



## Pirelli World Challenge: Several Canadians to watch as series heads to Utah Motorsports Campus

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*(From Pirelli World Challenge)*

As 100 Pirelli World Challenge drivers head to the Utah Motorsports Campus August 11-14, the spotlight is set to shine on heated championship battles that exist across all of the series' eight classes. GT and GTA drivers will race Rounds 16 and 17, while GT Cup pilots are set to race in Rounds 15 and 16. SprintX Rounds 3 and 4 will run, while Rounds 14 and 15 are scheduled in GTS. For TC, TCA and TCB classes, this event is the penultimate race weekend as drivers will compete in Rounds 9 and 10. The Pirelli World Challenge Utah Motorsports Campus Grand Prix presented by Energy Solutions marks the ninth time the series will race at the 3.048-mile road course.

### **Parente Continues to Lead Long, Cooper and O'Connell Heading to Utah – GT Preview**

With over 10 world-renowned manufacturers represented by some of the top drivers in the world, the GT class features some of the best sports car racing on the planet.

With a win in Round 14 at Mid-Ohio, Alvaro Parente stretched his lead in the GT Driver's Championship standings – he enters the weekend with 1308 points.

Up-and-coming sportscar racer **Kyle Marcelli** has been in the mix all season long but comes off a challenging Mid-Ohio where he DNF'd in Round 14 scoring zero points. Marcelli currently sits 7th in the championship with 970 points and will drive the No. 2 CRP Racing Audi R8.

## **Mills and Riddle/Wilson Lead Heading into Utah – SprintX Preview**

The new SprintX class featuring GT/GTA and GTS teams debuted earlier this season at **Canadian Tire Motorsport Park**. SprintX races are set to take place at 2016 Pirelli World Challenge headliner events, with Rounds 3 and 4 scheduled for this upcoming weekend. There will be a total of six rounds throughout the season, two per weekend with the finale scheduled for Mazda Raceway Laguna Seca in October.

Races are 60 minutes in length and feature mandatory driver and tire changes. Driver pairings are based on FIA driver criteria. For example, FIA listed Bronze drivers can drive with other bronze drivers as well as Silver, Gold and Platinum, while Silver drivers can be matched with Bronze, Silver and Gold drivers. Gold drivers can pair with Bronze and Silver drivers, while Platinum drivers can only be paired with Bronze level drivers.

In SprintX GT, Michael Mills and **Kuno Wittmer** are set to share duties on the No. 46 Mills Racing/Airtech Vacuum BMW Z4 GT3. Mills is the former 2014 PWC GTA Driver's champion, while Wittmer was a co-driver on the team that claimed the IMSA GT Le Mans class team championship back in 2014. Additionally, Wittmer has seven wins in 53 career PWC starts. Mills comes into the weekend leading the GT SprintX Sportsman Driver's Championship with 208 points.

**David Ostella** and Walt Bowlin team up on the No. 23 M1 GT Racing Audi R8 LMS Ultra. Ostella is a former Indy Lights driver and was the 2013 Porsche GT3 Cup Challenge Canada Champion, while Bowlin has 16 PWC starts.

In the GTS SprintX category, the No. 07 Adobe Road Winery, LaSalle Solutions TRG-AMR Aston Martin Vantage GT4 will be driven by **Max Riddle** and Kris Wilson. Riddle and Wilson are tied for the championship lead with 220 points each.

## **Sandberg, Aschenbach, Chase and Stacy in Class Championship Picture – GTS Class Overview**

The GTS class has featured some of the best wheel-to-wheel competition seen in racing in recent years. And 2016 has been no different with six different drivers piloting machinery from five different manufacturers scoring GTS race wins thus far this season.

Canadian team **Mantella Autosport Inc.** brings a two-car effort to Utah with **Anthony Mantella** in the No. 8 Gulf KTM X-Bow GT4, and teammate **Martin Barkey** in the No. 80 MBRP Sportlab Sawmill Creative car.

TRG-AMR brings an Aston Martin Vantage GT4 for Max Riddle, in the No. 07 Adobe Road Winery, LaSalle Solutions machine. Riddle won Round 8 at Canadian Tire Motorsport Park.

### **Grahovec Looks to Build Gap Over Wittmer – Touring Car Preview**

With the event in Utah representing the penultimate weekend for TC, TCA and TCB classes, there are only four races left in the season and the pressure is on for drivers to score maximum points to secure championships.

Montreal's **Nick Wittmer** will drive the No. 91 Honda Ste-Rose Racing Honda Accord. He brings an impressive resume having previously won a number of sports car racing championships including back-to-back Canadian Touring Car Championships in 2009 and 2010. Wittmer won Round 3 at CTMP and Round 5 at Lime Rock Park and sits second in the championship with 624 points.

### **Goulart Leads Talented TCA Field into Utah – TCA Class Preview**

Elivan Goulart, in the No. 70 S.A.C. Racing Mazda MX-5 Cup, has had a dominating 2016 season thus far winning five of eight TCA races, and he finished second in each of the other three races. He leads the TCA Driver's Championship heading into the weekend with 865 points. Goulart's performance is also helping Mazda lead the class Manufacturer's Championship with 85 points.

A Canadian to watch in the 16-car TCA field is **Samantha Tan**, in the No. 38 GPI Global Samantha Tan Racing Honda Civic Si.

### **Groenke Leads Morse and O'Gorman Heading into Utah – TCB Class Preview**

Touring Car B-Spec or TCB is the most cost-effective class category of the series and features some of the most entertaining door-to-door racing on the planet.

Canadian **P.J. Groenke** in the No. 25 Tech Sport Racing Chevrolet Sonic enters the weekend as the most experienced competitor in class – Groenke finished 6th overall in the TCB championship last year and is set to make his 57 th and 58th PWC career starts at Utah. Groenke has used his veteran savvy to take over the lead in the TCB Driver's Championship with 694 points. While he hasn't yet recorded a race win in the series, he has come very close in the last five races finishing either 2 nd or 3 rd to score valuable championship points.