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Audi driver Ekström starts at Race of Champions

Audi works driver Mattias Ekström competes in a very special race at the 'Stade de France' in Paris (France) this coming weekend: The 26-year old Swede is one of 16 world stars who will help to determine the "Champion of Champions" at the "Race of Champions". Ekström won the DTM title during the 2004 season with the Audi A4 DTM and meets, at the big show-down, the world's best racing and rally drivers including Formula 1 World Champion Michael Schumacher, World Rally Champion Sébastien Loeb and NASCAR star Jeff Gordon.

The spectators in Paris will also see the DTM championship winning car in action: Mattias Ekström will complete several demonstration laps with his Audi A4 DTM in the 'Stade de France'. "I'm really looking forward to be able to demonstrate my race car to the other stars," says Ekström. "It will certainly be a very special experience in front of the huge amount of spectators expected."

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A one kilometre long asphalt circuit will be constructed in the famous 'Stade de France' for the "Race of Champions", on which two drivers at a time will compete against each other in identical cars, and battle for victory in the K.O. system. "It will definitely be great fun, but in view of the strong competition it will also be a tough contest," believes Mattias Ekström who, together with Kenny Bräck, starts for his homeland Sweden in the Nations Cup which will see teams of eight countries compete with two drivers each.

"It is a great honour for me to be able to compete for the first time at the Race of Champions," says the Audi driver. "I think that owing to my results this year I really have earned the chance to be in Paris." Ekström did not only win four DTM races and the title in Europe's most popular touring car series during the 2004 season, but also the Production Car category twice in two outings in the FIA World Rally Championship.

The Race of Champions begins on Saturday at 4:30 p.m., the Nations Cup is held directly afterwards from 7 p.m. Eurosport broadcasts the Nations Cup live from 7 p.m. and recorded highlights of the Race of Champions from 9 p.m.

Photographs and additional information can be found in the Internet:
www.audi-motorsport.info (accreditation required)

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