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Win number three at the Norisring - Preining beats Ferrari duo

- **Porsche driver shines on the track, his mechanics impress in the pit lane**
- **Aitken and Vermeulen finish second and third in the Ferrari**
- **Total attendance for round four of the DTM in Nuremberg: 112,000**

Nuremberg. Aggressive and tactically smart: Thomas Preining (A/Manthey EMA) produced a strong performance on Sunday to claim his third DTM victory at the Norisring. The Porsche works driver piled on the pressure from the start and was rewarded for some spectacular overtaking manoeuvres with his first win of the season. After finishing runner-up in the Saturday race, the 2023 champion now climbs to second place in the overall standings. "We want to challenge for the title, that has been our clear goal since race one. After a bumpy start to the season, we have bounced back emphatically with this victory and shown that we are made of sterner stuff. Jack Aitken gifted me nothing, our battle was great entertainment for the many fans," said Preining. Jack Aitken (GB/Emil Frey Racing) crossed the finish line in his Ferrari 296 GT3 in second place, just 1.6 seconds after Preining. His team-mate Thierry Vermeulen (NL) was third in an eventful race, and was presented with his trophy by eight-time world rally champion Sébastien Ogier.

Key facts, Norisring, Nuremberg, race 8 of 16

- **Circuit length:** 2,126 metres
- **Weather:** Overcast, 28 degrees
- **Pole position:** Thierry Vermeulen (Ferrari 296 GT3, Emil Frey Racing #69), 48.666 seconds
- **Winner:** Thomas Preining (Manthey EMA, Porsche 911 GT3 R #91)
- **Fastest lap:** Thomas Preining (Manthey EMA, Porsche 911 GT3 R #91), 49.141 seconds

The start of race eight of the season, which took place on Sunday afternoon at the Norisring, saw Preining immediately gain three positions and slot in behind pole-sitter Vermeulen and Aitken in third place. Even before the end of lap one, the race had to be suspended due to a collision involving multiple cars at the back of the field. The race resumed roughly half an hour later with Arjun Maini (IND/HRT Ford Performance) in a Ford Mustang GT3 and Ben Green (GB) in the third Emil Frey Racing Ferrari running fourth and fifth.

After the first mandatory pit stop, Vermeulen, who had switched to the Pirelli slicks earlier than his two rivals at the front of the field, dropped back to third. The leading pair of Aitken and Preining then produced a spectacular battle for the lead. However, the Brit was initially able to fend off any attacks. The second tyre change proved to be the decisive point: Preining's team performed a fast stop, sending him back out onto the track just behind Aitken. The Austrian wasted little time in passing Aitken, and went on to take the chequered flag after 64 laps of racing. Behind Aitken and Vermeulen, Mercedes-AMG driver Maro Engel (Monaco/Mercedes-AMG Team Winward Racing) took fourth place after a clever tactical display. He was followed home in fifth by India's Maini, who claimed the best DTM result so far for the new Ford Mustang GT3.

Green achieved his best result of the season in sixth place, ahead of René Rast (Bregenz/Schubert Motorsport) in his BMW M4 GT3 Evo. Lucas Auer (A/Mercedes-AMG Team Landgraf) climbed six places after an impressive fightback in his Mercedes-AMG GT3. Eight place was good enough for him to defend his championship lead ahead of his compatriot Preining. Saturday's winner Jordan Pepper (ZA/TGI Team Lamborghini by GRT) had to settle for ninth place in a Lamborghini Huracán GT3 Evo2, meaning he ends the first half of the season in third place in the table. Tenth place went to Jules Gounon (F) from Mercedes-AMG Team Mann-Filter.

Jack Aitken: "The battle for the lead with Thomas Preining was a really heated one. I had good speed, but Thomas was always pretty close to me. Unfortunately, after the second pit stop I was unable to hold him off on cold tyres. I would have liked to have won, but second place is still a super result."

Thierry Vermeulen: "DTM races at the Norisring are always rather special. Compared to last year, we have taken a big step forward. Despite this, I am not really happy with third place. When you start from pole, the goal is obviously to win."

Result of race eight of the season at the Norisring

1. Thomas Preining (A/Manthey EMA)
2. Jack Aitken (GB/Emil Frey Racing), +1.592 seconds
3. Thierry Vermeulen (NL/Emil Frey Racing), +5.209 seconds
4. Maro Engel (D/Mercedes-AMG Team Winward Racing), +9.851 seconds
5. Arjun Maini (IND/HRT Ford Performance), +11.906 seconds

All results are available at [dtm.com/en/results](https://www.dtm.com/en/results).

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