



DTM

Interview with Augusto Farfus: “I see no reason why we shouldn’t enjoy success in this series too”.

Munich, 15th July 2011. He is affectionately known by his mechanics as “Gusti” and has been a permanent member of the BMW family since his debut in 2007: it could only be Augusto Farfus (BR). Within a short time, the racing driver from Curitiba has not only established himself in touring car racing, but also on the endurance circuit.

In this interview, he talks about his greatest victory, his relationship to Germany, and the BMW M3 DTM.

Augusto, you are just 27 years old and have already appeared for BMW in many different racing series. From 2012 you will once again be entering new territory, in the form of the DTM...

Augusto Farfus: “Yes, and I am looking forward to it very much. Thanks to BMW I have repeatedly had the chance to take on and master new challenges. First we achieved success together in the World Touring Car Championship. Then I got to know and love the endurance circuit, the highlight of which is definitely the victory at the 2010 Nürburgring 24 Hours. Now it is the DTM, and I see no reason why we shouldn’t enjoy success in this series too.”

Do you find it easy to adjust to a new car?

Farfus: “I don't think many racing drivers have problems with that. At the start of the year I drove the BMW Z4 GT3 at the 24 Hours of Dubai – and we won. A few weeks later we finished second in the GT class at the Sebring 12-hour race with the BMW M3 GT. It doesn't take long to get used to the new car. In the case of the BMW M3 DTM it may take a little longer, as the combination of the aerodynamics and the high performance will produce special handling characteristics. However, that is why we have the test sessions, to ensure we are perfectly prepared for the start of the season.”

You will be racing on a lot of German circuits in the DTM. Do you like Germany?

Farfus: “Yes, very much. Anyone who believes that Brazilians will find it difficult in this country – maybe because the weather is not so great or because of the different language – is wrong. I like the people, and feel very much at home here. My German is also improving all the time. On top of all that, the circuits in the DTM are top class. Everyone in my home country of Brazil knows the Hockenheimring or the Nürburgring. I obviously also find it a very positive step that the DTM is aiming to become more international. The races abroad will undoubtedly be amazing. Whatever happens, I feel great whenever I am in Germany.”



What do you make of the driving line-up in the DTM?

Farfus: "The mixture is just right in the DTM. Young drivers have just as good a chance as experienced drivers, who have already won the title. The pack is reshuffled every year, and performance alone counts. The fact that former Formula 1 drivers like Ralf Schumacher and David Coulthard are involved is obviously great for the crowds. I am excited to see how the balance of power plays out in 2012, and am certain that we will see a strong BMW squad."

What do you expect from the new BMW M3 DTM?

Farfus: "As always in motorsport, you only find out just how good a car really is in the first races. There is no question that BMW Motorsport has what it takes to build a competitive car. However, there will also be set-backs. For that reason, it is initially important to make as much progress as possible in 2012 and to adjust to the rhythm of the DTM. I would not be surprised if we come out with some good results."

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