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Wittmann approaches DTM season finale as championship leader – Mies and Schrey already crowned champions in BMW M235i Racing Cup.

Whether in the DTM, the IMSA WeatherTech SportsCar Championship, or countless other championships: week after week BMW teams and drivers around the world do battle for points, victories and titles. Away from the track too, members of the large BMW Motorsport family around the world are also creating headlines. The “BMW Motorsport News” allows us to regularly summarise all the action for you in a compact and informative manner. This way, you are always up to speed.

DTM: Wittmann on course for title.

During the eighth DTM weekend of the season, 39,500 spectators saw varying degrees of success for the BMW teams in the two races that took place in Budapest (HU). On Saturday, only championship leader Marco Wittmann (DE, 188 points) scored any points, finishing in seventh place. His closest challenger, Edoardo Mortara (IT, Audi) won the race, a result that makes the exciting battle between these two drivers even more thrilling. Wittmann was the best-placed BMW driver on Sunday, in fourth place - however, this time four of his brand team-mates also made it into the top ten. The BMW Team RMG driver now takes a 26-point lead to the grand season finale at the Hockenheimring (DE) in mid-October. In the manufacturers' championship, BMW is in second place with 565 points.

DTM: Farfus and Blomqvist thrill fans in the heart of Budapest.

Augusto Farfus (BR) and Tom Blomqvist (GB) let the engines roar in Budapest city centre ahead of the DTM weekend at the Hungaroring (HU). In front of the impressive backdrop of Heroes' Square and the famous Chain Bridge in the heart of the Hungarian capital, they put on a thrilling show for fans on Thursday in the Shell BMW M4 DTM Race Taxi and BMW M4 GTS DTM Safety Car. After an autograph session and press conference, they cruised through the streets of Budapest as part of a powerful convoy. Farfus and Blomqvist were joined by Jamie Green (GB, Audi), Nico Müller (CH, Audi), Maximilian Götz (DE, Mercedes) and Paul Di Resta (GB, Mercedes) in their cars, as the convoy travelled through the city. In late summer weather, their action-packed appearance was the highlight of a festival of motorsport. “What a show that was,” said Farfus. “It was great to drive in front of so many fans here in the city centre. We put on a really good show and demonstrated how powerful the Shell BMW M4 DTM Race Taxi and the BMW M4 GTS DTM Safety Car are.” Blomqvist was also visibly impressed by the publicity stunt. “That was a real highlight,” said the BMW Team RBM driver. “I really enjoyed the day. You could hardly wish for a better advertisement for the DTM.”

DTM: First BMW for the next generation.

Nice surprise for Timo Glock (DE) and Maxime Martin (BE): before the 15th and 16th races of the DTM season in Budapest (HU), two BMW drivers, who had both become fathers in the previous week, were presented with a BMW Baby Racer III by their six team-mates. Of course, no-one can yet tell if Glock's daughter Leni Malou



and Martin's son Félix will follow in the footsteps of their racing driver fathers. In any case, they can practice at home for that eventuality on their BMW Baby Racer Ills - but only when they are 18 months old, of course.

VLN: Mies and Schrey reach their target – record lap for the BMW M6 GT3.

The destination of the drivers' title in the BMW M235i Racing Cup was decided with two races of the season still to go. Alexander Mies (DE) and Michael Schrey (DE) from Team Bonk Motorsport hold an unassailable lead. Although points count double at the season finale, the duo lead by 72 points and cannot be caught even if results removed from the standings are taken into account at the end of the season. Third place in the class for the duo at the eighth race of the VLN Endurance Championship at the Nürburgring (DE) was sufficient for them to claim the overall VLN title in, in theory at least. In purely arithmetical terms, their competitors could still have a chance of the title; however, the average scores for the classes in question mean that this is a theoretical chance and Bonk Motorsport will claim a fourth VLN title at the end of the season. Mies and Schrey had won the first seven VLN races and the 24-hour race in their class. They lost their perfect record but were delighted with their title nonetheless. Victory in the BMW M235i Racing Cup class went to Heiko Eichenberg (DE) from the Securtal Sorg Rennsport team. He won ahead of his team-mates Max Kottmayr (DE), Kevin Warum (DE) and Erik Johansson (SE). Walkenhorst Motorsport also had reason to celebrate early on. Christian Krognæs (NO) drove the number 36 BMW M6 GT3 to pole position with a time of 7:53.375 minutes, setting a new lap record for the VLN variant of the Nordschleife. However, both BMW M6 GT3s from this team retired early from the race.

Italian GT Championship: Podium for the BMW M6 GT3.

At the penultimate race weekend in the Italian GT Championship 2016 at Imola (IT), BMW Team Italia celebrated another top three placing. In the second race on Sunday, Stefano Comandini and Alberto Cerqui (both IT) finished in third place in the BMW M6 GT3 after 29 laps. They had claimed fifth place in the first race. The final two races in the Italian GT Championship 2016 will take place concurrently with the DTM finale in Hockenheim (DE) in mid-October. The number 15 BMW M6 GT3 will be competing in Mugello (IT).

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