

06/06/14 – No 42

Corvette double pole in dress rehearsal for Formula 1 at Red Bull Ring

- Gavin and Keilwitz claim pole position for both ADAC GT Masters races
- Chevrolet Camaro impresses with best qualifying result to date
- Strong performance from local favourites Proczyk and Tweraser in a Lamborghini

Daniel Keilwitz (24, Germany) and Englishman Oliver Gavin (41) could not have wished for a better start to the ADAC GT Masters race weekend at the Red Bull Ring in Austria. Two weeks before Formula 1 returns to this circuit with its magnificent backdrop of the Austrian Alps, Keilwitz and Gavin put their Callaway Competition Corvette on pole position for both the Saturday race and the Sunday race (live from 11.45am CEST on kabel eins). “By booking the front slot twice, we have the best prospects this weekend,” said Keilwitz, whose double victory at the Red Bull Ring last year paved the way to ultimately taking the 2013 title. “Now we have to convert that into race results, which certainly won’t be easy.”

Key facts, Red Bull Ring Spielberg (Austria), Rounds 7 and 8

Track length: 4,326 metres

Weather: 26°C, sunny

Pole position for Race 1: Oliver Gavin (Callaway Competition, Corvette Z06.R GT3), 01:30.484 mins

Pole position for Race 2: Daniel Keilwitz (Callaway Competition, Corvette Z06.R GT3), 01:30.272 mins

Qualifying 1 for Race 1 on Saturday:

Five drivers in five super sports cars bearing five different badges on their grilles fought out a tense battle in qualifying for the race to be held on Saturday. Gavin went out first in his Corvette and set a high benchmark, but then had a tense wait before it was confirmed that he had secured his maiden ADAC GT Masters pole. Albert von Thurn und Taxis (30, Germany) in the Reiter Engineering Chevrolet Camaro, Hari Proczyk (38, Austria) in a Grasser Racing Lamborghini Gallardo, Robert Renauer (29, Germany) in a TONINO Team Herberth Porsche 911 and Maximilian Götz (28, Germany) in an HTP Motorsport Mercedes-Benz SLS AMG all came close to dislodging the Englishman from his perch but didn’t quite succeed. Lamborghini man and local favourite Proczyk was 0.333 of a second slower than the time set by the Corvette works driver but at least has the satisfaction of starting from the front row tomorrow. Row 2 will be shared by Götz and von Thurn und Taxis. Last year’s ADAC GT Masters runner-up Renauer starts from fifth.

“I put in a really good clean lap,” said a delighted Gavin. “However, pole position is only one small step; the really hard work comes on Saturday and Sunday. It won’t be easy to win here, but our Corvette has the speed. Daniel and I have a similar driving style, and I have a good feeling about these two races. Now we have to keep our fingers crossed and hope that we have a bit of luck.”

Qualifying 2 for Race 2 on Sunday:

A duel between two American muscle cars dominated the qualifying session for Sunday’s race. Just as his partner Gavin had done in the previous session, Daniel Keilwitz established an early lead which then came under attack by Czech driver Tomas Enge (37) in the Reiter Engineering Chevrolet Camaro. The ex-Formula 1 driver caused a minor sensation by shaving 0.003 seconds off the time of the reigning ADAC GT Masters champion, but the Corvette driver promptly counterattacked, reclaiming pole position with a second sortie onto the track.

Media information

Gerhard Tweraser (25, Austria), who actually lives in Spielberg, qualified third in one of the two Lamborghini Gallardos entered by local outfit Grasser Racing ahead of Dutchman Jeroen Bleekemolen (32) in another Callaway Competition Corvette. Maximilian Buhk (21, Germany) in an HTP Motorsport Mercedes-Benz SLS AMG was fifth fastest in the session but a grid penalty incurred in the last race at the Lausitzring bumps him down by five positions. Moving up to claim the fifth spot is René Rast (27, Germany) in a Prosperia C Abt Racing Audi R8.

“I put in some very good laps at the start of qualifying and thought that I was a certainty for pole,” said Keilwitz after claiming his fifth P1 start in the ADAC GT Masters. “I couldn’t believe that Tomas Enge had bettered my time in the Camaro. So I went back out onto the track, drove at the absolute limit and got the maximum I could out of the car. In the end, it proved to be just enough.”

“Too bad we missed out on pole position,” said Enge after serving up the best qualifying result yet for the Camaro in the ADAC GT Masters, “but it’s great to have two U.S. sports cars on the front row for Sunday. This will be a great race. We are excited about the tremendous progress we have made with the car. Last year, we couldn’t even have dreamed of getting a starting place on the front row.”

Current ADAC GT Masters championship leader Jaap van Lagen (37, Netherlands) in his GW IT Racing Team Schütz Motorsport Porsche 911 will start the second race of the weekend from ninth position. The two ex-Formula 1 drivers – Heinz-Harald Frentzen (47, Germany) of HTP Motorsport and Jaime Alguersuari (24, Spain) of ROWE RACING, both driving Mercedes-Benz SLS AMGs – start Sunday’s race from 17th and 19th respectively.

Result: Qualifying 1 (Top Five):

1. Oliver Gavin (Callaway Competition, Corvette Z06.R GT3), 01:30.484 mins
2. Hari Proczyk (Grasser Racing, Lamborghini Gallardo FL2), +0.333 sec
3. Maximilian Götz (HTP Motorsport, Mercedes-Benz SLS AMG GT3), +0.444 sec
4. Albert von Thurn und Taxis (Reiter Engineering, Chevrolet Camaro GT), +0.462 sec
5. Robert Renauer (TONINO Team Herberth, Porsche 911 GT3 R), +0.506 sec

Result: Qualifying 2 (Top Five):

1. Daniel Keilwitz (Callaway Competition, Corvette Z06.R GT3), 01:30.272 mins
2. Tomas Enge (Reiter Engineering, Chevrolet Camaro GT), +0.062 sec
3. Gerhard Tweraser (Grasser Racing, Lamborghini Gallardo FL2), +0.354 sec
4. Jeroen Bleekemolen (Callaway Competition, Corvette Z06.R GT3), +0.446 sec
5. Maximilian Buhk (HTP Motorsport-Mercedes, Benz SLS AMG GT3), +0.531 sec

Tickets (including access to the paddock) start at €20.00

Fans who prefer to experience the ADAC GT Masters live at the track can obtain tickets in advance starting at 20 euros (includes access to the paddock). Tickets are available online at www.adac.de/motorsport, from all ADAC branch offices, online at www.eventim.de or from one of more than 20.000 Eventim outlets in Europe.

All 16 races of the ADAC GT Masters will again be broadcast live and in full throughout Germany, Austria and Switzerland on kabel eins during 2014.

Media information

Calendar for the 2014 ADAC GT Masters

25/04 – 27/04/14	etropolis Motorsport Arena Oschersleben
09/05 – 11/05/14	Circuit Park Zandvoort (NL)
23/05 – 25/05/14	Lausitzring
06/06 – 08/06/14	Red Bull Ring (A)
08/08 – 10/08/14	Slovakia Ring (SVK)
29/08 – 31/08/14	Nürburgring
19/09 – 21/09/14	Sachsenring
03/10 – 05/10/14	Hockenheimring Baden-Württemberg

For further information, visit www.adac.de/gt-masters

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