

24-Hours LE MANS RACE

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Phil HILL and Olivier GENDEBIEN on Ferrari (Nr.6) yesterday won the 24-hour Le Mans motorcar endurance race with a 4-liter 12-cylinder, covering the 4,451.255 kilometers (2,776.5 miles) at an average speed of 185.469 k.p.h. (115.268 m.p.h.)

Phil Hill of Santa Monica California and GENDEBIEN of Belgium, easily circled the 13,451-kilometer course for the 12 last hours of the race without any serious challenger.

Ricardo and Pedro Rodriguez had to drop out of the race, around dawn because of transmission trouble, after leading in five of the first 12 hourly standings. Hill and Gendebien had teamed together in Ferraris to win the Le Mans race in 1958 and in 1961. Gendebien drove with Paul Frere of Belgium to win the 1960 race.

Another FERRARI, driven by Pierre BOBLET, and Jean GUICHET of France took second place while a third one driven by L.D. ELDE and Jean BEURLYS of Belgium took the third, a full 17 laps behind the winners.

HILL and GENDEBIEN moreover set the course distance record by driving at an average of 186.527 K.p.h. He was driving the winning car at the finish, and as the checkered flag waved him to a halt, he drove to his pit and took aboard four mechanics who rode on the hood for an extra turn around the course at slow speed to give the crowd a chance to applaud.

A Jaguar driven by Briggs CUNNINGHAM of Green Farms and Roy Salvadori of Britain was fourth, while another Jaguar driven by P.V.Sargent and Peter Lunnen of Britain took the fifth.

It was a very tough race due to the heat. 55 cars were at the start but only eighteen were at the finish line.

For the performance index it was a PANHARD, (Nr.55) driven by Pierre Guilhaudin and Jean Bertout of France who was the winner. The index takes into account the cylinder capacity of the cars so that the smaller cars can compete in this category against bigger and more powerful models.

Coverage shows :

- preparations before the race: Philp Hill and Gendebien themselves check their car at the FERRARI stand, while BONNET and other drivers are busy checking the PANHARD entries.
- At the trials, GENDEBIEN, Phil-HILL win the record speed for a lap and get their trophy atca cocktail party
- Start of the race and various views during the race,
- many cars have to stop or meet hazards along the long track...
- Arrival, and GENDEBIEN-PHILL HILL victory.
- Performance Index sinner the PANHARD car N- 55 and drivers.