

9.9.2023

Victory for Luca Stolz, Thomas Preining returns to the top of the table

- Mercedes-AMG driver Stolz comfortably claims his first win of the season
- Thomas Preining regains the championship lead after finishing runner-up
- Fans at the Sachsenring on Saturday witness the first DTM race there for 21 years

Hohenstein-Ernstthal. A serene Luca Stolz (Brachbach) won the first DTM race for 21 years at the Sachsenring on Saturday. After 45 laps of racing, the Mercedes-AMG driver took the chequered flag with a lead of 2.688 seconds to claim his second victory in the DTM. "First pole position, then a lights-to-flag victory. This has been a perfect day. I am mega pleased with my second DTM win, as the Sachsenring is one of the highlights of the DTM calendar for me. The lead may have made it look easy from the outside, but I still had to remain focussed and could not afford any mistakes," said the 28-year-old from Mercedes-AMG Team HRT. Thomas Preining (A) was runner-up in his Porsche 911 GT3 R, and consequently regained the lead in the championship. Fellow Porsche driver Ayhancan Güven (TR) from Team75 Motorsport finished third to claim his first podium in the DTM and also set the fastest lap of the race.

Key facts, Sachsenring, race 11 of 16

- **Circuit length:** 3,645 metres
- **Weather:** 29 degrees Celsius, sunny
- **Pole position:** Luca Stolz (Mercedes-AMG Team HRT, Mercedes-AMG GT3 #4), 1:17.633 minutes
- **Winner:** Luca Stolz (Mercedes-AMG Team HRT, Mercedes-AMG GT3 #4)
- **Fastest lap:** Ayhancan Güven (Team75 Motorsport, Porsche 911 GT3 R #24), 1:19.284 minutes

Spectators witnessed a frantic start to the race on the narrow track on Saturday afternoon. The drivers came through the first tight right-hander wheel to wheel, resulting in several contacts. Amidst all this, pole-sitter Stolz was immediately able to pull clear at the front. Within a matter of a few laps, he had extended his lead to more than three seconds over Güven, Preining, Ferrari driver Jack Aitken (GB) and Mirko Bortolotti (I), who came into the race as championship leader in his Lamborghini Huracán GT3 Evo2. Even after a short safety car period on lap seven, to clear car parts off the track, the Mercedes-AMG driver stayed out in front. Aitken, on the other hand, was forced to retire with a broken radiator after a heavy contact in the early stages of the race.

When the pit stop window opened after 20 minutes, Stolz and Preining were the first in to change their Pirelli tyres. This tactic paid dividends. Stolz remained out in front and passed Güven, who came in for his new set of tyres one lap later and rejoined the race in third place. The big loser in the round of pit stops was Bortolotti: running fourth at the time, the Italian was given a penalty for an infringement in the pit lane and consequently fell back to ninth place. Team-mates Ricardo Feller (CH) and Kelvin van der Linde (ZA) were the beneficiaries of Bortolotti's misfortune. The two Abt Sportsline drivers ended Saturday's race at the Sachsenring in fourth and fifth place in their Audi R8 LMS GT3 Evo2.

Media Information

Reigning DTM champion Sheldon van der Linde (ZA) steered his BMW M4 GT3 to sixth place. Porsche driver Dennis Olsen (N) came seventh, followed by René Rast (Bregenz), who climbed from 18th on the grid to finish eighth in the second Schubert Motorsport BMW. Bortolotti was ninth, ahead of Thierry Vermeulen (NL) in a Ferrari 296 GT3. The Emil Frey Racing driver underlined his fine form with his fifth top-ten finish in a row. Preining leads the overall standings with 151 points, ahead of Bortolotti (145 points) and Feller (132 points).

Race two at the Sachsenring gets underway at 13:30 on Sunday. German free-to-air TV station ProSieben kicks off its coverage at 13:00. The grid positions for Sunday's race will be decided in qualifying, which starts at 09:05 and, like the race, will be streamed live at ran.de and on the DTM's YouTube channel. The DTM is broadcast live or replayed in full in more than 150 territories around the world.

Thomas Preining: "The team made the right decision to come in early and switch to new tyres. Thanks to the good tactics, we were able to take second place. Another podium and back at the top of the table, that is a super result. Congratulations to Luca Stolz. He was extremely fast, particularly on cold tyres at the start of the race and after the pit stop."

Ayhancan Güven: "It felt mega, after some less successful races recently, to be back among the front-runners and finally make it onto the DTM podium. I could see Ricardo Feller and Kelvin van der Linde in my mirror at the end of the race. But I was determined to make it onto the podium, and am glad it worked out."

Result of race 1 at the Sachsenring

1. Luca Stolz (D/Mercedes-AMG Team HRT)
2. Thomas Preining (A/Manthey EMA), +2.688 seconds
3. Ayhancan Güven (TR/Team75 Motorsport), +3.630 seconds
4. Ricardo Feller (CH/Abt Sportsline), +10.598 seconds
5. Kelvin van der Linde (ZA/Abt Sportsline), +10.867 seconds

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

2023 DTM calendar

26.05. – 28.05.2023	Motorsport Arena Oschersleben
23.06. – 25.06.2023	Circuit Zandvoort / NL
07.07. – 09.07.2023	Norisring
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

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