

Media Information

14.10.2024

Bortolotti, van der Linde or Engel – Title Showdown in Hockenheim

- **DTM finale in Hockenheim to decide new champion**
- **Three drivers with sights set on winning their first title**
- **Five teams and four manufacturers battling it out for class titles**

Munich. Dramatic conclusion to the thrilling DTM title race: this weekend (18th to 20th October), the Hockenheimring Baden-Württemberg will host the showdown at the end of the 40th anniversary season. Two races will determine the new DTM champion, with a maximum 56 points still up for grabs. Best-placed to clinch the DTM title coming into the finale is Lamborghini works driver Mirko Bortolotti (I), who travels to the Motodrom near Mannheim with a 15-point lead over Audi racer Kelvin van der Linde (ZA). Third-placed Maro Engel (Monaco) is also still in the title race in his Mercedes-AMG GT3 and trails Bortolotti by just 20 points. Fans can also look forward to a five-way battle for the Team title, with Schubert Motorsport currently at the top of the table. Ahead of the final two races, Mercedes-AMG holds the bragging rights as the top manufacturer. ProSieben will broadcast the DTM season finale in Hockenheim live on German free-to-air TV, with coverage starting at 13:00 on both Saturday and Sunday. The races can also be seen live online at [Joyn, ran.de](https://www.joyn.de) and on the [YouTube channel @DTM](https://www.youtube.com/@DTM).

Key facts, Hockenheimring, Hockenheim, races 15 and 16 of 16

- **Length:** 4,574 metres
- **Layout:** 17 corners (eleven right, six left), driven clockwise
- **2023 winner, race 1:** Thomas Preining (Manthey EMA, Porsche 911 GT3 R)
- **2023 winner, race 2:** Thomas Preining (Manthey EMA, Porsche 911 GT3 R)

Three-way battle for the title

With 204 points to his name, Bortolotti has the best hand coming into the title showdown. The Italian made a big statement last time out at the Red Bull Ring: he returned to the top of the table on the back of his first win of the season, picking up 41 points at his most successful weekend of the year so far. Bortolotti is now looking to carry that momentum into the finale: “The way we work and perform consistently gives me a lot of confidence. We will need that in Hockenheim too, if we are going to come out on top in the end.” In each of the past two seasons, Bortolotti has arrived at the final round in contention for the trophy. The 34-year-old is hoping his dream will finally come true at the third attempt. Kelvin van der Linde has the same goal. The South African will have to be on the front foot from the word go in Hockenheim, if he is to make significant inroads into Bortolotti’s lead. Van der Linde has already shown that he can cope with pressure, producing two telling fightbacks in Spielberg. “We will try to get the best out of our package and avoid making any mistakes. After ten years together, this is going to be my final race for Audi, so it will be an emotional weekend for me whatever happens,” says van der Linde.

Completing the trio of title contenders is Engel, who must be at his very best in Hockenheim and hope that the two drivers ahead of him in the table both slip up. Despite coming into the showdown as the

Media Information

underdog, the serene Mercedes-AMG driver is more than capable of putting in a title-winning performance – with 106 DTM starts under his belt, Engel is one of the most experienced drivers in the field. “Anything is possible in the DTM. We believe we have a chance of turning this situation around in our favour. It is going to be a festival of motorsport, and I am looking forward to it,” says Engel, who made his DTM debut in Hockenheim back in 2008. As well as the leading trio, a whole host of drivers are looking to end the season with a good result. They include René Rast (Bregenz) in a Schubert Motorsport BMW M4 GT3. The three-time champion has already amassed five race wins at the iconic circuit in the Schwetzingen Hardt forest. Defending champion Thomas Preining (A) is also out to end the year on a high. Last season, the Austrian won both races in Hockenheim to clinch the first DTM title for Porsche.

Five teams and four manufacturers battling for class victories

The Team competition promises to produce plenty of drama. BMW team Schubert Motorsport (320 points) leads the way, but will face a stiff competition from Abt Sportsline (281 points), Mercedes-AMG Team Winward (268 points), SSR Performance (264 points) and Mercedes-AMG Team HRT (250 points). A maximum 90 points are still on offer, as they are in the Manufacturer championship. The top manufacturer coming into the finale is Mercedes-AMG (384 points), followed by Lamborghini (360 points) and BMW (337 points). Audi (301 points) also still has a mathematical chance of winning the title.

Title deciders in support series, and the Track Safari premiere in Hockenheim

Hockenheim is not only the scene of the grand finale in the DTM, but the ADAC GT Masters and ADAC GT4 Germany will also decide their 2024 champions at the 4.574-kilometre racetrack near Mannheim. The fully-electric NXT Gen Cup and the Porsche Sixt Carrera Cup Deutschland are also in Hockenheim for the final round of their respective title races. On Friday, fans will have the opportunity to take to the track themselves, as the DTM Track Safari makes its first appearance at the Hockenheimring. The lucky few will be taken out in coaches, while the DTM cars race past them at close quarters, making for some spectacular images. Away from the track, there is plenty of entertainment on offer in the Fan Zone behind the South Stand (Südtribüne). On Saturday, the day’s racing will draw to a close with an After Race Party courtesy of Sunshine Live. Before that, DJ Tomekk will get the party started from 18:00 in front of the Schaeffler Brand Home in the DTM paddock.

Tickets for the DTM finale in Hockenheim start at € 39 and are available at [dtm.com](https://www.dtm.com). Admission is free for under 16s when accompanied by an adult.

Media Contact

ADAC e.V.

Oliver Runschke, T +49 89 76 76 69 65, E-mail oliver.runschke@adac.de

Kay-Oliver Langendorff, T +49 89 76 76 69 36, E-mail kay.langendorff@adac.de

[dtm.com/en](https://www.dtm.com/en)