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DTM – Stars and stories from Circuit Zandvoort

Zandvoort. Sunshine, full stands, and plenty of stories away from the track: There was a lot going on over the DTM weekend in Zandvoort both on and off the dune circuit. Gaming star MontanaBlack swung by the DTM. Former professional road cyclist Fabian Wegmann started the field off in the first race, while the DTM stars took part in the BWT Best Water charity run before the racing got underway. Local hero Thierry Vermeulen also impressed at his home race with a podium finish and a garage packed with fans.

MontanaBlack makes pit stop in Zandvoort

Celebrity guest in the paddock: Gaming star MontanaBlack – better known as “Monte” – cycled to Zandvoort for the DTM event. The streamer, who has millions of followers on Twitch and YouTube, is one of Germany’s most famous internet stars. He came to Zandvoort to catch up with Max Reis, who drives for Haupt Racing Team in the ADAC GT Masters. MontanaBlack streamed his DTM visit live on Twitch for his nearly six million followers and was thrilled: “What an awesome atmosphere! I’ve been to Zandvoort before and always really enjoy it here. Combined with the DTM it’s fantastic. You can’t beat it in this weather – a bratwurst and a beer taste even better.”

DTM stars compete in BWT Best Water Run

The wheels stood still at Circuit Zandvoort on Thursday evening – while DTM drivers, media representatives, team staff, and organisers laced up their running shoes instead. The BWT Best Water Run was held on the 4.259-kilometre racetrack; DTM partner BWT donated six euros for every runner who took part. The total funds raised will go to b.waterMISSION, who have been supporting water well projects in Africa for many years. Aston Martin driver Nicki Thiim was one of the first DTM drivers to cross the finish line: “That was crazy and really hard work in the heat. I was running a bit low on fuel towards the end. But the conditions were great and it’s always worth running for a good cause.” It was a similar story for Luca Engstler: “After the demanding past few weeks, including the Nürburgring 24 Hours, I didn’t quite have the pace, but things will be different in the race car. It’s fantastic that so many runners took part in the charity run.”

Former professional road cyclist Wegmann shows DTM drivers the way

Fabian Wegmann, three-time German champion in road racing, attended his first DTM event in Zandvoort and was blown away by the atmosphere. “My first impressions are fantastic, especially with this incredible weather. As a former professional cyclist I love the speed, even though I had to work pretty hard on the pedals compared to the racing drivers, who are obviously much faster,” said the two-wheel expert. Then he got involved in the action: He held up the “Drivers start your engines” sign to get the first race underway. Wegmann is sports director

of A.S.O. Germany, who, together with the ADAC, host cycling events such as ADAC Cyclassics Hamburg.

Sebastian Wheldon following in his father Dan's footsteps

The DTM's attractive supporting programme featured two FIA Formula Regional European Championship races. One of the strongest drivers was Sebastian Wheldon, who won Saturday's race. The 17-year-old has racing in his blood: His father Dan Wheldon was one of the most successful drivers of his generation. The Brit won the IndyCar Series in 2005 and the legendary Indianapolis 500 in 2005 and 2011. Dan Wheldon was killed in a tragic accident in 2011. His son is continuing the family legacy and proved at the Formula 1 track in Zandvoort that he is one of the most promising young drivers.

Third on the podium, winner in the hearts of the fans: Vermeulen wows Zandvoort

Thierry Vermeulen picked up points in both of his DTM home races in Zandvoort: The local hero from Venlo brought home a strong third place and was thrilled by the massive support from the Dutch fans. During the pit walk, the spectators flocked to his garage to see him and his Ferrari. "It's amazing to have my home race here in Zandvoort," said Vermeulen. "The track is always something special for every driver, but with all the Dutch fans in the stands it feels extra special for me. What I really love is how close the fans are to us, like in the pit lane or during the pit walk. GT racing is continuing to grow in the Netherlands, and it's great to see the passion here growing year after year."

b.waterMISSION in the spotlight at the dune circuit

As part of the "Driving Change" initiative, the ADAC and BWT are leading the way in sustainable progress in motorsport. And all eyes were on b.waterMISSION at the DTM weekend in Zandvoort – a water well project in Africa for access to safe, clean drinking water. The BWT Race Lap Award enjoys close ties with the project: For every race lap completed as part of the DTM, BWT and the ADAC are donating four euros to support b.waterMISSION. Meaning that each lap directly contributes to expanding global access to clean drinking water.

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