

Audi Junior Martin Tomczyk grabs his first point

DTM: Three Audi drivers managed to finish in the points in front of 60,000 spectators in the season's eighth round of the DTM (Deutsche Tourenwagen Masters) at the A-1 Ring in Austria. Martin Tomczyk had more reason to celebrate than anyone else. The driver from the S line Audi team driver secured his first point in the current season with his eighth place finish. "It was a hard-earned point", explained the 21-year-old, who regularly occupies starting positions at the front but had had some bad luck during the races. "I had a good start. As the first crowd of cars came, I pull myself out and was behind Mattias [Ekström] in seventh. The first pit stop was amazing – our strategy fit perfectly. After the second stop, however, the parking break on the front axel wouldn't release. This made me two seconds slower each round for the following eight rounds, and then I fell back another position. The whole time I was generously cooling the breaks with water. In the end I could drive faster lap times. The well-deserved reward: My first point – and that's really something!"

Laurent Aiello and Mattias Ekström of the Abt Audi team were equally responsible for the team's strong performance. The defending DTM champion Aiello just missed landing in the winners' circle with his fourth place finish. He was thus just able to maintain the very slight possibility of being able to defend his title, as he is 20 points behind chart leader Bernd Schneider.

Mattias Ekström, who started the race from the seventh position, gave the crowd an exciting show, duelling against his French teammate and followed Aiello across the finish line in fifth place. The Swede took a deep breath after the finish, saying, "That was a hard race. I fought until I saw the checkered flag, but I just couldn't gain any ground. I'm looking towards the future. The raceway in Zandvoort, where we're driving in two weeks, should work for us better." Team Director Hans-Jürgen Abt made a similar statement, "We knew beforehand that it would be hard for us here at the A-1 Ring, where the fans by the way provide a great mood for racing. For this reason, I am satisfied at the moment. We gave it our all, and three drivers finished in the points. In this strong field, that's an amazing result."

Peter Terting (19) had yet again another perfect race at the eighth DTM competition of his young career, finishing 13th. In doing so, the youngest driver in DTM history put on a great show with his duels that were well worth seeing. "It was a great race for me from the beginning to the fall of the checkered flag", told Terting. "I was able to pass some opponents, but I lost two places because my first pit stop was slow. Also in the final stage of the race, I had some nice duels but then didn't want to risk anything at the finish."

The racing weekend did not go exactly as planned for Christian Abt or Karl Wendlinger. Abt was already out in the first lap after his approach to the second curve turned into an accident. Teammate Wendlinger finished 16th in the home race.