



Race Report 5 - Lausitzring

The 6th event of the ADAC Procar series took place at the German race track, Lausitzring.

Thomas was very motivated to reach a position on the podium, after his strong race performance at the last event on Red Bull Ring.

Once again, Thomas had to learn the new track, which was the main focus in the two practice sessions on Friday and Saturday.

Thomas: “I quickly felt comfortable on the track, even though it isn’t as easy as it looks. There are many combinations of corners, which means that a mistake in the first corner, will punish you in the following. Another special focus on Lausitzring, is to exit the corner with as much speed as the car allows, sometimes even more than you think is possible.”



Qualifying:

For the qualifying Thomas was pushing for a position among the top drivers of the field. In the beginning the times looked promising, but after the second set of new tires, the speed was not as positive as expected. Thomas was still trying to find the limits on the track, and he was struggling with an understeering car. In that way the performance never reached the level of his goals, and the end result was position 6.

Race 1:

In the first race on Sunday, Thomas got well through the first corner on P5. Already a few corners later a gear mistake put him a few positions back, and he was fighting hard to defend his place. Thomas: “I was struggling a lot with the car on the first laps, and I made many mistakes myself. I had to defend myself from the drivers in the back, with every millimeter of the track. After the first half of the race, I could start to manage my tires and perform stronger laps. In the end of the race I could match the times of the frontrunners, but it was too late to reach them. I finished 5th, but I was very unsatisfied with my performance in the first half of the race, especially with my gear changes.”



Race 2:

Thomas was very motivated to reach a place on the podium. After a perfect standing start, he moved to 4th, just behind the leading drivers. After a few laps he could make another overtaking on Ralf Glatzel, which put him on 3rd. From this point the hard fight between the two drivers began. After the next many laps of the race on 3rd, Thomas was pushed to give back his 3rd place. Glatzel started to build up a small gap, and it looked like the result was decided.

Thomas: “After I came back on 4th, I lost a bit of my momentum and a small distance occurred. Nevertheless I never gave up, and I kept pushing 100 % on every lap. Suddenly I was closing the gap to him again, and I knew I would get the chance to make an overtaking on one of the last laps of the race. On the second last lap I saw my opportunity, and made a surprising overtaking in the last corner. With one lap to go, I had to defend myself with whatever it takes. I didn't give him any chances to overtake again, and I could reach the checkered flag as P3.

I am very happy with the way I kept on focusing, and especially because this is my first podium in car racing. It has been my goal ever since the beginning of this season, and finally it happened. I would like to thank Engstler Motorsport for the great support, which is a big part of my result. I hope I can continue my performance in that way, to fight for the win in the two last races of the season”.





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