

Barcelona, 24 September 2006

Motorsport

Audi driver Martin Tomczyk celebrates first DTM victory

- **Command performance from Audi's youngest works driver**
- **Heinz-Harald Frentzen also on the podium**
- **Mattias Ekström fourth despite controversial penalty**

The 42,000 spectators who watched the first ever Spanish DTM race at Barcelona may well come again next year. They witnessed a spectacular battle between Audi and Mercedes-Benz, from which the Audi A4 DTM once again emerged as winner: After 58 extremely hard fought laps, the German Martin Tomczyk, who started from pole position, celebrated his first DTM victory ever at the wheel of the Red Bull A4 DTM from Audi Sport Team Abt Sportsline. Heinz-Harald Frentzen took third place and in doing so claimed his second podium finish since joining Audi. Mattias Ekström rounded out the Audi triumph with his fourth position, which he claimed despite being given a controversial 'drive-through' penalty.

Although the Audi A4 DTM was the quickest car around the 2.949 kilometre Circuit de Catalunya during both the wet qualifying session and over the entire race distance held on a dry track, Tom Kristensen, currently second in the championship, finished ninth without scoring points. The Dane held third place after the start but was attacked harshly by title rival Bernd Schneider in his Mercedes immediately after the end of a caution period on lap six. Kristensen's A4 sustained damage to the front end in the collision, which affected the overall performance of his car.

Schneider also cost Mattias Ekström a possible win. The Swede overtook the championship leader twice, but had to complete a controversial 'drive-through' penalty after having touched the rear of the Mercedes lightly when overtaking for the second time and Schneider suddenly hit the brakes in the hairpin. Despite the 'drive-through' penalty Ekström fought back to claim fourth place – and in doing so overtook Bruno Spengler, with two wins this season to his name, in spectacular fashion.

AUDI AG
Kommunikation
85045 Ingolstadt
www.audi.com

Frank Stippler (Audi Sport Team Rosberg) finally saw the back of his run of bad luck at Barcelona: He followed up his excellent qualifying performance by finishing sixth with the best 2005-spec car. With Tom Kristensen and Christian Abt (Audi Sport Team Phoenix) in ninth and tenth place respectively, a total of six Audi drivers finished in the top ten.

Timo Scheider's race ended prematurely when he was pushed into Mika Häkkinen by Mercedes team mate Jean Alesi. Nicolas Kiesa, Pierre Kaffer and Vanina Ickx were involved in a spectacular pile-up on the opening lap, in which all three Audi A4 DTM cars were victims.

Audi driver Tom Kristensen still has a small chance of winning the title heading into the final two races in Le Mans (15 October) and Hockenheim (29 October).

AUDI AG
Kommunikation
85045 Ingolstadt
www.audi.com

Quotes after the race

Dr Wolfgang Ullrich (Head of Audi Motorsport): "Our cars were able to run at a very fast pace during the race. Unfortunately, this wasn't the case for Tom (Kristensen), whose car was damaged in a collision with Bernd Schneider. We'll have to analyse exactly what happened. It was a very hard race, and I'm of the opinion that Mattias (Ekström) was punished extremely hard for something that is usually the norm. I'm delighted that Martin (Tomczyk) has finally taken his first well-deserved DTM victory and that Heinz-Harald (Frentzen) has once again finished on the podium. Frank Stippler's sixth place with the best 2005-spec car completed the strong Audi performance. The entire team can be pleased with this performance."

Martin Tomczyk

Audi Sport Team Abt Sportsline, Siemens Audi A4 DTM #7

1st place

"I made a good start and drove away at the front. Even after the Safety Car period my car handled perfectly. I drove my own race and hardly noticed what happened behind me. Maybe it was better like this, since it appeared to be very turbulent back there. At about half-distance I overtook several Mercedes drivers without any problems or contacts. The brakes lost a little efficiency towards the end, so I took things a little easier but still managed to lock my brakes twice which enabled

Bernd (Schneider) to close up. However, he also made a mistake. Afterwards I was able to count down the laps to my first win.”

Heinz-Harald Frentzen

Audi Sport Team Abt Sportsline, Veltins Audi A4 DTM #6

3rd place, + 3.469s

“That was a very interesting race. I’d hoped that Tom (Kristensen) would make a good start and make his way to the front. Afterwards the race was a little more complicated than I’d anticipated. I nevertheless drove on the limit and still managed to finish on the podium. It's a good result. The car ran very well for the entire weekend. A big thank you goes out to the complete team.”

AUDI AG
Kommunikation
85045 Ingolstadt
www.audi.com

The result

1 Martin Tomczyk (Red Bull Audi A4 DTM), 58 laps in 1h 06m 07.496s

2 Bernd Schneider (Mercedes), + 2.898s

3 Heinz-Harald Frentzen (Veltins Audi A4 DTM), + 3.469s

4 Mattias Ekström (Red Bull Audi A4 DTM), + 10.962s

5 Bruno Spengler (Mercedes), + 13.186s

6 Frank Stippler (S line Audi A4 DTM), + 14.329s

7 Daniel la Rosa (Mercedes), + 15.057s

8 Alexandros Margaritis (Mercedes), + 18.812s

9 Tom Kristensen (Siemens Audi A4 DTM), + 19.379s

10 Christian Abt (Playboy Audi A4 DTM), + 20.235s

11 Mika Häkkinen (Mercedes), + 21.640s

12 Stefan Mücke (Mercedes), + 23.629s

13 Mathias Lauda (Mercedes), + 24.463s

14 Jean Alesi (Mercedes), + 39.448s

15 Susie Stoddart (Mercedes), + 45.299s

Not classified:

Timo Scheider (Gebrauchtwagen:plus Audi A4 DTM), - 51 laps (collision).

Jamie Green (Mercedes), - 57 laps.

Nicolas Kiesa (Futurecom Audi A4 DTM), - laps (collision).

Pierre Kaffer (Audi A4 DTM), - laps (collision)

Vanina Ickx (Original Teile Audi A4 DTM), - 58 laps (collision)

AUDI AG
Kommunikation
85045 Ingolstadt
www.audi.com

Communication Motorsport

Telephone +49 (0)841 89 34200, Telefax +49 (0)841 89 38617

E-Mail motorsport-media@audi.de

Photographs, sound bites and further information can be found in the Internet at:
www.audi-motorsport.info (accreditation required)