The Creation team brought its 2005 car home to the chequered flag 7th in class at Le Mans last year, despite a number of technical setbacks, and Minassian is well aware that reliability will be one of the key factors to success in two weeks time. It's going to be a race where we want to be on the track from the start to the finish with as few problems as possible.

Our competitors, such as Audi and Pescarolo, have already got proven track records from races this year so it will be tough. Our car is still a bit new but very well built and prepared by the team so, in principle, if we don't have any problems we should finish in the top 5. I know we can achieve that and we will use last year's experiences to help us. Personally I will try to do a good job in qualifying and we have an excellent chance because our car is very fast.

Exactly where we are in comparison to the others will be a bit clearer after this weekend's official test. The CA06/H is very different to last year's car which was lacking so much straight line speed compared to our competitors. This year we have the speed and that helps a lot with the traffic as you have more power to overtake so can take less risks in passing GT cars, especially under braking.

The new car is really in the perfect configuration for Le Mans and I am confident we can achieve a solid result. Minassian has no doubts that his two team mates are more than capable of helping to achieve that result. Beppe [Gabbiani] is a proper, professional driver he's done everything hasn't he? I've no worries about him at Le Mans (it will be his 5th participation) and Felipe is now feeling more and more comfortable every time he gets in the car. He's a very intelligent person and I will be giving him as much help as I can. It will be my 7th time so I am starting to have good experience here! Felipe always takes advice on board and puts it into practice so, again, I've got no worries. Le Mans is noted for being able to spring surprises on its entrants, often when they least expect it, but Creation is primed, prepared and ready to go. The whole team knows that reliability will be the key but that concern applies equally to the whole field. Let battle commence.
31st May 2006.