



The Nürburgring 24-Hour, Qualifying

May 30, 2003

BMW Returns To Nordschleife

When the 31st 24-hour race at Nurburgring starts at 3:00 PM on Saturday May 31, 2003, the BMW Motorsport-entered M3 GTR number 42, driven by Hans-Joachim Stuck (GER), Boris Said (USA) and John Nielsen (DNK) will start from 5th on the grid, while the car driven by Dirk Müller (GER), Jörg Müller (GER) and Claudia Hürtgen (GER) will start from 7th. Reserve driver for both of these cars will be Marc Duez (BEL). While Marc is the team's most successful driver at this event, with four wins to his credit, it was Hans-Joachim who gave BMW its first win here in 1970.

In the first qualifying session from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM, Jörg set the best time of the day for car number 43 with 9mins 09.13secs, while the best time for car number 42 of 9mins 08.77secs was set by Hans-Joachim in the evening session. The morning session was held in hot and sunny conditions, but at 5:30 PM, the heavens opened and a storm of biblical proportions hit the Eifel mountains. The standing water on the track delayed the start of final qualifying for an hour so the session was from 8:00 PM to 11:00 PM.

Albert Biermann, Technical Director of Team BMW Motorsport: "We are here for the first time since our victory in 1998, and are very satisfied with our qualifying results. For the second qualifying session we fitted the race engines to the cars so we were not expecting to go a lot faster."

Charly Lamm, Team Manager of Team BMW Motorsport: "We had a fantastic day because we were able to compete with the BMW M3 GTRs again. To be back here at the Nürburgring competing on the Nordshleife is a great pleasure for all of us at Team BMW Motorsport. We had a task to complete today in two sessions of qualifying. We used them to dial in the drivers and the cars and get ourselves used to long distance racing again. We enjoyed today very much, are happy with the progress we made and really look forward to the race tomorrow."

Car Number 42 – BMW M3 GTR – Hans-Joachim Stuck will start the race

Hans-Joachim Stuck/Boris Said/John Nielsen/Marc Duez



Car Number 43 – BMW M3 GTR – Jörg Müller will start the race

Jörg Müller/Dirk Müller/Claudia Hürtgen/Marc Duez

Qualifying Results:

1. J Alzen/A Klasen/U Alzen/M Bartels (Porsche 996 Turbo) 9m 00.26s.
2. L Luhr/E Collard/T Bernhard (Porsche 996) 9m 02.90s.
3. P Dumbreck/J Bleekemolen/C Menzel/V Strycek (Opel Astra V8 Coupe) 9m 04.44.
4. P Zakowski/P Lamy/R Lechner (Dodge Viper) 9m 04.52s.
5. H Stuck/B Said/J Nielsen/M Duez (BMW M3 GTR) 9m 08.77s.
6. M Reuter/T Scheider/M Tiemann/V Strycek (Opel Astra V8 Coupe) 9m 09.13s.
7. J Müller/D Müller/C Hürtgen/M Duez (BMW M3 GTR) 9m 09.13s.
8. K Wendlinger/C Abt/K Nissen/W Marco (Audi TT-R) 9m 10.50s.
9. C Abt/F Biela/M Ekström/K Wendlinger (Audi TT-R) 9m 11.57s.
10. J Scheid/O Kainz/M Merten (BMW) 9m 21.22s.

The 24-hour race, which will run on the 25.951-mile Nordschleife circuit, starts at 3:00 PM on Saturday, May 31, 2003.

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