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Pole, victory and the championship lead: Sheldon van der Linde reigns supreme on the streets of Nuremberg

- **Reigning DTM champion claims his first success at the Norisring**
- **René Rast finishes runner-up to make it a one-two for Schubert Motorsport**
- **Most exciting DTM ever: five races, five different winners from five manufacturers**

Munich. The wait is over for Sheldon van der Linde: the South African finally claimed his first victory at the Norisring on Saturday in his fifth season in the DTM. The defending champion had previously secured his first pole position at the street circuit in Nuremberg, and so started the race from the front of the field. 69 laps later, he took the chequered flag in his BMW M4 GT3. “It is fantastic to have won at the Norisring for the first time – somewhere I had never made it onto the podium before. The fact that I am now at the top of the table after the poor start in Oschersleben is simply unbelievable,” said the 24-year-old, delighted to have picked up his fifth DTM win in total. His team-mate René Rast (Bregenz) came home second to make it a one-two for Schubert Motorsport. Dennis Olsen (N) climbed eight places in his Porsche 911 GT3 R and crowned his impressive fightback with third place.

Key facts, Norisring, race 5 of 16

- **Length:** 2,200 metres
- **Weather:** 31 degrees, sunny
- **Pole position:** Sheldon van der Linde (Schubert Motorsport, BMW M4 GT3 #1), 48.775 seconds
- **Winner:** Sheldon van der Linde (Schubert Motorsport, BMW M4 GT3 #1)
- **Fastest race lap:** Laurin Heinrich (Team75 Motorsport, Porsche 911 GT3 R #75), 49.492 seconds

Pole-sitter Sheldon van der Linde held off Ayhancan Güven (TR/Porsche 911 GT3 R) superbly at the start to retain the lead of the race. Rast promptly made up four positions and slotted into third, followed by Kelvin van der Linde (ZA) in an Audi R8 LMS GT3 Evo2 and Mirko Bortolotti (I) in a Lamborghini Huracán GT3 Evo2 in fourth and fifth place. The big loser in the early stages was Thomas Preining (A), who had come into the race as championship leader but dropped from second to eighth in his 911. After several collisions in the first half of the race, a number of drivers were handed penalties and the safety car made two appearances. However, the order at the front of the field remained the same – that was all to change after the pit stops though.

Güven came in for a late tyre change, and consequently dropped back to sixth place as he was unable to get enough heat into his Pirelli tyres fast enough. Olsen, on the other hand, benefitted from a lightning-quick stop and rejoined the race in fourth place behind leader Sheldon van der Linde, Rast and Kelvin van der Linde. Lucas Auer was fifth in the Mercedes-AMG GT3. Shortly before the finish, misfortune struck Kelvin van der Linde: the South African could no longer shift gear and had to retire

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from the race on lap 64. That saw Olsen move into the third spot on the podium, with Auer and Güven completing the top five.

Despite picking up a time penalty, Bortolotti managed to finish sixth – the same position he started from. Behind him was Maro Engel (Monaco) in seventh place in his Mercedes-AMG GT3. Audi driver Ricardo Feller (CH) and local favourite Marco Wittmann (Fürth/BMW M4 GT3) followed in eighth and ninth. Laurin Heinrich (Würzburg) produced a sensational race after a puncture on the opening lap, cutting through spectacularly from the back of the field to finish tenth. The young Porsche driver also set the fastest lap time of the race: 49.492 seconds. Preining fell back to 18th after a poor pit stop, but still managed to finish twelfth and score valuable points. The Porsche driver now lies second in the overall standings, behind Sheldon van der Linde. The two racers are level on points, but Sheldon van der Linde's success at the Norisring puts him ahead of Preining, who is still waiting for his first victory.

Race two in Nuremberg begins at 13:30 on Sunday. German free-to-air TV station ProSieben starts its comprehensive coverage from Germany's only street circuit at 13:00. The grid positions for Sunday's race will be decided in qualifying (from 09:20). Like the race, qualifying will also be streamed live at ran.de and on the DTM YouTube channel.

Sheldon van der Linde: "I had a good start and was able to hang onto the lead. The pit stop also went smoothly and I enjoyed driving past the many fans in the concrete grandstands. It is a shame that my brother retired from third place shortly before the finish. But that is motorsport for you."

René Rast: "I climbed from seventh on the grid to finish runner-up. That is a super result. Plus, it was my first DTM podium with BMW and a one-two for Schubert Motorsport. I had a perfect start – gaps opened in front of me and I took full advantage. After that, I was held up a little by Ayhançan Güven. However, I didn't want to force anything and waited for my chance. That came with the pit stop, which was ideally timed and worked perfectly."

Dennis Olsen: "I am very happy with this podium. Like last year, we started from the back of the field and worked our way onto the podium. This time, however, it was incredibly hot in the car. Despite that, I tried to keep my concentration: with the walls and barriers lining the track, any mistake can mean the end of your race. The highlight for me was the great overtaking manoeuvre against Lucas Auer."

Result of race 1, Norisring

1. Sheldon van der Linde (ZA/Schubert Motorsport),
2. René Rast (D/Schubert Motorsport), +1.520 seconds
3. Dennis Olsen (N/Manthey EMA), +2.547 seconds
4. Lucas Auer (A/Mercedes-AMG Team Winward), +4.142 seconds
5. Ayhançan Güven (TR/Team75 Motorsport), +5.042 seconds

The full race result is available at dtm.com/en/results.

Media Information

2023 DTM calendar

26.05. – 28.05.2023	Motorsport Arena Oschersleben
23.06. – 25.06.2023	Circuit Zandvoort / NL
07.07. – 09.07.2023	Norising
04.08. – 06.08.2023	Nürburgring
18.08. – 20.08.2023	DEKRA Lausitzring
08.09. – 10.09.2023	Sachsenring
22.09. – 24.09.2023	Red Bull Ring / A
20.10. – 22.10.2023	Hockenheimring Baden-Württemberg

Media Contact

ADAC e.V.

Oliver Runschke, T +49 89 76 76 69 65, E-mail oliver.runschke@adac.de

Kay-Oliver Langendorff, T +49 89 76 76 69 36, E-mail kay.langendorff@adac.de

dtm.com