

BUGGYRA ORGANISATION

Emirates Towers, Sheikh Zayed Road P.O. BOX 31303, Dubai U.A.E.

Phone: +97 143 132 929 Email: buggyra@buggyra.com

REPORT

Valuable points at Monza keeps Buggyra ZM Racing atop the 24H Series standings

Buggyra ZM Racing's Aliyyah Koloc, David Vršecky and Adam Lacko remain at the top of the 24H Series GT4 drivers' standings. Despite some mechanical issues the team finished on the podium of the 12 Hours of Monza, albeit in a disappointing third place.

The trio endured a troublesome opening segment to the race on Saturday, leaving them with work to do during the second part. But the team made it to the end to pick up yet more valuable points to keep them four points clear of their nearest title rivals.

As for Buggyra ZM Racing itself, it retains the joint lead of the Teams' standings heading into the next round of the season at Estoril in Portugal.

Arriving at the track dubbed the Temple of Speed as the points leaders in the GT4 class, Buggyra began the weekend in good spirits and worked on developing the best setup for the Mercedes-AMG GT4 and the correct strategy for the race.

The Monza weekend was also Aliyyah's first time at the Italian track, which required a period of acclimatisation during practice and qualifying.

"It was my first time at Monza, which is such an iconic track," said Koloc. "I like the track, there are some long straights, not so many corners, a long run to the first corner with top speeds of nearly 250kph.

"After the problems of Saturday, we had an alternator problem on Sunday, so we had to come into the pits to fix the car and lost many laps. But it was a learning experience for our first time here, so I think we did okay. It's a bit of a disappointing weekend but we will use this for the next race."

























Free practice and Qualifying

The weekend followed the usual 24H Series format, with free practice taking place on Friday morning before the three-part qualifying session to determine the starting order for the first segment of the 12-hour race. The #416 Mercedes-AMG GT4 finished second fastest in the practice session, just under a second adrift of the quickest time.

Come qualifying, Koloc, Lacko and Vršecky delivered consistent lap-times – within seven-tenths of each other – to set the second quickest time, just a quarter of a second slower than the pole-sitters. Koloc explained: "Qualifying went pretty well, we got second on the grid in GT4, which was a good result as it's a long race. Our plan was to be consistent, we were up against tough competition so the plan was to have a good fight but be consistent."

Race (Hours 1-6)

In contrast to the rest of the 12-hour format races, the first segment was run over six-and-a-half hours instead of six, with the #416 Mercedes initially holding position with Lacko at the wheel. At the end of Lacko's time in the car, Koloc then took over and completed a double stint, showing good pace amid tyre conservation as many other cars began to encounter puncture concerns.

Unluckily, the team lost multiple laps and track position as a brake problem forced the car into the pits as the mechanics sought to find a quick fix. They were successful but the car lost significant ground to its class rivals, leaving it third in GT3 and with a large deficit to try and claw back on Sunday. "The race started out pretty well, Adam drove a really good stint, and in my time in the car I was double stinting so I was trying to manage the tyres, as people were having problems with punctures," said Koloc.

"Luckily we didn't have any issues with the tyres but unfortunately we encountered a brake issue so we had to pit for a really long time, which meant we lost three laps. Sunday's race is five and a hours and the plan is to try and recover some time.

"It got pretty lonely at times as I wasn't getting any information so my stint felt kind of long but I was consistent with my times and I think I did quite a good job, everyone was happy so I am glad. With the tyres, in the practices we got a puncture so we were trying to be careful and not push too hard, it was hot so thankfully the tyres were not an issue. Sunday's race will be difficult because the other Mercedes is fast and hard to catch, but the BMW is only a couple of laps ahead, so we will push and see if we can catch them."

Race (Hours 7-12)

With the team facing an uphill battle and some luck to back up their Spa victory, the second segment of the race proved a challenge. Lacko started the race and swapped with Koloc but the car was forced back into the garage by the time he brought the #416 into the pits at the end of the opening hour.

Mechanical issues meant that the car lost further ground to the second-placed car, leaving Vršecky and Koloc chasing a finish rather than an outright result. Having spent several minutes in the garage, the car resumed action and made it to the end of the race, finishing on the podium, albeit in a disappointing third place.

