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BMW duo Hürtgen & Baumann seal 'half-time title' with race win

- Claudia Hürtgen and Dominik Baumann celebrate second win of the season at the Nürburgring
- Corvette driver Toni Seiler triumphs in Gentlemen class
- Prosperia C Abt Racing lead team championship ahead of PIXUM Team Schubert

PIXUM Team Schubert driver Claudia Hürtgen (41) is acquiring something of a reputation for winning home races in the ADAC GT Masters. Born and bred in Aachen, she already has one winner's trophy from the current campaign for her victory at Spa-Francorchamps, just over the border in Belgium. Now she and her Austrian co-driver Dominik Baumann (20) have collected another piece of silverware at the Nürburgring. With eight out of 16 races now complete, this latest win for Hürtgen and Baumann has elevated them to the top of the Super Sports Car League standings. Toni Seiler (55) from Switzerland and ex-DTM star Jeroen Bleekemolen (31) from the Netherlands finished second in their Callaway Competition Corvette, a result that also makes Seiler a clear winner in the Gentleman classification. The remaining podium spot went to the PIXUM Team Schubert BMW partnership of Max Sandritter (24) and Jörg Müller (43) who were made to work hard for their third place on the last few laps. "We were spot on today," said a well satisfied Hürtgen afterwards. "In fact, we couldn't have improved on this performance in any way. Our car was a pure joy to drive."

Key facts, Nürburgring (sprint configuration), Race 2

Length of track: 3,618 metres

Weather: 23 °C, cloudy

Pole position for Race 2: Jeroen Bleekemolen (Callaway Competition, Corvette Z06.R GT3), 01:25.640 mins

Winners of Race 2: Claudia Hürtgen & Dominik Baumann (PIXUM Team Schubert, BMW Z4 GT3)

Fastest race lap: Jeroen Bleekemolen (Callaway Competition, Corvette Z06.R GT3), 01:25.664 mins

Götz and Rast forced to retire after contact in the opening lap

Two of the championship favourites had a catastrophic start to the second race. René Rast (26), who was leading the championship after the first seven races, clattered his Prosperia C Abt Racing Audi R8 into the back of the Polarweiss Racing Mercedes-Benz SLS AMG driven by defending champion Maximilian Götz (27). This incident ended the race prematurely for both the Mercedes-Benz and the Audi.

Jeroen Bleekemolen was building up a comfortable lead over Dominik Baumann. However, the Dutchman's good progress was halted in the fifth lap when Nicolas Armindo's Team Geyer & Weinig EDV - Schütz Motorsport Porsche leaked radiator coolant at a major intersection on the track. With several cars sliding about in ungainly fashion on the spill, the safety car was deployed and the Corvette's lead was cut back.

After the restart, Bleekemolen defended well and was still in first position going into the compulsory pit stop. Bleekemolen's team-mate Toni Seiler carried the lead over into the second stint but soon came under pressure from Hürtgen. The BMW driver passed Seiler with a neat move to sail away at the front. Hürtgen continued to pull away from the Swiss veteran, opening up a 9.2-second lead over Seiler and Bleekemolen at the finish and securing her fifth ADAC GT Masters win. "Being top of the standings at the season's halfway point is a good sign for the rest of the championship," said a delighted Baumann after his second win of the season. "We made a lot of changes to the car overnight, and it felt completely different to drive today."

Media information

There was a fierce battle for third during the last few laps of the race. The duel involved Diego Alessi (41) in the second Callaway Competition Corvette, Frank Kechele (26) in the Lambda Performance Ford GT and Max Sandritter in the PIXUM Team Schubert BMW Z4. Sandritter was ultimately the beneficiary of the scrap between Alessi and Kechele, taking the third podium spot. Alessi and team-mate Daniel Keilwitz (24) were fifth behind the Tonino powered by Herberth Motorsport Porsche 911 driven by Michael Christensen (22, Denmark) and Robert Renauer (28). Frank Kechele and Dominik Schwager (36) came home sixth ahead of Andreas Wirth (28) and Christian Hohenadel (36) in yet another Callaway Competition Corvette.

Nielsen extends lead in Gentlemen stakes

After moving to the top of the overall standings in the Gentlemen class following yesterday's race at the Nürburgring, Porsche driver Christina Nielsen (21) of Denmark supported by Farnbacher Racing team-mate Sean Edwards (26, GB) extended her advantage with a second-place finish. Nielsen is now seven points clear of Munich-based Rene Bourdeaux (38) who finished fourth in the Tonino powered by Herberth Motorsport Porsche 911. Remo Lips (31) from Switzerland who shares the cockpit of a Callaway Competition Corvette with ADAC Sports Foundation protégé Lennart Marioneck (24) finished third in the Gentlemen classification on Sunday.

Only a short break before action restarts in Austria next weekend

The Super Sports Car League will be heading straight to Austria for the next race. Next weekend, the second half of the ADAC GT Masters' season will be getting underway at the Red Bull Ring, a circuit that will be back on the Formula 1 calendar from next year. (Saturday and Sunday's races will be broadcast live on *kabel eins* from 12:00 CEST)

Result of Race 2:

1. Claudia Hürtgen / Dominik Baumann (PIXUM Team Schubert, BMW Z4 GT3), 39 laps
2. Toni Seiler / Jeroen Bleekemolen (Callaway Competition, Corvette Z06.R GT3), +9.294 sec
3. Maximilian Sandritter / Jörg Müller (PIXUM Team Schubert, BMW Z4 GT3), +10.286 sec
4. Michael Christensen / Robert Renauer (Tonino by Herberth Motorsport-Porsche 911 GT3 R), +11.528 sec
5. Diego Alessi / Daniel Keilwitz (Callaway Competition, Corvette Z06.R GT3), +12.165 sec
6. Frank Kechele / Dominik Schwager (Lambda Performance, Ford GT), +19.740 sec
7. Andreas Wirth / Christian Hohenadel (Callaway Competition, Corvette Z06.R GT3), +20.221 sec
8. Sebastian Asch / Florian Stoll (MS RACING, Audi R8 LMS ultra), +21.391 sec

The 2013 ADAC GT Masters season consists of 16 races staged over eight weekends. All 16 ADAC GT Masters races are shown live to TV audiences in Germany, Austria and Switzerland. Coverage on commercial channel *kabel eins* commences at 12 midday on both the Saturday and the Sunday of the race weekend. The calendar for the 2013 season of the Super Sports Car League has two new fixtures: the Formula 1 circuit at Spa-Francorchamps in Belgium and the Slovakia Ring near Bratislava.

Tickets for all ADAC GT Masters races start at €20 and can be purchased online at www.adac.de, from any ADAC branch office, online at www.eventim.de or from one of the more than 20,000 Eventim outlets throughout Europe.

Media information

Dates and venues: 2013 ADAC GT Masters

26th - 28th April:	etropolis Motorsport Arena Oschersleben
10th - 12th May:	Circuit Spa-Francorchamps (Belgium)
7th - 9th June:	Sachsenring
2nd - 4th August:	Nürburgring
9th - 11th August:	Red Bull Ring (Austria)
30th August - 1st September:	Lausitzring
13th - 15th September:	Slovakia Ring (Slovakia)
27th - 29th September:	Hockenheimring, Baden-Württemberg

ADAC GT Masters website: Access to Press Area via 'Press' in the top menu bar at www.adac.de/motorsport.

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