

MKR wins and burns at the Red Bull Ring

Spielberg – Racing trucks returned to the Austrian Red Bull Ring after a ten-year pause. The Spielberg circuit, also known as the A1 Ring, was the venue of the European Championship's fourth round, which saw the north-Bohemian MKR Technology's trucks both triumphant and on fire. But most importantly, the shortest track of the series offered the audience a spectacular show!

And there was a lot of drama to behold from the very first moments. Already in the first corner of the Saturday's race Germany's Oestreich dislodged the corner marker, which then dangerously hit Markus Bösiger's front windscreen. Lacko's MKR team-mate did his best to go another four laps, yet eventually he was forced to pull into the pits. *'I couldn't see anything through the shattered windscreen and also some shards of glass were in my eyes. For a while I thought I could manage it but at the end I decided not to risk my health and the safety of others. It was again bad luck,'* said the disappointed Swiss pilot Markus Bösiger.

The race was overruled by Spain's Albacete in front of Hahn from Germany and Kiss from Hungary. Originally, Adam Lacko finished on fifth but the ten-minute penalty for overspeeding that followed made him drop to rank seven. Another Czech on the track David Vršecký collected points for sixth place. *'It was not such a bad race for me. It's a shame that I was penalized but I used the fact that it dropped me to seventh place to my advantage in race two,'* confessed Adam.

Great joy came on Saturday afternoon. Adam Lacko started from the first row into the handicap race. After a great start the driver from Čeladná took the lead and it almost seemed as an easy win for him. In the closing laps Hungary's Kiss was able to push through to him, allowing the spectators to enjoy an attractive fight for the gold medal all the way to the chequered flag. *'Suddenly Norbi was behind me and it was really not easy to keep him behind. Going into the last lap we were side by side but in the end I was able to hold him off. It was a really tough fight with no pushing like in the previous races this season. We are very happy,'* said the satisfied Adam Lacko, whose wife came with their newborn son to support him for the first time this year. *'Naturally, I was happy they came. Katka enjoys watching the races and it was a boost for me as well. During the race I pay attention to nothing else though,'* admitted Adam Lacko. He occupied the winners' podium together with Kiss and Finland's Makinen.

Following the accident in the main race Markus Bösiger kept his cool and managed to fight through to the seventh position.

The Sunday part also brought some fierce battles, yet it was not a podium day for MKR Technology. Hundredths and tenths of seconds decided the qualifying race. The superpole turned out incredibly well for the former MKR Technology pilot Markus Oestreich. The German racer proved his experience in the main race, giving zero chance to the rest of the field. In contrast, Hungary's Kiss was pushed off to the bronze position by Spain's Albacete. Hahn guarded the fourth place well with the north-Bohemian rivals fighting a hard fight behind him. Constantly nudged by Vršecký, Markus Bösiger defended his fifth position. Two laps to the finishing line Vršecký got pushed to the back by



Bösiger's colleague from MKR Technology Adam Lacko. *'It was a hard fight. David was very close to me and I could feel him on my bumper, then Adam took advantage of this and we finished fifth and sixth,'* commented Markus Bösiger from MKR Technology.

The afternoon handicap race had David Vršecký in row one. He made the most of the opportunity, crossing the finishing line as the winner. The second row, where both north-Bohemian Renaults with Bösiger and Lacko stood, didn't turn out to be too lucky at the end. The Swiss Bösiger didn't defend his position after a hard fight with the fast Kiss and Albacete, leaving him on the much-hated fourth position. *'It's a shame. One more podium would be a great closure but Norbert and Antonio were simply faster,'* admitted Bösiger.

Much worse end to the weekend was to come for Adam Lacko, whose truck caught fire and sent him off the track. Luckily, nothing happened to Lacko. *'Unfortunately, we found out at the start of the second race that I couldn't use my half gears so I was stuck with eight low as my top gear. I was dropping down the field and in the end the turbo exploded,'* explained the disappointed Adam Lacko.

The weekend at the Red Bull Ring didn't finish with a celebration for MKR but it won't be long till the drivers get a chance to improve the score at Nürburgring (12/14 July), where they will fill the gap after Formula 1 pilots from the past weekend. *'We gained some points this weekend so we have to look forward. Let's see what the Nürburgring brings for us,'* concluded Lacko.

Following the fourth racing weekend Antonio Albacete is holding the lead with 166 points, leaving behind the reigning champion Jochen Hahn (155). Markus Oestreich is on the third (131). Norbert Kiss, now on the fourth with 123 points, pushed David Vršecký (116) down one rank. Adam Lacko (91) is keeping position six and Markus Bösiger position eight (72).



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