

Late exit denies Thomas Krebs a VLN podium

April 30th

Thomas Krebs was invited by his old team, PROsport Performance, to participate in the second VLN race of the season on the legendary Nürburgring Nordschleife (D). Thomas was set to drive in the V5 class with the same Porsche Cayman, in which he celebrated two successful VLN victories in the end of 2015. For the 4-hour endurance race he would share the car with the two German drivers, Dominik Schöning and Thomas Bolz.

Qualifying

The late April spring had not arrived at the Nürburgring yet, as heavy clouds, rain and cold temperatures was surrounding the Eifel area. The one and a half hour long qualifying session began at 8:30 in the morning, with rain tyres fitted on the car. Each driver would be able to do a warm-up lap on the Grand Prix circuit, before going out on the 25 km long Nordschleife for two timed laps. Thomas Bolz was the first driver in the car, immediately achieving a top 5 position out of the 14 cars in the V5 class. Bolz pitted, and Thomas Krebs took over for the next stint. With great speed, he was able to take over the provisional pole position in the class, with a few seconds gap to the second fastest car. As the track was drying up and improving minute by minute, the team decided to fit on slick tyres for Dominik Schöning in the last stint. He was able to improve the fastest lap time even more, but as did the competitors, and the final qualifying result was a 4th place.



Thomas: *"It was very challenging to go out directly in qualifying and have to perform, as my last laps on the Nordschleife was 6 months ago. My first qualifying lap was a bit rusty, but I kept on pushing and made a good second lap considering the tricky weather conditions. Taking provisional pole position at the time is a really strong achievement, as there are a lot of good drivers in the V5 class. We are racing against a current Audi DTM driver, a former Formula 1 test driver and two Porsche factory drivers. As myself, they are all taking their Nordschleife A-licence, which requires you to drive 3 races in a category "B" racecar."*

The race

190 racecars were lined up on the grid for the second VLN race of the season. After showing strong performance, the team had chosen Thomas to drive the start and do the first one-hour stint in the car. The rain had started pouring down on the track once again, and the race was started in wet conditions.

After a 20-minute long formation lap around the 25 km circuit, the lights went off and the start was given free. Thomas got a good start and could pass a couple of competitors. At the end of the first lap, the track had already dried significantly, and most of the frontrunners pitted for slicks. Unfortunately, Thomas was not able to pit, as two other cars from PROsport Performance went in for slicks at the same time. He had to stay out for another lap, trying to survive on the overheated rain tyres. The delayed pitstop costed a lot of time, and Thomas re-joined the race with a lot of ground to catch up. Again, Thomas showed great speed and was consistently the fastest car in the class. He set a lap of 9 min 31,3 sec, which would remain the fastest lap in the class for the entire duration of the race. Meanwhile the team was very satisfied with Thomas pace, and decided that he should remain in the car for a longer stint than originally planned. Thomas continued to push on, before he pitted after having done almost two hours in the car. He handed over the Porsche on 2nd place to Bolz.



Experienced VLN racer Thomas Bolz, continued the fight for a podium position, and kept the car in top 3 during his one hour stint. Last man in the car was Dominik Schöning, who could maintain a 3rd place for the majority of the last hour. Unfortunately, an accident in the last minute of the race ruined the chances of a podium for the team. With only 2 min left of the 4-hour race, he made contact with an Aston Martin, sending him into wall and out of the race.

Thomas: *“Even though we lost a podium in the last minutes of the race, I can take a lot of positives with me from this weekend. I was able to show the team that I can deliver under difficult circumstances, which is important for future opportunities. By having done my 3rd VLN race, I also achieved my Nordschleife A-*



THOMAS

licence, which means I can now drive in all type of race cars on Nürburgring Nordschleife. I hope to return to this track very soon, it is quite a unique experience to race here"

Next up

In only one and a half week the next race in the GT4 European Series will take place at Pau street circuit in Southern France. Thomas will continue the fight for the Reiter Young Stars championship.

Places to follow in 2016



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