

### First they were eliminated in lap one, later the pilots recorded a podium double

Nogaro – The north-Bohemia based MKR Technology was put through an incredible series of events in the third racing weekend of this year's European Truck Racing Championship. Not even one lap into the main race of day one on the French Nogaro track lasted the team's trucks. Then came a collision so strong that the giant machines were both sent home on a flatcar. However, the heroic job the mechanics did literally over night enabled the team to celebrate a podium double, as Markus Bösiger reached for gold and Adam Lacko for silver.

*'This was one of the worst weekends ever. What happened on Saturday doesn't need any comment. We had so much bad luck at a stroke that it's horrifying. It took just one lap, in which our pilots hit each other so unfortunately, to lose all of our racing gear. I'm happy that the guys managed to get the trucks ready for the next day. We lost many points. The final handicap race was just a small patch on a big wound but we are happy because it always provides a lot of motivation for the whole team,'* summed up MKR Technology's boss Mario Kress the last weekend in Nogaro.

The European championship round in Nogaro was spiced up by the notorious rivalry between the north-Bohemian truckracing teams of MKR Technology and Buggyra. Innuendo between the two groups has become a daily routine already, yet this time Buggyra pilot David Vršecký distinguished himself in that regard. Right in the first lap into the Saturday's main race with a single, seemingly simple manoeuvre Vršecký managed to eliminate two of his opponents from MKR Adam Lacko and Markus Bösiger. *'David forced me to put two wheels on the grass as we entered a heavy braking zone. It is impossible to slow down on grass meaning I collided with my team mate Markus at high speed. It was a really big hit. There is nothing worse than to hit your own team mate but there was nothing I could do. I thought briefly about turning away from the corner but then I would've definitely hit him so I decided to take the option that carried the least risk and hoped that I would find a little gap but it wasn't to be,'* described Adam Lacko the situation.

As a result, both trucks from Židovice finished in lap one. Bösiger suffered a bent rear axle, Lacko a bent front axle and both ended up with a number of other broken parts including snapped shock absorbers. After watching a video that captured the entire collision, Bösiger was amazed. *'When Adam was pushed by David he couldn't do anything. It's unfortunate that it ended up this way,'* commented Markus in astonishment.

Vršecký was punished with a thirty-second penalty that cost him points from the main race and made him drop from position six to eleven. The win was taken by Albacete from Spain, he left behind himself Germany's Hahn and Hungary's Kiss.



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To the surprise of many, Saturday's handicap race was ruled by the only sixteen-year-old Hungarian Benedek Major, who thus became the youngest driver ever to win a Championship race. The Oxso team driver outmatched the French Janiec as well as the experienced German Oestreich. Unfortunately, the duo of MKR Technology's trucks piloted by Lacko and Bösiger didn't get a say in the race, as the mechanics had their hands full with work. Mario Kress' pack worked late into night to put the cars back into shape. Eventually, the mechanics handled the difficult task well and MKR's trucks could step into the Sunday part of the race, starting from rows three and four after the qualifying race. The super pole was dominated by the Spanish Albacete before the reigning champion Hahn. The two managed to hold their positions the entire race; David Vršecký, on the other hand, lost his third place to Markus Oestreich. Lacko recorded points on seventh position followed by Markus Bösiger.

In the afternoon handicap race, the best eight drivers exchanged their starting positions, so that MKR's Markus Bösiger and Adam Lacko occupied the first row of the grid. Both of them took advantage of the opportunity and won the race in a start-to-finish manner. Bösiger recorded a fantastic victory and his team-mate Lacko crossed the finishing line on second rank followed by Hungary's Kiss. *'It may have looked easy but Norbert Kiss was really pushing during the first half of the race and several times he nudged my rear bumper. Finally it ended well for me and Markus with our first double podium of the season; hopefully, it will be the first of many. We have been so unlucky lately so I think we deserved little bit more luck on our side. This really cheered up both of us and the whole team,'* concluded the happy silver pilot Adam Lacko.

MKR's joy was enormous, yet Nogaro saw many races, in which the starting order of the trucks was identical to the finishing one. *'I must admit I'm not a fan of races like that. They are either affected by a very strong collision or a totally boring driving style where no one overtakes. In Nogaro you got either one or the other. I dare say that it's not attractive for the spectators either,'* commented Mario Kress.

Following round three the lead still belongs to last season's champion Jochen Hahn (118 points) with Albacete (116 p) and Oestreich (101 p) close behind. Vršecký (91p) dropped to fourth position, Adam Lacko is sixth with 71 points, and Markus Bösiger (53) occupies position eight.

After a two-week break the Championship is taking the teams to Austria, where the pilots will try out the Red Bull Ring for the first time ever on the 6/7 July.

