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Rain king Preining wins – DTM title race set for mega showdown

- **Porsche driver climbs six places in the table - Auer defends lead in championship**
- **Second place for impressive Feller, Schuring claims his first DTM podium**
- **13 points separate the top seven ahead of the final race of the season**
- **Preining and Güven wrap up the Team title for Manthey EMA**

Hockenheim. DTM madness in the Hockenheim rain: Porsche driver Thomas Preining (A/Manthey EMA) won Saturday's penultimate race of the season with a lead of almost 17 seconds. That catapulted the 2023 champion from eighth in the table to second place, giving him a good chance of clinching the DTM title for a second time on Sunday. "A super day for us! That win means I am right back in the thick of the title race. This is exactly what we have been working toward. However, the job is not yet done. We want to be champions and need another top result on Sunday," said Preining, whose success also helped Manthey EMA to secure the Team title with one race still to come. Second place went to Ricardo Feller (CH/Land-Motorsport) in an Audi R8 LMS GT3 Evo2. Rookie Morris Schuring (NL/Manthey Junior Team) came home third and made it onto the podium for the first time in his DTM career. It was a case of damage limitation for championship leader Lucas Auer (A/Mercedes-AMG Team Landgraf). The Austrian climbed five places to finish twelve. That was enough to ensure he remains at the top of the table with 175 points, ahead of Preining (172 points). The stage is now set for an ultimate showdown in Sunday's race: eight drivers could still get their hands on the champion's trophy.

Key facts, Hockenheimring, Hockenheim, race 15 of 16

- **Circuit length:** 4,574 metres
- **Weather:** 16 degrees, rain
- **Pole position:** Ben Green (Emil Frey Racing, Ferrari 296 GT3 #10), 1:36.759 minutes
- **Winner:** Thomas Preining (Manthey EMA, Porsche 911 GT3 R #91)
- **Fastest lap:** Thomas Preining (Manthey EMA, Porsche 911 GT3 R #91), 1:47.592 minutes

Heavy rain made for difficult conditions at the start of the penultimate race of the season at the Hockenheimring. Lap one saw pole-sitter Ben Green (GB/Emil Frey Racing) concede the lead to his team-mate Jack Aitken (GB) after a mistake under braking. Shortly after, he was also

powerless to prevent Preining from passing him. The Austrian then took full advantage of his strength and that of the 911 on a wet track. He pulled off a skilful manoeuvre on lap eight to take the lead, and then set fast lap times as he pulled clear of the opposition. Feller and Schuring also passed Green, who found himself in freefall. Jordan Pepper (ZA/TGI Team Lamborghini by GRT) also endured a disappointing race: the Lamborghini racer was forced out of the race on lap four after a collision with another car. However, despite dropping to sixth place in the table, he is still among the drivers in with a shout of winning the title.

Preining was the last driver to come in for his mandatory pit stop, and he returned to the track with a lead of roughly ten seconds over Aitken. The 27-year-old continued to dominate from the front in the closing stages and, after 32 laps of racing, took the chequered flag and the race win. Aitken, on the other hand, was unable to match the pace of the front-runners after the tyre change, and was passed by several rivals. The final order behind Preining was as follows: Feller, Schuring, Maro Engel (Monaco/Mercedes-AMG Team Winward Racing), Ayhan Güven (TR/Manthey EMA) and Aitken. The battle between Schuring and Feller was particularly spectacular: the Porsche youngster attacked the Swiss driver on the final lap, but Feller was ultimately able to hold onto second place by a mere 0.11 seconds.

Behind sixth-placed Aitken was René Rast (Bregenz/Schubert Motorsport) in seventh place in a BMW M4 GT3 Evo. The three-time DTM champion is third in the overall standings, still well-placed ahead of tomorrow's final race. Nicki Thiim (DK/Abt Sportsline) produced an impressive display in the Lamborghini Huracán GT3 Evo2 to finish eighth, ahead of fellow Lamborghini driver Luca Engstler (Kempten/TGI Team Lamborghini by GRT) in ninth place. Green completed the top ten.

Ricardo Feller: "We want to end the DTM season on a high, and what better way to do that than with a podium at the finale. The key to finishing second was primarily to avoid taking any unnecessary risks in these difficult conditions. I am proud to achieve a result like this, even carrying the 20 kilos of success ballast from the Red Bull Ring."

Morris Schuring: "A podium in the DTM has been my big goal since the start of the season. As such, it is particularly nice to have finally achieved that goal at the finale. When battling with Jack Aitken, I was aware that I was racing against a title contender. I did not want to risk taking him out, so I remained patient and then overtook him in front of the fans in the Sachskurve. One lap more and I would probably also have overtaken Ricardo Feller."

Media Information



Result of race 15 of the season at the Hockenheimring

1. Thomas Preining (A/Manthey EMA)
2. Ricardo Feller (CH/Land-Motorsport), +16.899 seconds
3. Morris Schuring (NL/Manthey Junior Team), +17.009 seconds
4. Maro Engel (D/Mercedes-AMG Team Winward Racing), +21.871 seconds
5. Ayhan Güven (TR/Manthey EMA), +22.522 seconds

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

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