

### MKR's pilots three times on the podium in Misano – in spite of all the bad luck

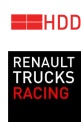
Misano – The MKR Technology truck racing team left the Italian town of Misano somewhat disappointed. The group from north Bohemia hoped that the second event of this year's European truck racing championship would improve their results from Donington, where Markus Oestreich triumphed in both of the main races. Although the Židovice's pilots jumped to the winners' podium three times in Italy, they had to bow before the absolute winner Jochen Hahn, who really swept everyone of their feet. Since the introduction of handicap rides, he has been the first to win all four cup races.

Hahn started to show off in the opening timed session for the „super pole,“ where the positions in the starting grid for the main race were at stake, the German having reached for the first. Closing on him were the drivers of MKR Technology Adam Lacko and Markus Oestreich and so a battle for important points was to be expected. However, Hahn performed a start to finish drive in the cup race and collected a well deserved victory. The same style was performed by the current champion Albacete from Spain, who surpassed MKR's pilots and took home a silver medal. Third and fourth spot in the ranking was occupied by Oestreich and Lacko. Their colleague Markus Bösiger came sixth. “Clearly, Jochen is taking his revenge for Donington. He had bad luck all the time there while here he has set a devilish speed,“ smiled the third man of the race Oestreich.

Saturday handicap race was also rather rough, with the first eight drivers exchanging their positions. Jochen Hahn proved to be the best of all once again, going through the finish for a second gold. He got a lot of support from Uwe Nittel, who gradually eliminated several pilots including our own Markus Bösiger, whose defected machine had to be towed to the garage. Consequently, Albacete was penalized and lost his second place to MKR Technology's Markus Oestreich, who could celebrate another silver, the Spanish leaving with a bronze medal. Adam Lacko finished right off the podium with a nice fourth place. “I'm very happy with the truck. It's a shame that I didn't stay out of some minor collisions on the track, which cost me a spot on the podium, but it's not at all bad to open with two fourth spots,“ said the young driver Lacko with satisfaction.

Unfortunately, things took an unlucky turn on Sunday. Although Hahn and Albacete started from the front row in the first cup race, MKR's Oestreich and Lacko were at their back and Bösiger was on the watch in the following line. Everyone was ready for a merciless pursuit but a mutual collision sent Oestreich and Lacko several places down the pack of trucks. Eventually, the Swiss Markus Bösiger saved the day for the Czech team with a bronze medal, following Hahn on the first and Albacete on the second spot. In spite of all the bad luck at the beginning, Lacko finished on the sixth and Oestreich on the tenth.

Nevertheless, MKR did not have fortune on their side even in the last handicap race on Italian ground, which saw Lacko out of the track prematurely due to a technical defect. “The differential failed. It's just a crazy day,“ sighed the unhappy Lacko.



Finally, the duo of Markuses Oestreich and Bösigler managed to collect some points for a fifth and a sixth spot respectively. Again, the podium looked quite similar - Hahn on the top rank followed by Albacete, yet the third place went to Chris Levett this time. "Saturday didn't start out that bad. All our guys did their best. It's true that Albacete and especially Hahn ruled over the rest of the field but I'm sure that with a bit of luck that we missed this time, the results could have been different. Misano simply didn't bring us what we had expected, still we need to look forward and focus on the next races," summed up the MKR Technology's boss and a relentless fighter Mario Kress.

Thanks to the surprising collection of four victories in all of the cup races, the German Jochen Hahn currently leads the overall ranking and the second place now belongs to Albacete, MKR's Markus Oestreich dropping to the third spot. "Misano is over, it was not an altogether successful weekend but we're going to do what we can to collect more points in Albacete, reclaiming our first position," added Oestreich, never losing his positive outlook.

The following, already a third, stop of the European truck racing championship series comes as early as in two weeks at the Spanish track of Albacete (4.-5.6.).

