

15.07.06 LE MANS SERIES NURBURGRING, GERMANY

QUALIFYING: MEGA MINASSIAN IS BACK!

Nicolas Minassian, who yesterday compared the feeling of being reunited with the Creation CA06/H as being similar to being reunited with one of his own two feet, this afternoon showed how much that meant to him by storming into pole position for tomorrow's third round of the Le Mans Series.

On his first flying lap he set a time which would have claimed pole position, and then bettered it on his second flying lap to a 1:44.850 , eight tenths of a second quicker than the team's nearest rivals, and Minassian's erstwhile Le Mans bosses, Pescarolo Sport.

After a difficult morning practice session, where Minassian and his team mates Felipe Ortiz and Beppe Gabbiani complained of a severe lack of grip, the team set about a huge list of set up changes for the second, afternoon session.

As team boss, Ian Bickerton, commented "It was the most changes I've ever seen made to this car in one go. Nic and Smiffy, [engineer, Ian Smith] worked really hard outside the car between the session, going over everything on the computer, and then the team did a fantastic job to get pretty much everything changed. Straight out of box in the second session it was right on the pace."

"As for qualifying, I thought Nic might do a 1:45, but to do a 1:44 was astounding. He's a complete mega and I'll never, ever swap him again for anything in the world!"

The Frenchman was understandably elated with his afternoon's work. "Brilliant, fantastic. It's just so good, and I'm really happy for the team. It shows really well that they know their stuff and how to do a good car. Everyone did a very good job all together to change the car a lot between the sessions and it was in the right direction all the time. Even before qualifying we made another change which improved the car and we've got further yet to go.

"It's a nice reward for Creation because I know how hard they try. It's never easy for such a little team to compete against some bigger teams, but we are getting better and better prepared each time. Now we have to finish the race. A problem free race would be a greater reward and I'm sure we can do it."

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