

07.06.2025

Güven shows nerves of steel in Zandvoort to claim second DTM win

- **Porsche driver impresses in challenging weather conditions**
- **Bold strategy: Thiim and Paul start on slicks and finish on the podium**
- **Spectators enjoy spectacular fifth race of the season**

Zandvoort. Ayhan Güven (TR/Manthey EMA) kept a cool head at the wheel of his Porsche 911 GT3 R in a turbulent fifth race of the season, which took place in unsettled weather conditions. The rapid Turk was flawless in the wet and the dry in Zandvoort, the Netherlands. After 34 laps of racing on Saturday, Güven crossed the finish line with a slender 0.3-second lead over Lamborghini driver Nicki Thiim to claim his second victory in the DTM. "What an unbelievable race! To win after a battle with Nicki Thiim feels special to me. I was a huge fan of his as a kid," said Güven. Lamborghini racers Nicki Thiim (DK/Abt Sportsline) and Maximilian Paul (Dresden/Paul Motorsport) followed in second and third place.

Key facts, Circuit Zandvoort, Zandvoort, race 5 of 16

- **Circuit length:** 4,259 metres
- **Weather:** Unsettled
- **Pole position:** Jordan Pepper (TGI Team Lamborghini by GRT, Lamborghini Huracán GT3 Evo2 #63), 1:42.194 minutes
- **Winner:** Ayhan Güven (Manthey EMA, Porsche 911 GT3 R #90)
- **Fastest lap:** Ayhan Güven (Manthey EMA, Porsche 911 GT3 R #90), 1:34.960 minutes

Conditions were tough at the start of the race: the rain may have stopped, but race five of the season began on a wet track. Güven immediately climbed from fifth to third place on lap one in his Porsche 911 GT3 R – behind pole-sitter Jordan Pepper (ZA) and Luca Engstler (Kempton/both TGI Team Lamborghini by GRT) in a Lamborghini Huracán GT3 Evo2.

As the race progressed, the asphalt started to dry out. Güven was one of the first to come in for his mandatory pit stops, during which he switched to slicks. Shortly thereafter, the pit lane became a scene of great hectic, as many drivers came in for new tyres at the same time. Pepper, who had opened a big lead at the front of the race by this point, lost over 13 seconds in the chaos, and then dropped back through the field over the remainder of the race.

In contrast, Thiim, benefitted from a late tyre change, rejoining the race at the Formula 1 circuit near Amsterdam as the new leader. However, whilst still on cold tyres he was unable to defend his lead against the onrushing Güven. Shortly before the end of the race, the safety car was called upon after an incident involving BMW driver René Rast (Bregenz/Schubert Motorsport). Güven defended his lead at the restart and went on to take the chequered flag ahead of the three Lamborghini of Thiim, Paul and Engstler. Paul claimed the first DTM podium for his family team Paul Motorsport. Lucas Auer (A/Mercedes-AMG Team Landgraf) used his experience to climb into fifth place in the Mercedes-AMG, and consequently held onto his lead at the top of the table.

Local favourite Morris Schuring (NL) was sixth in front of his home crowd in the 911 run by the Manthey Junior Team. Marco Wittmann (Fürth/Schubert Motorsport) crossed the finish line just 0.017 seconds later as the best-placed BMW driver, having produced an impressive fightback and gained 13 positions. Pole-sitter Pepper had to settle for eighth place, his team-mate Mirko Bortolotti (I/Abt Sportsline) was ninth. Maro Engel (Monaco/Mercedes-AMG Team Winward Racing) dropped back from second to tenth place after a tough race in his Mercedes-AMG GT3.

Ayhancan Güven: "We switched to slicks early on, which was key to the win. Some drivers only came in later during a short shower, and then had issues getting their tyres up to the right temperature quickly."

Nicki Thiim: "Opting for slicks from the start was a big risk. However, I realised that it was the right tactic after just a few laps. Without the safety car phase, we could have got the win. Despite this, I am incredibly proud to have claimed the first DTM podium in the new Lamborghini era at Abt Sportsline."

Maximilian Paul: "As a family team, we have worked for this moment for a long time. The podium feels awesome. I am sure we could have done even better. We lost some time during the tyre change, but I did not want to take too much of a risk turning into the pits in these challenging conditions."

Result of race five of the season at Circuit Zandvoort

1. Ayhancan Güven (TR/Manthey EMA)
2. Nicki Thiim (DK/Abt Sportsline), +0.323 seconds
3. Maximilian Paul (D/Paul Motorsport), +4.182 seconds
4. Luca Engstler (D/TGI Team Lamborghini by GRT), +4.726 seconds
5. Lucas Auer (A/Mercedes-AMG Team Landgraf), +5.861 seconds

The full result can be found at dtm.com/en/results.

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