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Championship leader Luca Ludwig contemplating home race: “I’m living the dream”

- Home fixture at the Nürburgring for Luca Ludwig from Bonn
- Interview with the ADAC GT Masters championship leader

Munich: Contemplating his home race at the Nürburgring on the first weekend (14th - 16th August) after the summer break, ADAC GT Masters championship leader Luca Ludwig (26) from Bonn has the reassurance of at least sleeping in his own bed. The son of touring car legend Klaus Ludwig and his Mercedes-Benz SLS AMG co-driver Sebastian Asch (29) from Ammerbuch, Baden-Württemberg, can look back on a fantastic first half to the season. In this interview, the two-time winner in 2015 talks about his home race, the Mercedes duo’s secret of success and the run-in to the end of the season.

As the second half of the season gets underway, you are well clear at the top of the table. No-one can plan for such an eventuality, but what expectations did you have going into the season?

Luca Ludwig: “Even before the season began, I was convinced that we were in with a chance of victory. But obviously, you don’t expect results like we’ve had in the first eight races. Now we know what’s possible, we’re intensely motivated to keep it going.”

Your points lead at the top is comfortable, but there are still eight races to go. Is your mind already turning to the title?

“Yes, I always think of titles. Right from the very first race, that was my target. I think all drivers who compete at the top level have this in mind. The successes this season have changed my attitude and given me extra motivation. I’m currently living the dream, and I hope that we can carry on being equally successful.”

You’re partnering Sebastian Asch for the first time this year, and the combination seems to work perfectly. What is the secret of your success?

“We’re simply in total harmony and have the same approach. There is a great sense of togetherness, something I’ve never experienced before. What you see here is not an ego trip but teamwork. That’s what ultimately makes us so strong.”

What was your personal highlight of the season?

“The first race win with Team Zakspeed, Sebastian and the Mercedes-Benz SLS AMG. I’ve had to wait a long time to get back on the top rung of the podium. Our race in the rain at Spa-Francorchamps was great, and in the most recent one at the Lausitzring, everything was just perfect.”

The victory at Spa was the end of a long lean spell in the ADAC GT Masters. Did you ever begin to doubt yourself at times?

“Yes, of course I had doubts. But during this period in my career, the package simply wasn’t working. There are just so many factors, and then it’s one thing on top of another. Now we have a package we can win with. People tend to look at the individual drivers, but ultimately the package has to be right. I’m just glad that I’ve been able to get back to winning ways this year. Maybe the setbacks are an essential part of finding your way back to the top again.”

The Nürburgring is a home fixture for you and for your team, Zakspeed. What are your expectations from racing on your home circuit?

“We were successful there last year, taking our first pole position and narrowly missing out on the win. On past experience, it’s going to be very tight at the Nürburgring, but even so, we’re

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intending to be somewhere at the front of the field once again. Although we've just had a longish summer break and have to find our rhythm again, that shouldn't take too long."

There are four ADAC GT Masters weekends still to go. Which do you anticipate will be the most difficult for you?

"The races at the Sachsenring on the last weekend in August certainly won't be easy. The past few years have shown that other cars are faster there. It depends on multiple factors, but I expect us to be competitive everywhere."

Who do you regard as your most dangerous opponents in the title fight?

"First and foremost, we're focusing on ourselves. We're in a situation where we don't have to think about others too much. As long as we keep producing the same level of performance as you've seen so far, we're surely going to be hard to beat."

Full programme for fans: eleven races, autograph session and pit walk

There will be plenty of on-track action during the ADAC GT Masters at the Nürburgring on Saturday and Sunday, with no fewer than eleven races to watch. The support series include the ADAC Formula 4, the GT4 European Series making its second appearance, and two more touring car formats in the shape of the DTC of the DMSB/ADAC Procar and the Renault Clio Cup Central Europe. Fans need to make a special note in their diaries of three events over the weekend: on Saturday and Sunday there will be the pit walk commencing at 11.05am – a great opportunity to see the supercars close up; and at the 'Meet the Drivers' autograph session at 3pm in front of the ADAC Hospitality in the paddock, the most successful drivers from Saturday's race will be signing autographs and talking about cars.

Tickets, including access to the paddock, start at 20 euros

Fans who want to experience ADAC GT Masters action live at the track can now purchase tickets in advance. Prices start at 20 euros and include access to the paddock. ADAC members can take advantage of the ADAC preferential scheme. Tickets are available online at www.adac.de/gt-masters and at www.eventim.de, from any ADAC branch office and from more than 20,000 Eventim outlets throughout Europe.

The eight events and 16 races of the 2015 ADAC GT Masters season are to be staged at venues in Germany, Austria, Belgium and the Netherlands. ADAC GT Masters races will again be shown live by ADAC new live-TV exclusive partner SPORT1, who will broadcast all 16 ADAC GT Masters races live and in their entirety in Germany, Austria and Switzerland. Broadcasts will normally begin at 1pm on race weekends.

Race schedule and venues for the 2015 ADAC GT Masters:

24/04 – 26/04/2015	etropolis Motorsport Arena Oschersleben
05/06 – 07/06/2015	Red Bull Ring (A)
19/06 – 21/06/2015	Circuit Spa-Francorchamps (B)
03/07 – 05/07/2015	Lausitzring
14/08 – 16/08/2015	Nürburgring
28/08 – 30/08/2015	Sachsenring
18/09 – 20/09/2015	Circuit Park Zandvoort (NL)
02/10 – 04/10/2015	Hockenheimring Baden-Württemberg

Further information available at www.adac.de/gt-masters

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