

Fanatec GT World - Endurance (Hockenheim) - Overall and Endurance leads

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#News

Going into the Hockenheim round, the 2022 Fanatec GT World entered the last third of its calendar. After their victory at the 24 Hours of Spa, Akkodis ASP Team headed to Germany leading the overall championship (Sprint + Endurance) as well as the Endurance championship. At the end of a very promising weekend with the best time set by Raffaele Marciello (#88) in the Pre-qualifying session, the qualifying session proved to be more complicated, with P14 for the #88 and P19 for the #87 (P4 Silver). The three hour race didn't really reverse the trend despite the meteoric rise into P4 for the #88 of Raffaele Marciello, Dani Juncadella and Jules Gounon, which was followed by an unavoidable withdrawal following reoccurring power cuts. For the #87, driven by Casper Stevenson, Thomas Drouet and Tommaso Mosca, the race was characterized by an offensive and combative attitude, but, faced with opponents who were more at ease on this track, the team finished P6 in the category. And now, they're heading to Spain to the circuit of Valencia for the Sprint Cup finale, before heading to Barcelona for the Endurance final. Trailing by only 4,5 points in the overall Sprint Team classification, and by 11,5 points for Raffaele Marciello and Timur Boguslavskiy in the drivers' title, everything is still to play for...



In the free practice sessions, held in the rain with 47 other crews on track, the two Akkodis ASP Team trios took their marks. The #88 took the 6th best time overall and the #87 was 6th in the Silver Cup.

When it was time for Pre-Qualifying, Akkodis ASP Team pulled out the stops and made it to the front with the #88 of Raffaele Marciello, Dani Juncadella and Jules Gounon. After the free practice sessions that morning in the rain, the session played out on dry track conditions and under a blue sky. The times improved rapidly and the best time went to Raffaele Marciello with 1m37.643s.

In the #87, Casper Stevenson, Tommaso Mosca and Thomas Drouet also proved to be very performant, with Thomas setting the third best time in the Silver Cup (P11 overall).

Before heading into the qualifying sessions, it was time for the virtual race. Akkodis ASP Team took their second double victory (two categories) and set a 1-2 overall in the Fanatec Esports GT Pro Series 2022 thanks to superb performances by Dani Juncadella and Tommaso Mosca on the Suzuka circuit. The first overall victory for the Spaniard in sim racing in the Fanatec Arena allowed Akkodis ASP Team to comfort their position as leader in the teams classification in real life.



Qualifying (in the real world) didn't take place in the best conditions, with a temperature of 20°C and a damp track. The #88 was lacking rhythm and top speed when Raffaele Marciello finished 11th in Q1 (but was also the fastest of the Mercedes-AMG). Dani Juncadella and Jules Gounon stayed outside of the top 10 in their respective sessions and with the average of the three drivers, the #88 placed itself on the 7th row (P14), its worst grid position since 2020.

In the Silver Cup, Casper Stevenson, Tommaso Mosca and Thomas Drouet did not spare any effort. The #87 settled itself on the 10th row (P19 overall) and P4 in the category.

Sunday, and the start of the race was given on a dry track and with a temperature of 25°C. After just 30 minutes, Raffaele Marciello (#88) was back in the Top 10 (P9) and Casper Stevenson (#87) was P17. One hour later, the #88 continued to make good progress, sitting P6, while the #87 was fourth in the class.

With 30 minutes to go, Jules Gounon (#88) was driving in the Top 5, then climbed to P4, but power cuts started to seriously disrupt the car before it was finally immobilised. The #88 stopped 14 laps away from the finish. It was a great disappointment to the French team and a lot of points were lost in the championship. The trio held onto the lead of the Endurance championship, leading by 'only' 11 points. Needless to say that it will be a hot autumn in Barcelona...

In the Silver Cup, the battle raged on. Lap by lap, Casper Stevenson, Tommaso Mosca and Thomas Drouet (#87) did not disappoint and fought at every turn. Less at ease on this track than the Audis and Lamborghinis, the Mercedes-AMG Akkodis ASP Team finished the race P6 Silver (P16 overall).



We'll have to wait until the start of October and the end of the final race of the season to know who the 2022 Fanatec GT World Endurance Cup winner will be. The competition in Barcelona is going to be tight. As a reminder, the #88 won last year with Raffaele Marciello, Felipe Fraga and Jules Gounon... As for the team classification, Akkodis ASP Team is still in the lead with a 16 point gap.