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Five-way battle for ADAC GT Masters title in finale

- Porsche and BMW chasing Audi in both final races at Hockenheim
- Championship leaders van der Linde and Rast have best chance in Hockenheim
- Gentlemen championship leader Handlos has no real rivals for title

Hockenheim. Five drivers from three different teams, fielding an Audi R8, Porsche 911 and BMW Z4 will still be battling it out for the Super Sports Car League title at the ADAC GT Masters finale in Hockenheim on the weekend of 3rd-5th October. Championship leaders Kelvin van der Linde (18, South Africa) and René Rast (27, Germany / both Prosperia C Abt Racing) are on the home straight in the Audi R8 and have the best chance of success. The Audi drivers extended their lead recently at the head of the standings on rivals Jaap van Lagen (37, Netherlands / GW IT Racing Team Schütz Motorsport) in the Porsche 911 with a double win at the Sachsenring. “We’ve definitely got the advantage but it’s not game, set and match just yet, as you never know what might happen at the last weekend of the season,” said a cautious Rast ahead of the finale. Claudia Hürtgen (43, Germany) and Dominik Baumann (21, Austria / both PIXUM Team Schubert) will pull out all the stops in the two races in Hockenheim (live on *kabel eins*, Saturday and Sunday, commencing at 11:45 am). Placed third in the standings, they only have a chance on paper in the BMW Z4 but are still fighting to take the team title and the runner-up position.

Key facts: Hockenheimring Baden-Württemberg, Hockenheim, Races 15 and 16 of 16

Track length: 4.574 km

Layout: 17 turns, six left-handers, eleven right-handers, racing in a clockwise direction

Last years’ winners, Race 1 and 2: Frank Kechele/Dominik Schwager (Lambda Performance Ford GT)

TV coverage of the ADAC GT Masters from Hockenheim: *kabel eins* will broadcast both races from the Hockenheimring live and in their entirety on Saturday and Sunday in ’ran Racing, starting at 11:45 am. (see attachment for the weekend’s TV schedule of motor racing from the Hockenheimring)

Van Lagen has to make up ten points in first race

High drama in Hockenheim on Friday in qualifying and in Saturday’s first race. For title rivals van Lagen and team-mate Christian Engelhart (27, Germany) in the Porsche, it’s a question of securing a good grid position for race one and a top ranking in Saturday’s race in order to keep the title race open until Sunday. Van Lagen must gain by at least ten points in the standings on the Audi pair in the first race, otherwise, it’s van der Linde / Rast, who will be cheering on Saturday. It’s not very often that the title in the ADAC GT Masters is decided in the penultimate race. Only twice in seven years in fact has the championship been resolved after the penultimate race. “I have to hope that the Audi guys will fail to score any points in one of the races and pray for rain, because we think we have a good chance on a wet track,” said van Lagen before the finale.

BMW duo Hürtgen / Baumann will focus primarily on the team standings in the finale. “Audi did extremely well in the races last time out. If they can achieve a decent grid position in qualifying at Hockenheim, there will be very little risk of the title not going to van der Linde and Rast,” was Hürtgen’s considered opinion in the run-up to the finale. The winner of two races this season intends to bring home the team championship for Oschersleben-based PIXUM Team Schubert along with Baumann and team-mate Max Sandy Knight (25, Germany), plus local driver Jens Klingmann (24, Germany). Things are even closer in the team standings than in the drivers’ championship in the run-up to the two final races. Defending champions Prosperia C Abt Racing led by former ADAC GT Masters champion Christian Abt have an 18-point lead on PIXUM Team Schubert. GW IT Racing Team Schütz Motorsport and Corvette team, Callaway Competition, also

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have a theoretical chance of lifting the title. The Corvette is now the most successful super sports car in the ADAC GT Masters in terms of victories, but the American sports car has a score to settle at Hockenheim; so far, the Corvette has been without a win in Callaway's home race. Daniel Keilwitz (25, Germany) and local hero Andreas Wirth (29, Germany) intend to change that situation in the finale.

Mercedes-Benz team ROWE Racing are hoping for their maiden podium of the season at their home race. The team from the nearby city of Worms are aiming to round off their debut season in the ADAC GT Masters with a champagne shower for the two Mercedes-Benz SLS AMGs and their strong pairings of ex-Formula 1 driver Jaime Alguersuari (24, Spain)/Nico Bastian (24, Germany) and former DTM-driver Maro Engel (29, Germany) and Jan Seyffarth (28, Germany).

Handlos just needs to finish safely in the first race to clinch the Gentlemen title

Porsche may still be embroiled in a title fight in the drivers' standings, but it is already certain that the champion in the Gentlemen class will be driving a Porsche 911 for the third time in a row. Gentlemen championship leader Herbert Handlos (31, TONINO Herberth) has no real title rivals. The Austrian, who has achieved nine victories in class from 14 races, is 88.5 points up on his pursuer and fellow Porsche driver Dominic Jöst (36, Germany / TONINO Herberth). Handlos just needs to cross the line safely in the Porsche 911 in the first race to make the title his.

A new team will be using the Hockenheim finale to get some experience of competing in the ADAC GT Masters. Dupré Motorsport will line up for the first time in the Super Sports Car League with an Audi R8 and Christoph Dupré (35, Germany) and ADAC Sports Foundation protégé Thomas Schöffler (20, Germany) at the wheel. The Saarland-based team is new to the ADAC GT Masters, but enjoyed some success almost 20 years ago in the ADAC GT Cup, lining up with Audi.

EuroV8Series and Renault Clio Cup Central Europe guest

Two guest series will be at Hockenheim, guesting alongside the ADAC GT Masters, the Formel ADAC and the ATS Formel 3 Cup and providing plenty of motor racing action. After the successful EuroV8Series debut during the ADAC GT Masters weekend at the Sachsenring, the spectacular V8 touring cars will contest their championship fixture in Hockenheim. Renault Clio Cup Central Europe, a wee bit smaller but just as exciting, will also deliver some exciting touring car racing; the Renault Clio championship will also be decided in Hockenheim.

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 ADAC GT Masters races will again be broadcast live and in full throughout Germany, Austria and Switzerland during 2014 in 'ran Racing on *kabel eins* (at 11:45 am, Saturday and Sunday).

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 (SK)
29/08/ - 31/08/14	Nürburgring

Press Information

19/09/ - 21/09/14
03/10/ - 05/10/14

Sachsenring
Hockenheimring Baden-Württemberg

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

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