

1st round of the GT4 European Series - Nogaro

The first round of the GT4 European Series took place from 02.04 – 06.04 at Circuit Paul Armagnac, Nogaro, in South France. With sunny Easter weather and around 20 degrees all weekend, conditions were perfect for some great racing. Many different race teams with various car brands such as Aston Martin, Lotus, Ford, Chevrolet, BMW, Sin and Porsche had taken the trip to Nogaro. The GT4 European Series is divided into two different classes, PRO-AM and AM-AM, giving a fair mix of professional and amateur categorized drivers, with different level of experience in car racing. The Porsche from PROsport Performance with Thomas Krebs and Arno Klasen is running in the AM-AM class.

The weekend started Saturday with 2 x 60 min free practice, followed by 2 x 15 min qualifying sessions. Thomas Krebs and his new team mate, Arno Klasen, used most of the practice sessions to get familiar with the new racetrack and functionally test the Porsche Cayman GT4 racecar. Since the early winter test in Ascari, the PROsport Performance team had brought some updates to the car, which seemed to work well.



The qualifying is divided into 2 x 15 min, where each driver should set the fastest time possible. The first qualifying session will give the starting position to the first race and the second qualifying session to the second race. With new tires, Thomas drove the first qualifying and finished on a 5th place. Having only completed one fast lap and saving tires compared to the competitors, the result was satisfying. With another set of new tires, Arno Klasen took part in the second qualifying, reaching an overall 8th place.

Thomas: *“Even though we would have liked to beat the other in qualifying, we were still confident for the two races. Our strategy was to save the tires, in order to have an advantage in the end of the races, where tire degradation is quite high.”*

At 11:40 o'clock Sunday, the first of the two 50 min races took place. With a fine start, Thomas kept his position as 5th, closely following the front runners. After a half lap Thomas got a good slipstream down the main straight, overtaking one of the two Lotus Evora. Just a few laps later one of the BMW's made a mistake, and Thomas jumped to 3rd place with a spectacular overtaking on the outside line. With good pace Thomas kept the 3rd place for a while, making pressure on the two cars in front. Later he was passed by one of the Chevrolet Camaros which has the top speed advantage over the Porsche. After a small safety car period, the pit stop window opened, and Thomas rushed in the pit for quick driver change. Arno jumped in the car and rejoined the race, but unfortunately received a drive through penalty for speeding in the pit lane. After dropping down to 6th, Arno kept pushing and finished the race on an overall 5th place, and 1st in the AM category.



The second race took place on Easter Monday, and this time Arno was the first driver in the Porsche. Starting 8th, Arno made a good start by overtaking one of the competitors on the first lap, leading the AM category. In the middle of the stint there was a big crash, and the safety car was deployed. Immediately after when the pit window opened, the Porsche came in the pit and Thomas got in the car. Rejoining the track in traffic, Thomas lost some time to his competitors. On a current 2nd place in the AM category, he was pushing to catch up with the leader. In the chase of the leading BMW he was joined by the two Lotus and the Aston Martin, giving a hard battle to the chequered flag. Thomas finished the race on an overall 4th place and 2nd in the AM category.

Thomas: *"It was a great weekend in Nogaro and I learned a lot about the behavior of the Porsche under race conditions. With a 1st and a 2nd place in the two races, we are leaving the first race weekend with 45 points, leading the AM class. I would like to thank PROsport Performance and Arno Klasen for the great work this weekend, as well as each and every sponsor supporting me this year. I would also like to thank the 30.000 enthusiastic French fans who came to Nogaro this weekend, giving a great atmosphere in the*

paddock and on the tribunes”

The next race for Thomas will be on the 22. – 24. of May, when the GT4 Series will visit Zandvoort in The Netherlands.

Follow Thomas on www.facebook.com/ThomasKrebsOfficial or www.krebsracing.dk

