

Lexus RC F GT3s Set to Compete in Canadas

July 07, 2017

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BOWMANVILLE, Ontario (July 7, 2017) — The Lexus RC F GT3 will make its Canadian debut this weekend when two 3GT Racing Lexus entries compete at Canadian Tire Motorsports Park (CTMP) in Sunday's IMSA WeatherTech SportsCar Championship 'Mobil 1 SportsCar Grand Prix'.

When the manufacturer previously competed with Lexus-powered prototypes in the Grand-Am Rolex SportsCar Series from 2004 to 2009, the series did not visit the track, and Lexus racing entries have not competed at the 2.459-mile circuit in any other major series.

While the Lexus luxury brand will be new to the Canadian track, the majority of the 3GT Racing lineup has experience at CTMP. Sage Karam considers the track his favorite on the IMSA schedule after he raced at the track in the Pro Mazda Championship and won the pole for the race in 2012. Scott Pruett raced at CTMP in IMSA competition in 2014 and 2015 in the prototype class with a best finish of sixth overall in 2015. Robert Alon finished eighth overall and third in the PC class at CTMP in 2016 and this year's race marks his fourth entry at the track. The 2017 IMSA race will mark Hawkworth's first appearance at the Canadian circuit.

The two Lexus entries have combined to tally six top-10 class finishes in their last four events as the team pursues the first win for Lexus in North American GT racing. The No. 15 Lexus RC F GT3 with drivers Alon, Hawkworth and endurance driver Austin Cindric recorded 3GT Racing's first top-five finish of the season last Sunday at Watkins Glen International, a fifth-place GTD class result. Hawkworth turned the fastest lap of the race in the GTD class with a time of 1:44.786 on the 3.4-mile, upstate New York road course – more than two tenths of a second quicker than the next best GTD driver's lap (1:45.027).

Karam and Pruett also finished in the top-10 in the No. 14 Lexus RC F GT3 with a sixth-place result in the third endurance race of the season. The finish by the No. 14 Lexus marked Karam and Pruett's fourth-consecutive top-10 result for 3GT Racing and the first-year Lexus program.

The two-hour and 40 minute IMSA WeatherTech SportsCar Championship race in Canada will be broadcast live Sunday, July 9 on FoxSports 1 beginning at 12 p.m. ET.

Fans can keep up with Lexus Racing on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [Twitter](#) by using #LexusRCF GT3, #LexusPerformance and #LexusRacing, and online at www.Lexus.com/Motorsports.

Lexus Racing Quotes

SAGE KARAM, No. 14 Lexus RC F GT3

Is Canadian Tire Motorsports Park (CTMP) your favorite track on the IMSA schedule?

“Yeah, I'd say Mosport (Canadian Tire Motorsports Park) is probably my favorite track that we go to this year, so I'm super excited to get there. I like it just because it's really high speed and flowing and it's really high commitment and I love tracks like that. When I came up through the ranks in open wheel, I did really well on ovals because those tracks are really high commitment and Mosport is kind of like an oval on a road course where there's a lot of high speed corners and you've really got to trust the car and trust your instinct. It's just one of those tracks where you don't think the car is going to stick, but it ends up sticking and it really separates the drivers a lot I think just from who's going to really go for it. It's just one of those (tracks) where you see who's going to be more committed in the corners and is going to attack it more and that's why I really love that track.”

SAGE KARAM, No. 14 Lexus RC F GT3 (continued)

What is your outlook for racing at CTMP?

“I think Mosport (Canadian Tire Motorsports Park) is going to be a decent track for us and hopefully we can get good results. We've been so close to getting good results. We just need to eliminate a couple of the mistakes, capitalize earlier in the weekend and then capitalize on the race and I think we'll be right in thick of things.”

SCOTT PRUETT, No. 14 Lexus RC F GT3

What has it been like going to familiar tracks each race with a new team and Lexus race car?

“You know all these tracks we go to, it’s going to be a new experience. We were fortunate with the Glen that we had a chance to go test there, but we’re going to Mosport (Canadian Tire Motorsports Park) and we’ve never been there before. However with that being said, that track is a fast track and it seems one of the strengths of the RC F GT3 has been faster turns and faster tracks, so hopefully we’ll have a little bit of luck going up there and also the car in the rain has been really strong, so it can rain there – I’ve raced in the rain and or dry up there. Always enjoy going up there, so we will see what we have first day of practice.”

ROBERT ALON, No. 15 Lexus RC F GT3

Do you enjoy racing at CTMP?

“Yeah, I really like Canada. It’s a little bit scary in the sense it’s just a very put your foot down and just go for it track. You’re never going to feel comfortable there. It’s a little bit sketchy, but it’s really fun and rewarding. Just excited to get there and see what we’ve got.”

How do you expect the Lexus RC F GT3 to fare in Canada?

“From past experiences, the Lexus has been really quick in the high speed corners – flowy, high-downforce stuff – and, for the most part except for one corner, that track is all high speed.”

JACK HAWKSWORTH, No. 15 Lexus RC F GT3

How has this Lexus program advanced over the first half of the season?

“I think it’s impressive to see how it’s come along – to see it’s more organized, guys working on everything, everything is getting a little bit smoother. The car is much more reliable. We haven’t had any issues since Sebring really mechanically – so that’s been good. Speed’s been good. I would say the first half was kind of a would have, should have kind of thing. We’ve used those words a few times, so the speed of the Lexus has been good. The reliability has been there since after Sebring and we’ve come very close to getting good results on a few occasions. It’s just putting it all together.”