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DAYTONA 500

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Drivers Become Fans During Porsche Rennsport Reunion

April 25, 2004

The three-day Porsche Rennsport Reunion concluded on Sunday with Porsches battling each other for racing supremacy on Daytona International Speedway's 3.56-mile road course.

For the last three days, fans attending the Porsche Rennsport Reunion were able to check out an unprecedented gathering of significant Porsche vintage racecars owned by private collectors, Porsche Club racers, former Porsche factory drivers and a selection of historic cars from the Porsche Museum in Stuttgart, Germany.

They also got a chance to rub elbows with Porsche racing greats such as Dan Gurney, Vic Elford, Hurley Haywood, Brian Redman, Jacky Ickx, Derek Bell and Bobby Rahal.

But the Porsche legends participating in the event also became fans themselves.

During Saturday's charity autograph session, several drivers, most notably Elliott Forbes-Robinson, were spotted getting autographs. In addition, at the conclusion of the autograph session, drivers managed to leave with an event poster signed by their fellow racing legends.

And if they weren't getting a keepsake, they were meeting an old friend or checking out one of their famous race cars that propelled them to a victory.

Bell, a three-time Rolex 24 champion, met John Andretti during a Porsche dinner on Friday night. Bell and Andretti teamed up with the late Bob Wollek to win the 1989 Rolex 24.

"That's what it's all about, meeting these fabulous people," Bell said. "We're meeting in a relaxed atmosphere. Daytona after all is the home of American motorsport. That's where we should be."

Bell also got an opportunity to see race cars that he drove, such as the No. 14 Lowenbrau Porsche 962, and mingle famous drivers as well as Porsche engineers and mechanics.

"(Englishman) Vic Elford said he would like to sign a picture to me," Bell said. "I did one to him. I've never had anything signed by Vic Elford. He's getting close to 70 years old and he's a piece of history. The only driver to win a World Championship and a World Championship Rally. There he is. He's sitting down. You have to grasp these opportunities with both hands."

Competition also took place on track under sunny skies with five different groups battling it out on the high banks. The top three in each class included:

Group 1 (Gmund Cup: Under 2.5 liter: 914, 911, 356, RS60, 550, etc)

1. Robert Blain, Janesville, Wisc.; 2. Ned Cullen, Round Rock, Texas; 3. Matt Sell, Boise, Idaho

Group 2 (Eifel trophy: Over 2.5 911)

1. Dave White, Tampa, Fla.; 2. Randy Roatch, Wichita, Kansas; 3. Stewart Tetreault, Franconia, NH

Group 3 (Continental Trophy: Porsche Cup Cars)

1. Larry Schumacher, West Chester Ohio; 2. Cory Friedman, Charleston, S.C.; 3. Chris Wally, Keawood, Kansas.

Group 4 (Weissach Cup: Plastic bodied Porsches and Prototypes + 935, 935)

1. Jim Oppenheimer, Chicago, Ill.; 2. Peter Kitchak, Minneapolis, Minn.; 3. Stan Wattles, Stuart, Fla.

Group 5 (Salzburg Cup: Catch-all group for PCA, 944, 968, 928, 930, 914, etc.)

1. Stewart Tetreault, Franconia, New Hampshire; 2. Bruce Busby, Doss, Texas; 3. William Berard, Edina, Minnesota

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