

Light Blue Touch Paper

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The first rays of sunshine arrive from the East, over the Atlantic. For those still circulating at Daytona International Speedway it signals that they have made it through the dark.....the Chequered Flag is almost in sight.....

Not for everyone though, some will suffer the heartbreak of a late problem at the Rolex 24. Daylight is visible in the sky as James Weaver punches onto the Tri-Oval banking after the Bus Stop at NASCAR Three. Under acceleration the Ford V8 emits a blue flame, a signal confirming the damage to an exhaust valve, dramatically reducing power. A 27 lap lead over the pack would evaporate, as following the demise of the Cadillac SRP challenge, the Viper/Vette GT train gained a handful of seconds every lap. The clock ticked away, the gap shrank, the maths played out and the inevitable happened, victory slipped from the Poughkeepsie team's grasp. The only consolation to *"the death of a thousand cuts"* would come later in the season when the 45 points scored by James Weaver for

staggering round to fourth place would give him the inaugural Grand-Am Drivers' Title.

John Brooks, January 2018