



Nürburg/Heiligenroth, 12th Mai 2007

Lead of the class-chart in face of weather chaos – Rank three for the team Racing Event Motorsport

What a chaos at the Nurburgring. The fourth heat of the BFGoodrich-Long-Distance-Touring-Car-Championship was anything but easy for all the teams. Also the team Racing Event Motorsport had to struggle hard with the external circumstances. The reason: The weather was on its best Eifel-behaviour. Constantly the conditions swapped between really wet and bone dry.

Already during the training could be seen, that the Nordschleife would put its skittish trait on display. Slight rain showers with time and again dry intervals turned the tire choice into a poker game. However it got more and more dry at the end of the qualifying. Guido Wirtz, alias Bugs Bunny, did a nearly perfect job and crossed the start- and finishing line only one minute before the end of the time training. So his turn was ranked and he had - under these circumstances – a very good lap. It was adequate for starting position three behind the Pohlen-Bora and a Volvo, that competed for the first time this year in class SP11. “I’m very satisfied with the qualifying,” head of the team Andre Ibron said.

But this good mood wore off very quickly during the race. The charging-air pressure was considerably too low and therefore the white DEGUSSA-BMW was lacking relevant output. Andre Ibron right away headed for the box, where the team searched for the failure for 40 minutes. “We scanned everything and the failure memory didn’t provide any conclusions either.” Franz Groß took over the cockpit and went back to the track – three laps behind. Due to the seesawing conditions between wet and dry, he decided to take intermediates. Distrustful the head of the team looked to the sky: “Unfortunately the tires don’t work optimally at the current conditions.” Because there was no damp track. It was either completely dry or soaking wet.

However, Franz Groß did a great job. He had to struggle with lacking output, too. But also had the other teams and therefore all chances were open to the team Racing Event Motorsport. When at the next – exceptionally scheduled – pit stop Bugs Bunny took over the car, he went for rain tires. Despite his broken hand he took pains and got several positions ahead. Only the Castrol BMW 335d of the team Dieselspeed and the Pohlen-Bora R-TDI were already too far away. “Dieselspeed did an almost perfect race today”, Andre Ibron commended the performance of his competitor.

Again the last stint took the head of the team. Though it was dry at that time, dark clouds repeatedly piled up over the Nordschleife. Andre Ibron again went for intermediates. A mistake, as turned out afterwards – but at that weather poker no one could be reproached. However Andre Ibron managed to drive the fastest lap with the BMW one and pushed on to position three at the end of the race.

“I no longer bargained for the winner’s podium,” said the head of the team afterwards. “Under these circumstances and with our power-problem this is a great result. We made the most of the given conditions.”

However, at the scoring for the championship the team is currently in the lead of the class and in the main classification on position 57. Needless to say that the team wants to stand up for that rank during the next race. Till then the problem with the charging-air pressure will be solved and the DEGUSSA-BMW ready for action.