



MINI JOHN COOPER WORKS TEAM

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MARK POMBO PILOTS #59 “STEP” MINI JCW TO TWO SECOND PLACE FINISHES IN FIRST RACE WEEKEND OF 2019 SRO TC AMERICA RACE SERIES

Woodcliff Lake, NJ – March 8, 2019 – [MINI USA](#) and the [MINI John Cooper Works Team](#) proudly congratulated [Mark Pombo](#) today for guiding the factory-supported #59 “STEP” MINI JCW to two podium finishes in the first race weekend of the [2019 SRO TC America](#) race series (TC America) at Circuit of the Americas (COTA) just outside of Austin, Texas.

Pombo, a veteran of the MINI JCW Team and Indianapolis-based LAP Motorsports, started Race 1 back in sixth place before quickly working his way to the front. Holding off a hard charging Mazda, Pombo was able to cross the line in second place. Race 2 saw Pombo starting in second position, which he held throughout the entire race, staying in the mirrors of the eventual race winner.

“I am so proud of Mark and the team for an outstanding performance this weekend in our first race weekend in the SRO TC America series,” said Luis Perocarpi, team owner, LAP Motorsports. “We showed the competition right from the start that the MINI JCW Team is a contender for the championship.”

In addition to Pombo, LAP Motorports campaigned a second car driven by teammate [Nate Norenberg](#). Norenberg started Race 1 with the #60 Lincoln Tech MINI JCW in seventh position, challenging for a top five finish at times before finishing where he started. Norenberg spent both his races in the thick of the battle. The tough competition in TCA saw him swapping positions time and time again. He improved upon his performance in Race 2 where he finished fifth.

In 2018, the [MINI JCW Team](#) took home the Manufacturer’s Championship in the Street Tuner class of the [Continental Tire SportsCar Challenge Series](#), beating the likes of BMW, Porsche and Mazda.

The second round of events for the TC America series takes place on the weekend of April 26 – 28 at Virginia International Raceway.

The MINI JCW Team had their usual fulltime race crew supported by the local MINI technicians from [Momentum MINI](#) in Houston, [MINI of Plano](#), [MINI of Austin](#) and [MINI of San Antonio](#). These are the same technicians that repair consumer MINIs, and have proven time and again that their knowledge transfers to the racing world.

With a super-wide stance, ultra-rigid body and incredibly precise handling, MINI has a long history in motorsports and has always felt right at home on the track. Ever since John Cooper first recognized the racing potential of the classic Mini in the early 1960s, his name has stood for success and performance on the race track with MINI. The MINI JCW Team competes with a fleet of production-derived MINI John Cooper Works Hardtop race cars closely related to the [John Cooper Works Hardtops](#) that are currently on sale at MINI dealerships across the U.S. For information about the MINI JCW Team visit [MINIJCWTeam.com](#).

About MINI in the US

MINI is an independent brand of the BMW Group. In the United States, MINI USA operates as a business unit of BMW of North America, LLC, located in Woodcliff Lake, New Jersey and includes the marketing and sales organizations for the MINI brand. The MINI USA sales organization is represented in the U.S. through a network of 125 MINI passenger car dealers in 39 states. MINI USA began selling vehicles in the U.S. in 2002 with the introduction of the MINI Cooper and MINI Cooper S Hardtops. Since then, the MINI Brand in the U.S. has grown to encompass a model range of five unique vehicles.

About the MINI JCW Team

The MINI JCW Team, operated by LAP Motorsports ([@lapmotorsports](#)), drives MINI’s most powerful Hardtop ever in the two-door John Cooper Works. The team has competed in the fiercely competitive IMSA Continental Tire Sports Car Challenge and will enter TC America in 2019. For additional information please visit [minijcwteam.com](#) or email luis@minijcwteam.com

Journalist notes: Media information about MINI and its products is available to journalists on-line at [www.miniusanews.com](#).