



International

Volkswagen Motorsport Newsletter 27/2017

- **Formula 3 European Championship: Two wins for Eriksson, misfortune for Norris**
- **VLN: Golf GTI TCR claims fourth win of the season on the Nordschleife**
- **ADAC TCR Germany: Luca Engstler fifth at season finale**

FIA Formula 3 European Championship

Spielberg: Eriksson celebrates, Norris rues bad luck

Volkswagen driver Lando Norris (GB) missed his chance to wrap up the title in the FIA Formula 3 European Championship with races to spare. The young Brit from Volkswagen customer team Carlin finished fourth and second in the opening two races at the Red Bull Ring (A). However, with the championship within touching distance, a collision with Ralf Aron (EST) meant he was unable to finish race three. In contrast, Volkswagen driver Joel Eriksson (S) had cause for celebration. The Swede from the Motopark Academy team won races two and three, and also finished runner-up behind Callum Iltot (GB/Mercedes) in the first race. These were race wins five and six of the season for the speedy Swede.

Eriksson was embroiled in a long battle for the lead with fellow Volkswagen driver in the final race of the day, during which he actually collided slightly with the Brit. However, both drivers were able to continue.

Lando Norris continues to lead the overall standings, ahead of Maximilian Günther (D/Mercedes), going into the season finale at the Hockenheimring (D) on 14 and 15 October. Norris' holds a 72-point lead, with a maximum 75 points still up for grabs.

More information: www.fiaf3europe.com

VLN Endurance Championship Nürburgring

Fourth win of the season for the Golf GTI TCR

The Mathilda Racing team claimed its fourth win of the season in the fiercely-competitive TCR class at round seven of the VLN Endurance Championship at the Nürburgring (D). Starting from second on the grid, Benjamin Leuchter (D) and Andreas GÜlden (D) produced a flawless performance in the Volkswagen Golf GTI TCR on the demanding Nordschleife circuit to win ahead of the Opel Astra of Hannu Luostarinen (FIN) and Volker Strycek (D).



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"Benny and Andy were great and did not make any mistakes. That was the key to the success," said team principal Michael Paatz after the Volkswagen duo's latest win. The next round of the VLN Endurance Championship is on 7 October.

More information: www.vln.de

TCR Germany

Champion rookie Engstler fifth at season finale

Luca Engstler (D) narrowly missed out on a spot on the podium at the final round of the ADAC TCR Germany at the Hockenheimring (D). The driver from Liqui Moly Team Engstler was embroiled in a battle with third-placed Steve Kirsch (D/Honda) for vast stretches of race one, and lost fourth place to Sheldon van der Linde (ZA/Audi) in the process. Engstler, who had wrapped up the title in the rookie championship at the previous round at the Sachsenring (D), eventually crossed the finish line in fifth place. The winner was Harald Proczyk (A/Opel). Fabian Thoma (CH) was the best-placed Volkswagen driver in race two, coming home tenth. The race was won by Josh Files (GB/Honda), who secured the drivers' title for the second time in a row.

More information: www.adac-motorsport.de/adac-tcr-germany/de/

FIA World Rallycross Championship

Debut in world championship-winning team: Depping ready for his outing at the Estering

Volkswagen test driver Dieter Depping (D) is set to make his first appearance in the FIA World Rallycross Championship (WRX). The 51-year-old will drive for PSRX Team Volkswagen Sweden, who won both the Team Championship and the Drivers' title with Johan Kristoffersson (S) last time out in Riga (LV), at the German round of the world championship at the Estering next weekend (29.09.-01.10.). Like Kristoffersson, Depping will line up in the 570-hp Polo GTI Supercar at Volkswagen's home event. Regular driver and team principal Petter Solberg (N), who will undergo an operation on his collarbone following his crash at the latest round of the world championship, is hoping to be able to return to action.

More information: www.fiaworldrallycross.com



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Japanese Formula 3 Championship

Takaboshi crowned champion at season finale

Celebrations in Japan: Volkswagen driver Mitsunori Takaboshi (J) was crowned champion in the Japanese Formula 3 Championship at the final round of the season in Sugo (J). Two fourth places at the demanding circuit proved sufficient for the driver from Volkswagen customer team B-Max Racing Team with NDDP to claim the title. His biggest rival Sho Tsuboi (J/Toyota) won once and finished runner-up in the other race, but was still unable to reel in Takaboshi, who ended the season eight points clear at the top of the championship.

"I could not believe it when I crossed the finish line," said Takaboshi. "However, we have had a very strong season and scored more points than anyone else. I must thank everyone in the team for their efforts. This is simply fantastic."

More information: www.j-formula3.com/e/

TCR Benelux

Altoè and Potty on the podium in Mettet

Giacomo Altoè (I) and Maxime Potty (B) claimed three podium finishes between them at the fifth race weekend of the TCR Benelux season in Mettet (B). At the wheel of the 350-hp Volkswagen Golf GTI TCR run by the Delahaye Racing team, Altoè crossed the finish line second behind Lorenzo Donnicuo (I/Audi) in the opening race. Third place went to Sam Dejonghe (B/Seat). Altoè then came home just 1.8 seconds behind winner Kevin Abbring (NL/Peugeot) in race two, with Stéphane Lemeret (B) taking third place. A Golf GTI TCR finished in the podium positions again in race four. Maxime Potty (B) was third behind Benjamin Lessennes (Honda) and Aurelién Comte (F/Peugeot). TCR Benelux now heads to Assen (Netherlands) for the season finale on 21 and 22 October.

More information: www.tcrbenelux.eu

▪ **TCR Italy**

Massimiliano Gagliano (I) finished seventh and eighth in a Volkswagen Golf GTI TCR in Vallelunga (I). The Italian is seventh in the overall standings with one race weekend remaining. More information: www.acisport.it

▪ **Volkswagen Fun Cup Europe**

The Allure Team won the 10 Hours of Mettet (B). The team came home ahead of AC Motorsport I and the Bustin Motorsport team. More information: www.vwfuncup.eu



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Next up:

29/09–01/10/2017, FIA World Rallycross Championship, Estering (D)

29/09–01/10/2017, FIA European Rallycross Championship, Estering (D)

29/09–30/09/2017, Austrian Rally Championship, Rally Liezen (A)

30/09–01/10/2017, British Touring Car Championship, Brands Hatch (GB)

29/09–01/10/2017, Volkswagen Fun Cup France, Lédénon (F)



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