

18/09/2020 – No 58 – ADAC GT Masters

Defending champions van der Linde and Niederhauser set best time in opening session at Hockenheim

- **Patric Niederhauser goes fastest in first free practice**
- **Audi and Porsche dominate the Top Five**

Hockenheim: Reigning champion Patric Niederhauser (28, CH, Rutronik Racing) got his weekend off to the perfect start, setting the best lap time in the first free practice session of the ADAC GT Masters at Hockenheim. The Swiss ace was followed by fellow Audi driver Mirko Bortolotti (30, ITA, Team WRT) and Klaus Bachler (29, AUT, K us Team75 Bernhard) in a Porsche. The two races on the third weekend of the season will be broadcast live by free-to-air TV channel SPORT1 on Saturday and Sunday (start time 13:00 CEST). They can also be watched online as a livestream on sport1.de, adac.de/motorsport and youtube.com/adac.

Niederhauser, who shares an R8 LMS cockpit with Kelvin van der Linde as in the previous campaign, clocked a time of 1:39.613 minutes early on in the 60-minute session, which in itself would have been enough to keep him at the top of the timesheets. Halfway through the session, he went one better with a 1:39.541-minute lap: “Hockenheim is a special track for us. After we won the title here from pole position last year, it is obviously great to start the weekend with the fastest time. It’s also the home fixture for our team Rutronik Racing and for my team-mate Dennis Marschall. After yesterday’s test here, we changed two or three things on the car and that took us in the right direction. But of course, we know that there is nothing to be won on Friday. It’s only from tomorrow that results count.”

The Audi of Mirko Bortolotti and Rolf Ineichen (42, CH) was second fastest in the session by a margin of 78 thousandths. A further ten thousandths behind was the third-placed Porsche driven by Klaus Bachler who is partnered by works driver Simona De Silvestro (32, CH). The Austro-Swiss duo will be sporting a special livery this weekend in tribute to the German motorsport legend Stefan Bellof. “The car is very good,” said Bachler with evident satisfaction. “We were at the front of the field in the tests yesterday right from the start and set the best time. This carried over into the first practice session. I am optimistic and have a good feeling. I think it’s cool that our car has a special look this weekend to remember Stefan Bellof. It’s something special.”

Two more 911s followed in the other Top Five positions. Christian Engelhart (33, GER) and Michael Ammerm uller (34, GER, both SSR Performance), who are currently second in the championship standings, finished fourth ahead of fellow Porsche drivers Robert Renauer (35, GER) and Sven M uller (28, GER, both Precote Herberth Motorsport). There were no fewer than 24 cars within one second of each other.

Media information



Second outing for Joos Sportwagentechnik

After making their debut at the Nürburgring, Joos Sportwagentechnik will be back in ADAC GT Masters action at Hockenheim. This time, Michael Joos (29, GER) will share the Porsche 911 GT3 R with GT veteran Marco Holzer (32, GER).

PS on Air on Saturday evening

PS on Air, the Ravenol ADAC GT Masters talk show, will be broadcast live and direct from Hockenheim on Saturday (start time 20:00 CEST). Presenter Patrick Simon and his guests will be looking back on Saturday's ADAC GT Masters race at the Motodrom in Baden and analysing the decisive moments.

Note for media representatives:

Press conferences after the ADAC GT Masters races

The press conferences with the winners of the ADAC GT Masters races will be held virtually via Skype. Call the dial-in number 089 7676 3200 and then key in the relevant conference code. There are no additional costs apart from your regular telephone tariff.

Saturday 19th September, 14:45 CEST: ADAC GT Masters Race 1 / conference code 6536972#

Sunday 20th September 14:45 CEST: ADAC GT Masters Race 2 / conference code 3849316#

Please remember to mute your microphone if you are calling from a noisy environment.

Race calendar for the 2020 ADAC GT Masters (subject to official approval)

31/07/20 - 02/08/20	Lausitzring
14/08/20 - 16/08/20	Nürburgring
18/09/20 - 20/09/20	Hockenheim
02/10/20 - 04/10/20	Sachsenring
16/10/20 - 18/10/20	Red Bull Ring (AUT)
30/10/20 - 01/11/20	Circuit Zandvoort (NL)
06/11/20 - 08/11/20	Motorsport Arena Oschersleben

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