



DTM – Races 1 & 2 – Hockenheim (DE) – Race 1

Three BMW M4 DTMs in the points after eventful opening DTM race of the season in Hockenheim.

Hockenheim (DE), 7th May 2016. Fans at the Hockenheimring (DE) were treated to an action-packed opening race of 2016 by the 24 drivers in this year's DTM. Three BMW M4 DTMs finished in the points at the end of a race littered with spectacular battles, overtaking manoeuvres and collisions. Bruno Spengler (CA) came home sixth in the BMW Bank M4 DTM, making him the best-placed BMW driver. The Canadian fought back brilliantly from 13th on the grid. He was followed over the finish line by António Félix da Costa (PT, BMW M4 DTM) and Maxime Martin (BE, SAMSUNG BMW M4 DTM) in seventh and eighth. They also made great progress through the field, having started from 20th and 21st. Victory went to Edoardo Mortara (IT, Audi).

Martin Tomczyk (DE, BMW M Performance Parts M4 DTM), Tom Blomqvist (GB, Ice-Watch BMW M4 DTM) and Augusto Farfus (BR, Shell BMW M4 DTM) were 12th, 13th and 14th. Blomqvist and Farfus had dropped well back after being involved in incidents during the eventful opening stages of the race. Tomczyk had also worked his way through the field and was running in the top ten until his car was damaged in a battle with Gary Paffett (GB, Mercedes) and Mattias Ekström (DE, Audi).

Marco Wittmann (DE), at the wheel of the Red Bull BMW M4 DTM, was the highest ranked BMW driver early on. However, his car was so badly damaged in a collision that he was unable to match the pace of the other cars and dropped back through the field. He eventually came home 16th. Timo Glock (DE) was hit by a rival car on lap three and consequently skidded off into the gravel bed in the DEUTSCHE POST BMW M4 DTM bringing his first race of the season to a premature end.

Reactions to the 1st race of the 2016 DTM season.

Jens Marquardt (BMW Motorsport Director): "That was a very tough race, with an eventful opening three laps. Compliments to my guys, who fought hard. Bruno Spengler, António Félix da Costa and Maxime Martin still managed to finish in the points despite having damaged cars. Given the circumstances, they did as well as possible. I feel very sorry for Marco Wittmann, whose car was damaged in a collision. He was very well positioned in the race and could possibly even have been looking at a place on the podium. Generally speaking, there were an awful lot of collisions, and our drivers suffered as a result. I hope tomorrow's race is a bit calmer."

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Bruno Spengler (BMW Team MTEK, 6th place): “I am very happy to have made up so many places and scored valuable points after starting from 13th on the grid. Unfortunately, the rear left of my car was damaged in a collision with Mike Rockenfeller, and I was unable to match the pace of the front-runners. We must now look at where we can improve tomorrow, as we would probably have been lacking a bit of speed even without the damage to the car.”

Facts and Figures.

Circuit/length/duration:

Hockenheim, 4.574 kilometres, 40 minutes plus 1 lap

Conditions:

Sunny, 27 degrees Celsius

BMW Motorsport results:

#7 Bruno Spengler (CA), BMW Team MTEK, BMW Bank M4 DTM – 6th place

#13 António Félix da Costa (PT), BMW Team Schnitzer, BMW M4 DTM – 7th place

#36 Maxime Martin (BE), BMW Team RBM, SAMSUNG BMW M4 DTM – 8th place

#100 Martin Tomczyk (DE), BMW Team Schnitzer, BMW M Performance Parts M4 DTM – 12th place

#31 Tom Blomqvist (GB), BMW Team RBM, Ice-Watch BMW M4 DTM – 13th place

#18 Augusto Farfus (BR), BMW Team MTEK, Shell BMW M4 DTM – 14th place

#11 Marco Wittmann (DE), BMW Team RMG, Red Bull BMW M4 DTM – 16th place

#16 Timo Glock (DE), BMW Team RMG, DEUTSCHE POST BMW M4 DTM – DNF

Useful information:

António Félix da Costa and Maxime Martin both made up 13 positions in the race.

Augusto Farfus was spun by an opponent at the hairpin on lap one and consequently fell well down the field.

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Tom Blomqvist dropped to the back of the field on lap two after spinning in turn one.

Marco Wittmann's car was damaged on lap one following a collision, which was no fault of his own.

Six cars retired over the course of an eventful first few laps. These included Timo Glock in the DEUTSCHE POST BMW M4 DTM.

Martin Tomczyk climbed from 22nd on the grid to 14th place in the opening laps. However, he then had problems with his car on lap twelve and dropped back through the field.

The second qualifying session begins at 12.30 on Sunday. Before that, the third practice session is scheduled for 10.00.

2016 race calendar.

6th -8th May – Hockenheim (DE), 20th -22nd May – Spielberg (AT), 3rd -5th June – Lausitzring (DE), 24th -26th June – Norisring (DE), 15th -17th July – Zandvoort (NL), 19th -21st August – Moscow (RU), 9th -11th September – Nürburgring (DE), 23rd -25th September – Budapest (HU), 14th -16th October – Hockenheim (DE).

More information.

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About the DTM.

The DTM is the most popular touring car series in the world. The series pits the three premium automobile manufacturers BMW, Audi and Mercedes-Benz against each other in a sporting contest. BMW fielded its first works teams from 1984 to 1992, during which time it claimed 49 race victories and won the Drivers' Championship on three occasions (1984, 1987 and 1989). The manufacturer returned to the DTM in 2012, since when it has won seven of a possible twelve titles. 18 races, spread over nine weekends, are scheduled for 2016. ARD

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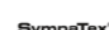
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broadcasts all the races live. Tickets for all the DTM races are available here:
<https://tickets.bmw-motorsport.com/index.html>

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