"I felt pretty good when I was in the car, I was driving quite consistently," reflected Koloc. "I wasn't the fastest one out there but I was solid and steady which is important especially in a long race, and Adam and David did a good job too.

"It was a good team effort this weekend and we can take some positives into the next race. Racing the full 12 hours in one go will be challenging and a new experience for us so it will be interesting and I am looking forward to it."



REPORT

Buggyra po Monze i přes technické trable vládne šampionátu 24H Series

I když se posádka týmu Buggyra ZM Racing musela ve dvanáctihodinovce v Monze konané v rámci šampionátu 24H Series potýkat s vážnými technickými problémy, dokázalo trio David Vršecký, Adam Lacko a Aliyyah Koloc dovézt svůj speciál Mercedes AMG GT4 na třetí místo v kategorii GT4. Tento výsledek znamená, že v celkovém hodnocení evropského seriálu je Buggyra v silné mezinárodní konkurenci všech týmů GT na dělené vedoucí příčce a dál vede i svoji třídu GT4.

"Základem úspěchu ve vytrvalostních závodech je dojet do cíle. Po oba dny si technika postavila hlavu, ale naši mechanici a inženýři dokázali závady opravit a Mercedes dojel do cíle. Díky tomu jsme získali další trofeje a navíc zazářili v celkovém pořadí," uvedl šéf komunikace Buggyry Jan Kalivoda.

Souboj s týmem ambiciózním korejským týmem Atlas BX Motorsport v dalším Mercedesu o pomyslnou korunu krále Monzy v kategorii GT4 začal už v páteční kvalifikaci. V ní skončila Buggyra o čtvrt sekundy druhá. "Je to hodně rychlá trať. Na rovince tu jedete rychlostí 250 km za hodinu, strašně si ji užívám. V kvalifikaci jsme zajeli dobrý výsledek, ale závod bude náročný a dlouhý. Pokusíme se udělat vše, co bude v našich silách," řekla prorocky Aliyyah Koloc, která v Monze jela poprvé v kariéře. Sobota, kdy byla na programu úvodní 6,5hodinová část závodu, probíhala ve znamení vyrovnaného souboje o vedení s Korejci. Ten trval prakticky po celý závodní den, než musel David Vršecký do boxů a Mercedes AMG GT4 do rukou mechaniků. "Premiéru na Monze si jezdecky užívám. Ale trochu nás potrápily brzdy. Zasekla se destička a výměna se trochu protáhla. Ale hlavní je, že jsme stále ve hře a auto jede," řekl David Vršecký, který podobně jako Aliyyah absolvoval na slavné italské trati svůj první závod.

Neděle přinesla dalších pět a půl hodiny dramatického dění. A to nejen na trati, kde se jezdci Buggyry snažili co nejvíce smazat sobotní ztrátu, ale také v boxech. Tentokrát byl pachatelem zdržení alternátor.

"Původně jsem myslel, že závod jen rozjedu a po dvaceti minutách půjdu ven z auta. Jenže mi v boxech řekli: Jedeš dál. Ale to patří k endurance, strategie se často mění. Jelo se mi dobře, ale pak mi začala svítit kontrolka nabíjení. Zajel jsem do depa, tam jsem auto předal Alče a ona to znovu zkusila na trati. Někdy totiž pomůže prostě jen vypnout a nastartovat auto. Ale tentokrát to nestačilo a museli jsme vyměnit alternátor," popsal Adam Lacko důvody práce v garáži Buggyry.

Vůz se naštěstí povedlo opravit a mohl pokračovat dál. V konečném hodnocení dvanáctihodinovky z toho bylo další pódiové umístění ve 24H Series – třetí místo. A co je hlavní, Buggyra ZM Racing si v Královském parku v Monze posílila pozicí v celkovém hodnocení evropského šampionátu.

























"Dojeli jsme třetí. V závodě jsme si několikrát sekli nejrychlejší kolo z gé té čtyřek. Byl to dlouhý závod v horku. Měli jsme nějaké technické problémy, ale to všechno jsou zkušenosti, které teď sbíráme. Výkonnost jezdců a auta byly perfektní, takže celkově můžeme být spokojeni," řekl Vršecký, který je tak optimisticky naladěný na další závod 24H Series, kterým bude na začátku července dvanáctihodinovka v Estorilu. Té však bude na portugalské trati předcházet výzva v podobě šestihodinového kvalifikačního závodu.

