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Rain Factor Hampers Ruman from Top Step at Trans Am VIR

Munroe Falls, Ohio – Two words can describe the weather at VIRginia International Raceway (VIR) this past weekend – wet and miserable. The Thursday track test day was the only day the Trans Am drivers saw the sun, and for the rest of the official weekend the rain never stopped.

Friday qualifying was called off due to safety in the rain, so the grid was set by the championship points standings, with Amy Ruman in her **No. 23 McNichols/Don Sitts Auto Chevrolet Corvette** starting Sunday's race from the pole position of the 49-car field. The green flag flew under rainy and wet conditions, and Ruman stayed out front leading the pack in first for 7 laps, with Fix running in second. It didn't take long for the race to see its first cautionary period after a few incidents.

The race went back to green and the ever changing track conditions caught up with Ruman as she slid a bit into turn one allowing Fix to get by. The next lap wasn't good for Ruman as this time she slid off track causing the grill to fill with grass forcing a pit stop to clean the grill out. She rejoined the combined three class field in 37th position, 8th in TA class, and immediately went back to work when the course went green again. Ruman, who has been known to "come back" in a few races this year, managed to garner a 5th place TA class finish, and 11th overall.

"What a dreadful weather weekend this was for racing! Unfortunately, we cannot control mother nature and she played a huge factor in the outcome of our race. When we went back to green after the first caution, I think oil was on the track, and the conditions totally changed. People were sliding off all around me. I was in a great rhythm the first five laps, and I thought I had it. I managed to work my way through the pack, but then the race was checkered early or I think I may have had a few more spots," explained Ruman. "It's not how I anticipated the weekend to go, and Fix closed the gap on us, but there are three races left – and I am in it to win it. We still have to take it one race at a time to win this championship!"

Ruman remains first in the championship points standings, but her 24 point gap was impacted as second place runner Paul Fix won the race, cutting her margin to 14 with three races remaining on the schedule.

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