# Race Recap: Canadian Tire Motorsports Park - IMSA GT3 World Championship Opener

The inaugural race of the IMSA GT3 World Championship season at the storied Canadian Tire Motorsports Park unfolded with intense drama and thrilling battles. With 30 laps completed and three lead changes, the competitors left everything on the track, pushing their limits on the high-speed, technical corners of Mosport.  
  
#### Practice & Qualifying Drama  
  
The tone for the weekend was set early in the practice session. Jason Davison dominated, setting a quick pace, though he had a few brushes with the limits, incurring five track incidents. Martin Ragginger and Luca Stolz followed closely, hinting at a potential showdown in the main event.  
  
Qualifying saw Kevin Estre edge out Martin Ragginger for pole position with a blistering lap, securing his place at the front. Davison, despite showing early promise, would start fourth after Estre, Ragginger, and Klaus Bachler posted faster times.  
  
#### The Race  
  
As the race began, Estre and Ragginger quickly established themselves as the frontrunners, trading the lead in the opening laps with calculated moves and daring overtakes. Davison, starting fourth, stormed forward, capturing the lead by lap 3 and holding it tenaciously for an impressive 27 laps, seemingly set for a triumphant finish. But with just a few laps remaining, Estre made a brilliant comeback, capitalizing on a small miscalculation by Davison, who ran wide at the notorious Moss Corner.  
  
With Estre reclaiming the lead, Ragginger seized the opportunity to chase him down, staying within a tight 0.9-second interval, ultimately finishing a hair's breadth behind. Julien Andlauer, who had started fourth, steadily climbed through the ranks, displaying consistent pace and skill to take third place.  
  
#### Final Standings  
  
1. \*\*Kevin Estre\*\* (Car #911) - 200 Points  
2. \*\*Martin Ragginger\*\* (Car #44) - 180 Points  
3. \*\*Julien Andlauer\*\* (Car #6) - 160 Points  
4. \*\*Klaus Bachler\*\* (Car #33) - 140 Points  
5. \*\*Jason Davison\*\* (Car #66) - 120 Points  
  
#### Battles and Highlights  
  
The race wasn’t without its tense moments and minor incidents:  
  
- \*\*Davison’s Missed Opportunity\*\*: Leading for much of the race, Davison’s minor mistake in Moss Corner cost him the top spot, a harsh reminder of the unforgiving nature of Canadian Tire Motorsports Park. Despite his strong showing, he finished in a disappointing fifth, a hard pill to swallow given his dominant performance.  
  
- \*\*Late Surge by Andlauer\*\*: Known for his endurance race prowess, Andlauer turned up the heat in the closing laps. His precise handling through the challenging Moss Corner allowed him to close the gap on Ragginger, solidifying a podium finish and gaining valuable points for the season.  
  
- \*\*Defensive Moves and Close Calls\*\*: Mirko Bortolotti, who started tenth, had a thrilling charge up the field, battling with Jack Aitken and Yelmer Buurman. Buurman managed to fend off Bortolotti’s advances multiple times through turn 5, securing a respectable seventh place.  
  
- \*\*Kirchhofer vs. Gamble\*\*: Teammates and rivals, Marvin Kirchhofer and Tom Gamble were locked in a fierce duel. Kirchhofer ultimately finished eighth, while Gamble struggled with tire wear, landing in 12th place. The tension between the two is already mounting, promising more intense battles as the season unfolds.  
  
#### Key Takeaways  
  
Kevin Estre’s victory at Mosport puts him in early contention for the championship, while Martin Ragginger’s strong showing suggests he won’t be backing down anytime soon. Jason Davison’s near-miss will certainly fuel his motivation in the coming races, while Andlauer’s podium signals he’s a consistent threat.  
  
As the season opener concludes, fans can expect more fierce rivalries and unpredictable outcomes as the drivers prepare for the next race in Braselton, Georgia, at Road Atlanta.