Nürburgring 24-Hour Race, Update 4 June 1, 2003

Hard Work Is Rewarded By Success

The progress of BMW M3 GTR number 43 in the 24-hour Nürburgring race tells a story of speed and consistency. The car that was virtually last at the start of the race and made its way to 21st at half distance, is now sixth, six hours before the end of the race. Sadly the drivers of BMW M3 GTR number 42 are already in their hotel having retired in the early hours of the morning.

Marc Duez, driver in car number 43: "I drove for two stints in the night, which demanded a lot of concentration. We had to overtake most of the competitors following our problem at the beginning of the race. There were also a lot of accidents on the track. On the other hand, the BMW M3 GTR made it really easy for us. The car handles superbly so you don't have to worry about this, and can concentrate fully on what is happening on the track."

Mario Theissen, BMW Motorsport Director, left the team for Monaco where Ralf Schumacher is starting today's F1 race from pole. As a farewell he thanked Team BMW Motorsport: "Even though we had to fight with a lot of problems from the start, the team was always highly motivated. Due to their expertise and dedication they have made tremendous progress during the night. This is true sportsmanship."

The strong tradition of BMW in motorsport is reflected by the number of participants in the 24-hour race. Of the 218 entries 57 are BMWs, so BMW is the biggest manufacturer group, followed by Porsche (25) and Honda (25).

Car Number 42 – BMW M3 GTR (Retired due to a collision after 69 laps while in fifth)

Hans-Joachim Stuck (GER)/Boris Said (USA)/John Nielsen (DNK)/Marc Duez (BEL)

Car Number 43 – BMW M3 GTR

Jörg Müller (GER)/Dirk Müller (GER)/Claudia Hürtgen (GER)/Marc Duez (BEL)

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