



Ingolstadt, 1 April 2006

Motorsport / 8 days until the start of the 2006 DTM The world's quickest taxi drivers

How VIPs experience a ride in an Audi A4 DTM

Felix Magath was elated. "Every one of my boys should try this, it's a really unique experience," said the chief coach of FC Bayern München, after climbing out of the Audi A4 DTM racing taxi. When the DTM starts into its new season on 9 April, the racing car converted into a two-seater will again be one of the main attractions chauffeuring VIPs, partners and winners of various special contests around the circuit at racing speed.

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Whether coach Magath, national team captain Michael Ballack, actors Moritz Bleibtreu and Tom Gerhardt, ski jumper Sven Hannawald, singer Christina Stürmer or swimmerAntje Buschschulte – they all have taken a hot ride in the cockpit before. "I would never have thought how late you can brake a car," is the unanimous tenor of the passengers' comments.

In only three seconds the Audi A4 DTM racing taxi accelerates from zero to 100 kph. The ride around the respective DTM circuits on the calendar is anything but a leisurely cruise, though: The passengers are pressed into the tight seat bucket with a force equating to two times their body weight – forces which many of us have only previously experienced in roller-coasters or similar attractions. The Audi works drivers take turns at the wheel of the A4 DTM two-seater sporting the livery of the new partner, Playboy, this season – to become the world's quickest taxi drivers for a few minutes.

Tomorrow: All-round talent Timo Scheider

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