

## The first races in Misano show equal powers, MKR not missing on the podium

Misano – The Italian town of Misano has become the opening venue of this year's European Truckracing Championship series. While Hahn's and Albacete's trucks dominated the field last season, the front row seems to be extremely balanced this time with as many as eight pilots fighting for the top positions. The north-Bohemia based MKR Technology was among them, as Adam Lacko jumped up to the podium for the silver medal following the final race.

*'The first races always show who worked hard over the winter. They always highlight the development work that has been conducted but this year there was a nervous feeling around the paddock because it wasn't clear if there would be a real leader in the field,'* commented Adam Lacko.

Before coming to Misano MKR Technology had managed to keep concealed their two new racing specials the mechanics had built and fine-tuned for Adam Lacko and Markus Bösiger. The black-and-red Renaults from Mario Kress's workshop received a brand new design, too. The official launch was attended by several tens of journalists from all around the world, with members of other construction teams standing right next to them. The presentation caught the attention of many. *'It was great to watch how our competitors showed so much interest in our trucks during the launch. We didn't surprise as much on the race track as we did with the design but at the moment we are collecting as much data as possible,'* remains calm the MKR Technology pilot Markus Bösiger.

Much to everyone's surprise there was no drama to be seen on day one. The positions held by the pilots in the superpole would have remained unchanged had it not been for some technical problems and penalties. The spectators had to be more patient to enjoy some more aggressive overtaking manoeuvres and wait until the afternoon handicap race, in which the elite eight from the main race switched their starting positions. The first race of the season was ruled over by the driver wearing number one on his overall, the reigning champion Jochen Hahn. David Vršecký finished on the second and Markus Oestreich on the third. Markus Bösiger collected points for the fourth position and Adam Lacko for the sixth. *'Right from the beginning of the race I had a technical problem. It wasn't serious enough to put me out of the race but I was down on power so I dropped back a few positions,'* said Adam.

In the Saturday's handicap race Finland's Makinen occupied the front position and claimed victory, gaining the maximum of ten points. Silver medal belongs to Oestreich, who used to defend MKR's colours in the previous seasons, and the bronze was deserved by Hahn. Vršecký finished right below the podium positions. Bösiger crossed the finishing line on the seventh position and Lacko got disqualified due to his failure to fulfil the drive-through penalty. *'It was not an ideal Saturday for us but also for some other favorite drivers like Albacete and Norbert Kiss who scored only three points each. The Championship will be very tight for everyone so we have to fight,'* added Adam Lacko with determination.



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However, the following day at the Mark Simoncelli circuit (the venue was named after the tragically deceased motorbike racer) improved the mood of many competitors. In the Sunday qualifying race Oestreich triumphed. Following the superpole, he was accompanied onto the starting grid by Hungary's Kiss, who has made a great leap forward since the last season. Yet the front of the racing field was soon seized by Spain's Albacete as Oestreich received a drive-through penalty. The former champion Albacete succeeded in keeping Kiss and Vršecký, respectively, behind him, while Hahn and MKR pilots Adam Lacko and Markus Bösiger followed the Buggyra driver across the finishing line.

Again, the handicap race on Sunday was packed with action. The 'north-bohemians' Lacko and Bösiger started from the second row and pushed through to the second and third positions already in the first lap. But Finland's Makinen maintained his lead and won in a start-to-finish manner. There was not much left and MKR Technology's drivers could have celebrated a fantastic podium double; unfortunately, Markus Bösiger got penalized with a drive-through for knocking off the corner markers, which sent him as far as to position fourteen. Originally, the podium trio was completed by Jochen Hahn but due to his overspeed penalty the bronze went to David Vršecký. *'It was a beautiful conclusion to the weekend. The guys worked overnight on the race trucks and I am happy I could pay them back with a silver medal. What makes my happiness even more intense is the picture my wife had sent me before the start in which our one-week-old son Nicolas shows number two with his fingers. It was simply a destiny but before the next event we have to teach him to raise his thumb,'* smiled Adam Lacko with content after reaching for the winners' podium for the first time in his career in Misano. Last year he had to put up with the fourth position three times here, which makes the podium appearance all the more satisfying for him.

Summarizing the opening weekend, the reigning champ Jochen Hahn continues the victorious trend. The second spot belongs to Vršecký and the third to Makinen of Finland. Adam Lacko is on the sixth and Bösiger follows on the seventh. *'Misano brought us joy only at the end. After the winter we needed to see the comparison with our competitors. There's a lot of work ahead of us before going to Navarra. I think I have an idea where to dig to get faster so that we can stay in the fights for the very top. Anyway, the first eight pilots are extremely equal this time, no one really stands out, which doesn't make us too nervous though. There are minimal differences, so the championship could bring a number of great battles,'* concluded MKR Technology's boss Mario Kress on the introductory weekend.

Round two is scheduled for the weekend of the 1/2 June, when the trucks get a taste for the first time ever of the Navarra circuit in Spain.



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