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Ben Dörr gives Britain something to cheer about: Historic DTM win for McLaren

- **Dörr claims his first DTM victory at the Dekra Lausitzring**
- **Mapelli makes his first appearance on the podium, first Porsche podium for Feller**
- **Mercedes-AMG driver Lucas Auer reclaims the championship lead**

Klettwitz. A perfect strategy, a courageous tyre selection, and the necessary luck helped Ben Dörr (Butzbach/Dörr Motorsport) claim his first DTM victory in Saturday's race at the Dekra Lausitzring. The 21-year-old's win was also the historic first DTM success for McLaren, and means there have now been five different winners in the first five races of the season. "This win is very special for me! I would obviously rather have celebrated this success on the podium, but it is still an incredible moment for me. Now in our third year in the DTM, our goal was to compete at the very front of the field. We have done that, and want to continue to do so," said Dörr. Despite the track being wet after a downpour before the start, he started the race from tenth place on Pirelli slicks. In doing so, he laid the foundation for his win. The youngster initially took the chequered flag in second place, behind Lamborghini driver Marco Mapelli (I/Red Bull Team Abt). However, the Italian was subsequently penalised for an offence during a yellow phase, leaving Dörr to inherit the victory. Ricardo Feller (CH/Manthey) celebrated his first Porsche podium in the DTM. Like Mapelli, the Swiss was handed a 15-second penalty after the race, but had a big enough advantage to remain third.

Key facts, Dekra Lausitzring, Klettwitz, race 5 of 16

- **Circuit length:** 3,478 metres
- **Weather:** 29 degrees, unsettled
- **Pole position:** Nicki Thiim (Comtoyou Racing, Aston Martin Vantage GT3 #7), 1:19.463 minutes
- **Winner:** Ben Dörr (Dörr Motorsport, McLaren 720S GT3 Evo #25)
- **Fastest lap:** Maro Engel (Mercedes-AMG Team Ravenol, Mercedes-AMG GT3 #80), 1:20.694 minutes

Shortly before the start of race five of the DTM season, there was a heavy downpour at the Lausitzring. However, this had stopped by the start of Saturday afternoon's race. Despite this, most teams opted to fit the Pirelli wet-weather tyre. A number of drivers, including pole-sitter Nicki Thiim (DK/Comtoyou Racing), Dörr, Mapelli, Feller and Marco Wittmann (Fürth/Schubert Motorsport) took a chance on slicks. This meant they were initially unable to match the pace of the rest of the field. However, this changed as the race progressed and the asphalt became

increasingly dry. Thiim retook the lead shortly before the pit stop window, while Dörr found himself in sixth place at this point.

Incidents came thick and fast after that. When Timo Glock (Kreuzlingen/Dörr Motorsport) rolled to a stop with a technical issue on his McLaren 720S GT3 Evo, Thiim pulled into the pits on lap 13 for his tyre change. One lap later, the trio of Mapelli, Dörr and Feller came in, just seconds before a Full Course Yellow applied the brakes to the entire field. Pit stops during the yellow phase allowed the three drivers to open a lead of more than 20 seconds over Thiim. The order then remained unchanged until the finish. As Mapelli and Feller had exceeded the 80 km/h limit during the yellow phase, they were both given a time penalty after the race, which resulted in Dörr being named the winner. Mapelli and Feller followed in second and third place. "That was a really good race for us," said Feller. "I am delighted with my first DTM podium for Porsche and Manthey. In the first few laps, it was just about keeping the car on the track. Our game plan worked perfectly, and we had a super pit stop. I would obviously have liked to have challenged for the win, but I simply did not have the pace to do so."

Thiim crossed the finish line at the Lausitzring in fourth place. Wittmann, who also started on slicks, produced an impressive fightback and climbed from 18th to fifth place. Lucas Auer (A/Mercedes-AMG Team Landgraf) returned to the top of the table after finishing sixth. Jules Gounon (F/Mercedes-AMG Team Mann-Filter) ended race five of the season in seventh place, Matteo Cairoli (I) followed in eighth place in the Ferrari 296 GT3 Evo of Emil Frey Racing. Ford driver Arjun Maini (IND/HRT Ford Performance) took ninth place ahead of Kelvin van der Linde (ZA/Schubert Motorsport) in a BMW M4 GT3 Evo.

Result of race 5 of the season at the Dekra Lausitzring

1. Ben Dörr (D/Dörr Motorsport)
2. Marco Mapelli (I/Red Bull Team Abt), +13.136 seconds
3. Ricardo Feller (CH/Manthey), +17.732 seconds
4. Nicki Thiim (DK/Comtoyou Racing), +23.435 seconds
5. Marco Wittmann (D/Schubert Motorsport), +24.749 seconds

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

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