

Plans for victory turned into reality – MKR Technology triumphant

Donington – Long before the first race of this season's European truck racing championship the Židovice-based MKR Technology must have sounded rather audacious when they announced they were going to rule over the whole series. Many were laughing at the foolish idea. But the new team established last year around the German constructor Marion Kress meant every single word they had said. After the weekend event in Donington, England, the MKR Technology team is occupying the top of the overall ranking in the individual contest and is on a narrow second spot in the team competition. All this despite the lack of luck on their side.

The weekend started out as an extremely promising one for the MKR group. Although the times in qualifying sessions were surprisingly close to each other – only hundredths of seconds decided the fight for the first race grid of the first six trucks – it was the Židovice team's Markus Oestreich who sovereigned the track. Having won the introductory race in a start to finish style, he added a total of twenty points to his nametag in the overall ranking. *„At the beginning I was a little lucky. When the trucks behind me were fighting with each other I managed to build a gap which would eventually decide the result. From this point it was easy to manage, I always believed that I would win,”* said the victorious Markus Oestreich in a relaxed voice, having been accompanied to the podium by the ruling champion Antonio Albacete from Spain with Uwe Nittel coming third. Oese's Czech colleague Adam Lacko finished on the fifth followed by Markus Bösiger.

And there was some more joy on the winners' podium to come for MKR. In the afternoon handicap race Lacko moved to the front shortly and stuck to the top for a long time. However, he had Albacete breathing down his neck the whole race, the Spaniard eventually taking advantage of Lacko's mistake and seizing the first position. *„I knew that Antonio was very close behind me and I was not able to get away from him. In one corner near the end of the race I was a little too late on the brakes and he took advantage of this. He has more experience than me so second place for me I will take as a success.“* said Adam Lacko, who makes up one half of the MKR Team 14 Juniors; the other is his French colleague Anthony Janiec.

Luckily, the first day was not merely a coincidence. Markus Oestreich was equally confident in leading the Sunday event. After winning the super pole, he copied his victory from the day before in the main race, too. He closed the way for everyone behind him and crossed the finish line collecting a double in Donington. Later in the afternoon he took home the bronze from the handicap race. *„Our times here were incredibly fast. It was just fantastic. The truck was perfectly prepared, we clicked immediately, so I could really enjoy the race. I'm happy that I started the season like this. Not that I'm surprised, I had been secretly hoping I could make it,”* the smiling Oestreich confessed.

In comparison, his teammate Markus Bösiger did not live up to his own expectations, finishing sixth and fifth respectively in the Sunday races. The second day of races turned completely unlucky for the Czech pilot defending MKR colours Adam Lacko. Technical problems did not allow him to finish the first race and in the second, where he was able to work up from the last spot to the sixth position, he was forced to quit due to technical issues.



All in all, the group from Židovice in the Roudnice region had their representative on the podium after every race and reached to the top in the team competition as well. Moreover, they managed to win both main races, which sent the successful Markus Oestreich to lead the overall ranking, now followed by Uwe Nittel and the champion Antonio Albacete. *"The first weekend of the championship series gave us a few hints. There's no need to comment on Oese's excellent performance, with Bösi we're going to analyze the mistakes, but who was truly a pleasant surprise for me was Adam Lacko, who proved that his engagement with us had been the right move. Unfortunately, he had too much of bad luck in the second day but what he was showing here the whole time was just great. He's a young pilot and has a potential to grow. We prepared the trucks just right so I'm still insisting on my dream to occupy the podium with our drivers only,"* the MKR Technology's boss Mario Kress summed up the first event in Donington, England.

The next stop of the European championship series is scheduled for the next month (21.-22.5.) in Misano, Italy.

