



Nürburgring 24 Hours

**BMW Sports Trophy Teams celebrate one-two-three-four at the qualifying race for Nürburgring 24 Hours.**

Nürburgring (DE), 6<sup>th</sup> April 2014. The BMW Sports Trophy Teams Marc VDS and Schubert finished the qualifying race for the Nürburgring 24 Hours (DE) in the top four spots. Victory went to Maxime Martin (BE), Marco Wittmann (DE) and Uwe Alzen (DE). The trio in the number 25 BMW Z4 GT3 relegated the car of BMW Sports Trophy Team Schubert, driven by Jens Klingmann (DE), Dominik Baumann (AT) and Claudia Hürtgen (DE), into second place. Their team-mates, Dirk Werner (DE), Dirk Müller (DE), Lucas Luhr (DE) and Alexander Sims (GB), in the number 19 BMW Z4 GT3 finished third. The second vehicle from BMW Sports Trophy Team Marc VDS with Bas Leinders (BE), Markus Palttala (FI), Nick Catsburg (NL) and Dirk Adorf (DE) rounded off the one-two-three-four result perfectly after six hours.

Starting from 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> on the grid, the BMW Z4 GT3s drove consistent lap times throughout the race, and didn't show any signs of technical problems. With a clever strategy and their rivals suffering various problems, the BMW teams kept moving up through the field and were able to spend the last hour of the race focussing on bringing the cars home. All four BMW Z4 GT3s celebrated a world debut on Saturday when they were the first to be kitted out with the innovative BMW laser light technology.

Alexander Mies (DE) celebrated his debut as a BMW Junior in the number 25 BMW M235i Racing. He shared the BMW Motorsport car with former MotoGP rider Alex Hofmann (DE) and the British specialist racing journalist Jethro Bovingdon (GB). The trio finished the race an excellent 17<sup>th</sup> overall.

**Maxime Martin (1<sup>st</sup> place, Number 25 BMW Z4 GT3, BMW Sports Trophy Team Marc VDS):**

"It's a great result for us, which we couldn't necessarily expect after qualifying. My team-mates, Marco and Uwe, did a fantastic job."

**Jens Klingmann (2<sup>nd</sup> place, Number 20 BMW Z4 GT3, BMW Sports Trophy Team Schubert):**

"We concentrated on a set-up that worked better in the race than in qualifying. In qualifying we saw we had a lot of work to do. But we were consistent and reliable, and that's what counts on the Nordschleife. We were also lucky, of course, that our rivals had to contend with problems."

**Dirk Werner (3<sup>rd</sup> place, Number 19 BMW Z4 GT3, BMW Sports Trophy Team Schubert):**

"It was an important test for us. Being able to drive so many laps with relatively little traffic on the track, and to get into the swing of things was invaluable with regard to the 24-hour race. The car held up very well, but it's quite difficult to say what this result means. So many top cars had problems or didn't start with their best drivers. But the most important thing is that we qualified in the top ten and are, therefore, in the top 30 qualifying in June."



**Bas Leinders (4<sup>th</sup> place, Number 26 BMW Z4 GT3, BMW Sports Trophy Team Marc VDS):**

"We knew from the start that we don't currently have the quickest vehicle in the field, but it was very reliable. We only had a few problems with the tyres. Our strength is that we have four cars with an almost identical squad of drivers."

**Alex Hofmann (17<sup>th</sup> place, Number 235 BMW M235i Racing, BMW Motorsport):**

"It was a fantastic weekend with a great car. We were able to complete a lot of testing laps with the vehicle without any major problems, and also get to know each other as a team very well. It was great to see how we consistently improved throughout the weekend. We couldn't have imagined finishing 17<sup>th</sup> overall."

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