

Porsche 936/81 Spyder

The decision to fight for overall victory at the 24 Hours of Le Mans in June 1981 is only made in spring. Fast action is imperative. Without much ado, the race department helps themselves to the 1976 and 1977-winning 936 Spyder from the Porsche Museum and gives the prototype a power make-over. The four-valve twin-turbo engine, which was originally conceived for a U.S. racing programme, puts out almost 100 horsepower more than the motor from 1977. Weissach mates the engine with a durable four-speed gearbox. Improvements are made to the aerodynamics including the wing and the airbox; the body grows in length by 25 centimetres. Because the traditional pre-test is cancelled in 1981, Porsche is forced to start at Le Mans without testing. None the less, the race ends successfully: Jacky Ickx and Derek Bell win almost an hour ahead of the second placed competitor – right in time for the 50th anniversary of Dr. Ing. h.c. F. Porsche AG, and 30 years after Porsche's first start at Le Mans.

Model Year:	1981
Engine:	6-cyl. flat, turbo
Displacement:	2,650 cc
Power Output:	456 kW (620 hp)
Weight:	850 kg
Top Speed:	360 km/h