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DTM – Stars and Stories from Oschersleben

Oschersleben. Prominent visitors and fascinating stories: there was plenty going on away from the track during the DTM weekend at Motorsport Arena Oschersleben. Maxime Estève, a new addition to Bundesliga football club RB Leipzig, dropped into the paddock while former German international Thorsten Frings enjoyed the DTM atmosphere with his sons. Fans enjoyed a first during the new podium ceremony, with the drivers and cars in the paddock at the bottom of the Dekra Fan Tower - the trophy was presented to the winner by Sven Schultze, Minister-President of Saxony-Anhalt.

Minister-President Sven Schulze presents winner's trophy

Following Markus Söder at the Norisring, the DTM was visited by another state premier in Oschersleben. Sven Schulze, Minister-President of the state of Saxony-Anhalt, was impressed by the fantastic atmosphere at the Motorsport Arena, and was then called into action himself in the afternoon. After Sunday's DTM race, Schulze and Dr. Lydia Hüskens (Minister for Infrastructure and Digital Affairs for the state of Saxony-Anhalt) presented the winner's trophy to Mirko Bortolotti.

RB Leipzig newcomer Maxime Estève in the Paddock

Maxime Estève, an exciting new addition at Bundesliga football club RB Leipzig, was given his first taste of the DTM on Sunday. The French central defender strolled through the paddock and marvelled at the DTM race cars. "The DTM was a totally new and very impressive experience for me. Taking a look behind the scenes at Schubert Motorsport was particularly exciting for me. I spoke to Kelvin van der Linde before the start, and found out what goes through his head before a race. There were definitely parallels with us footballers. I really enjoyed the day and the special atmosphere," said Estève, who sent the DTM field into race ten of the season on Sunday with the "Drivers start your engines" sign.

Football international Frings takes his family to the DTM

Thorsten Frings was among the visitors to the DTM in Oschersleben. The former 'midfield enforcer' played for Bremen, Dortmund and FC Bayern Munich in the Bundesliga, and brought his two sons to the circuit in the Börde region. "Both my sons are massive fans and excited to be here," revealed Frings, who was bitten by the DTM bug. "The speed of the DTM, the passion of the fans, and the proximity to the drivers are something very special. It is enough to give you goosebumps."

New format: DTM podium ceremony in the heart of the paddock

On Saturday, visitors experienced a first at Motorsport Arena Oschersleben: the top three in race nine of the DTM season drove their cars to the presentation ceremony next to the Dekra Fan Tower. The winners were presented with their trophies on the podium in the heart of the

paddock, surrounded by many spectators. "It is cool to have so many fans near the podium," said Thomas Preining. And Bortolotti added: "The more spectators we have around the podium, the better the atmosphere."

Tom Kalender – Full speed ahead for reading

In Oschersleben, Tom Kalender's Mercedes-AMG GT3 was adorned with a sticker promoting the German Children's Book Prize. "Publishers and authors submit current children's books. A list of ten titles is then put together, and revealed on 3rd August. The DTM in Oschersleben is visited by many families, making it the perfect platform, on which to raise awareness of the German Children's Book Prize," explained Jasmin Schröter from the company Kolibri360, which donated the prize and presents it every year. The ten selected books are then read and judged by 32 children. The top three books are honoured in Stuttgart on 3rd October, and the Children's Book Prize is endowed with a total of € 100,000. "When I was a child, my mother read me books from the Disney Cars films. That is partly responsible for my passion for motorsport," said Kalender.

BMW driver Kelvin van der Linde enjoys Schubert home outing

Kelvin van der Linde was back at the wheel of his BMW M4 GT3 Evo in Oschersleben, following his big crash at the Norisring. At the home event of his Schubert Motorsport team, the South African enjoyed the encouragement he received from fans, signed autographs in the paddock, and posed for selfies with spectators. "I find this huge support in the DTM fantastic!", said van der Linde. "I am pleased every time I am able to make these great fans happy with autographs and selfies. It was nice to experience how much encouragement I received here in Oschersleben after my crash at the Norisring."

Change of perspective for GT4 driver Schreyer on the Track Safari

In Oschersleben, buses loaded with visitors headed out for the Track Safari on Friday afternoon. Maximilian Schreyer, who starts in ADAC GT4 Germany, explained the features of the Börde circuit to fans, while the DTM cars hurtled past at high speed. And the Porsche was impressed by the concept: "To witness the difference in speed is an unbelievable experience. Furthermore, I only know the circuit from lower down, while you get to see the track from above in the bus. That change of perspective gives you a totally different feel for the circuit."

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