

25/04/2014 – No 19

Audi gets 2014 ADAC GT Masters campaign underway with double pole

- Kelvin van der Linde and René Rast claim P1 on the grid in season opener
- 17-year-old van der Linde becomes youngest pole-sitter in ADAC GT Masters history
- Audi and Porsche separated by a mere 0.002 seconds in tight qualifying

The Audi duo of Kelvin van der Linde (17, South Africa) and René Rast (27, Germany) have got their season off to the perfect start at the etropolis Motorsport Arena Oschersleben. The two Audi R8 LMS ultra team-mates secured pole position for both Saturday and Sunday (live coverage on *kabel eins* commencing at 11:45) in the season opener of the Super Sports Car League. Newcomer van der Linde could not have wished for a better start to his ADAC GT Masters career: at just 17 years of age, the South African rookie has become the youngest ever pole-sitter in the history of the series.

Key facts, etropolis Motorsport Arena Oschersleben, Rounds 1 & 2

Length of circuit: 3,694 metres

Weather: 23 degrees, sunny

Pole position for Race 1: Kelvin van der Linde (Audi R8 LMS ultra), 01:28.096 mins

Pole position for Race 2: René Rast (Audi R8 LMS ultra), 01:27.410 mins

Qualifying 1 for Race 1 on Saturday:

Kelvin van der Linde booked himself the front slot on the grid for Saturday's race in a thrilling qualifying session. The Audi driver twice went to the top of the timesheets only to be displaced by Maximilian Buhk (21, Germany) in an H.T.P. Motorsport Mercedes-Benz SLS AMG and then by TONINO Team Herberth's Robert Renauer (29, Germany). On the third run, he then secured pole position, but only by the narrowest of margins: Christian Engelhart (27, Germany) in a GW IT Racing Team // Schütz Motorsport Porsche 911 staged a late attack but had to settle for P2 by the narrowest of margins – just 0.002 seconds. Meanwhile, Renauer and Buhk will be starting Saturday's race from the second row. The two Audi R8s driven by Florian Stoll (32, Germany, kfzteile24 APR Motorsport) and Stefan Wackerbauer (18, Germany, Prosperia C Abt Racing) share Row 3.

"We had a great free practice and the team supplied me with an excellent car for qualifying," said a delighted van der Linde. "René took our Audi to pole position for the second race too, so the prospects for the next two days couldn't be better. Our Audi was strong in today's sessions, even over the distance. If we get through the first lap OK, we should have a really good race."

Qualifying 2 for Race 2 on Sunday:

In qualifying for Sunday's race, van der Linde's co-driver René Rast was not to be outdone, although his pole was a much harder-fought affair. Rast was involved in a tight scrap with fellow Prosperia C Abt driver Nicki Thiim (25, Denmark) before ultimately prevailing. On the final qualifying lap, ex-champion Peter Kox (50, NL) split the Audi duo to park his Blancpain Racing Lamborghini Gallardo on the front row. The second row for Sunday's race consists of Thiim and Dominik Baumann (21, Austria) in his PIXUM Team Schubert BMW Z4. On Row 3 are Jaap van Lagen (37, NL) in a GW IT Racing Team // Schütz Motorsport Porsche 911 and Jens Klingmann (23, Germany) in another PIXUM Team Schubert BMW.

"We can feel well satisfied," said Rast after notching up his maiden pole in the ADAC GT Masters. "During the official tests here, we developed an excellent setup, and I managed to post a very good lap time in qualifying. And a few words of praise for my co-driver Kelvin: he's only

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just turned 17, has hardly got to know the car yet, and yet he still manages to put it on pole. That's quite some achievement."

Challenge for Heinz-Harald Frentzen

Ex-Formula 1 championship runner-up Heinz-Harald Frentzen (46, Germany) faces an uphill struggle starting from 17th on the grid in Sunday's race in his H.T.P. Motorsport Mercedes-Benz SLS AMG. In an attempt to improve his lap time, he spun off track and had to terminate his involvement in qualifying prematurely. Ex-Formula 1 and DTM driver Markus Winkelhock (33, Germany) starts from P9 on Sunday in a Prosperia C Abt Racing Audi R8, while Former DTM star Maro Engel (28, Germany) in a ROWE RACING Mercedes-Benz SLS AMG completed his first ever ADAC GT Masters qualifying session with a P16 placing.

Qualifying 1: Results (Top Five):

1. Kelvin van der Linde (Prosperia C Abt Racing, Audi R8 LMS ultra), 01:28.096 mins
2. Christian Engelhart (GW IT Racing Team // Schütz Motorsport, Porsche 911 GT3 R), +0.002 sec
3. Robert Renauer (TONINO Team Herberth, Porsche 911 GT3 R), +0.048 sec
4. Maximilian Buhk (HTP Motorsport, Mercedes-Benz SLS AMG GT3), +0.126 sec
5. Florian Stoll (kfzteile24 APR Motorsport, Audi R8 LMS ultra), +0.490 sec

Qualifying 2: Results (Top Five):

1. René Rast (Prosperia C Abt Racing, Audi R8 LMS ultra), 01:27.410 mins
2. Peter Kox (Blancpain Racing, Lamborghini Gallardo FL2), +0.057 sec
3. Nicki Thiim (Prosperia C Abt Racing, Audi R8 LMS ultra), +0.085 sec
4. Dominik Baumann (PIXUM Team Schubert, BMW Z4 GT3), +0.110 sec
5. Jaap van Lagen (GW IT Racing Team // Schütz Motorsport, Porsche 911 GT3 R), +0.151 sec

About the ADAC GT Masters

The ADAC GT Masters 2014 season gets underway on the weekend of 25th - 27th April at the etropolis Motorsport Arena Oschersleben. 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.

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 from one of the more than 20,000 Eventim outlets in Europe.

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 (NED)
23.05. – 25/05/14	Lausitzring**
06.06. – 08/06/14	Red Bull Ring (AUT)
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

** subject to FIA/DMSB approval

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

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