BMW Motorsport News – Issue 26/15
12th July 2015

Wittmann and Félix da Costa win in Zandvoort – Podiums and triumphs for BMW teams in a host of series around the world.

Whether in the DTM, the United 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: Perfect weekend for BMW Motorsport in Zandvoort.
The BMW drivers achieved an outstanding team result on the fourth race weekend of the 2015 DTM season in Zandvoort (NL). All six podium places went to drivers in BMW M4 DTMs. Marco Wittmann (DE) and António Félix da Costa (PT) took the plaudits on the top step of the podium after races seven and eight. Félix da Costa first secured his maiden pole position in the DTM on Sunday morning, before converting it to become the first Portuguese driver ever to win a DTM race.

Three questions for… António Félix da Costa.

António, you were the man of the weekend in Zandvoort, with a pole position, a win and a second place. What does this success mean to you?
António Félix da Costa: "It is a fantastic feeling. When I came to the DTM, a year and a half ago, everything felt easy. The car was superb, BMW was very strong, and I was able to mix it at the front of the field from the word go. However, I then had a few problems. I suddenly struggled to get the balance of the car right, which meant I could not show BMW and the DTM what I was capable of. The second half of the 2014 season was really tough. In the winter I took a big step forward and really analysed my situation very closely. After a few problems for all the BMWs early on in the season, everything came together here in Zandvoort – and I am on the top step of the podium. I am obviously very proud of that."

What is the most important thing you have learned over the past few months?
Félix da Costa: "My battles in the pack and the many tough races have generally made me a better DTM driver. You have to gain this experience to be stronger moving forward. At the same time, I never doubted that I could lead and win races if everything fell into place. That was finally the case here, and I kept my word and proved that I can win."

You have now earned your place in the long success story of BMW Team Schnitzer…
Félix da Costa: "That means an awful lot to me. It is unbelievable to enjoy success with such an experienced and iconic team – and with a fantastic team principal like Charly Lamm. Whenever I am in Freilassing, I marvel at the trophies and the long stories you find everywhere there. Now I am a part of all that."

European Le Mans Series: BMW Sports Trophy Team Marc VDS narrowly misses out on podium.
BMW Sports Trophy Team Marc VDS narrowly missed out on a place on the podium in race three of the European Le Mans Series (ELMS). As at the races in Silverstone (GB) and Imola (IT), Andy Priaulx (GB), BMW Motorsport Junior Jesse Krohn (FI) and Henry Hassid (FR) – at the wheel of the number 52 BMW Z4 GTE – finished fourth in the LMGTE class in the four-hour race at the Red Bull Ring (AT). First place went to Ferrari. The TDS Racing team did make it onto the podium in the GTC class. Franck Perera (FR), Dino Lunardi (FR) and Eric Dermont (FR) finished second in their BMW Z4 GT3, behind the winning Ferrari.

USCC: Second and third on the grid for BMW Team RLL.
The BMW Team RLL BMW Z4 GTLMs qualified in second and third for the sixth round of the United SportsCar Championship (USCC) at the Canadian Tire Motorsport Park (CA), which is better known as Mosport, just outside Toronto. In glorious sunshine it was the number 25 car of Dirk Werner (US) that finished in second, just three hundredths of a second off the pole time set by Nick Tandy (GB) in the Porsche. Just behind was the number 24 car of Lucas Luhr (DE) with a time just 0.127secs slower. As usual, Werner is partnered by Bill Auberlen (US) and Luhr by John Edwards (US). The two hours forty minutes race was due to start at 12.05 local time today.

CTSCC: Burton Racing comes up just short of a podium.
Terry Borcheller (US) and Mike LaMarra (US) were the best-placed BMW drivers in Saturday's 2.5-hour Continental Tire Sports Car Challenge race at Canadian Tire Motorsport Park. Driving the number 23 Burton Racing BMW 128i, the duo finished fourth in the Street Tuner class. BMW Motorsport Junior driver Trent Hindman (US) did not get the chance to drive in the GS class, as the number 46 BMW M3 retired on lap 21 with a mechanical failure.

24h Paul Ricard: Two class victories for BMW teams.
BMW teams Securtal Sorg Rennsport and Hofor-Küpperracing both won their respective class in the 24-hour race in Paul Ricard (FR). In the CUP1 class, in which the field was made up exclusively of BMW M235i Racings, Nicolas Griebner (DE), Michael Steffny (AT), Daniel Sorg (DE), Thomas Müller (DE) and Felix Günther (DE) emerged victorious after 500 laps, finishing ahead of Bonk Motorsport. The "Mission Possible Racing by Sorg Rennsport" project, for quadriplegic drivers, came home third. Victory in the A5 class went to Siarhei Paulavets (BY), Martin Kroll (CH), Fabrice Reicher (FR), Bernd Küpper (DE) and Chantal Kroll (CH) in the Hofor-Küpperracing BMW M3.

Mental and simulator training for the BMW Motorsport Juniors.
BMW Motorsport Juniors Victor Bouveng (SE), Nick Cassidy (NZ), Louis Delétraz (CH) and Trent Hindman (US) visited the iZone Driver Performance Centre in Silverstone (GB) last week, where they underwent intense mental and simulator training. The focus was on preparing for the first highlight of the season for the class of 2015 – the start in the BMW M235i Racing at the 24 Hours of Zolder (BE) on 29th/30th August. Bouveng, Delétraz and Hindman will race alongside chief instructor Dirk Adorf (DE). The entire quartet of Juniors will be in action at the 12 Hours of Brno (CZ) on 10th October. In Silverstone, renowned sports psychologist Prof. Dr. Dieter Hackfort (DE) laid the foundations for a successful outing at both endurance races with a comprehensive programme in the simulator, which included many different methods of mental training. The Juniors learned how to first visualise a racetrack mentally, before using this image later in the car to improve their performance. Each of the four drivers was given individual training in the simulator, which was tailored to their particular needs.

British GT Championship: BMW on the podium at Spa-Francorchamps.
Barwell Motorsport's Jon Minshaw (GB) and Phil Keen (GB) finished second in their BMW Z4 GT3, as Spa-Francorchamps (BE) hosted the 2:30-hour race in the British GT Championship. In doing so, they claimed their first podium finish of the season. While the number 7 Aston Martin won the race, Alexander Sims (GB) and Marco Attard (GB) came home fourth in the Ecurie Ecosse BMW Z4 GT3 to extend their lead in the overall standings.

Italian GT Championship: Victory for Comandini/Gagliardini in Mugello.
Stefano Comandini (IT) and Andrea Gagliardini (IT) won race two of the Italian GT Championship in Mugello (IT). After 26 laps of racing, the ROAL Motorsport duo in the number 5 BMW Z4 GT3 came home first with a five-second lead over the second-placed Audi. Comadini/Gagliardini had failed to finish Saturday's opening race.

Press contact:
Jörg Kottmeier, Phone: +49 (0) 170 566 6112, joerg.kottmeier@bmw.de
Ingo Lehbrink, Phone: +49 (0) 176 203 40224, ingo.lehbrink@bmw.de

You can find the latest BMW Motorsport media information and copyright-free images for editorial purposes online at: www.press.bmwgroup-sport.com