

Hyundai Motorsport team completes strong Nürburgring 24 Hours preparations

- The Hyundai i30 N TCR and Hyundai Veloster N TCR completed a near-perfect weekend at the six-hour Nürburgring 24 Hours Qualifying Race
- The event is the final part in Hyundai Motorsport's on-track preparations for next month's 24 Hour event on the Nürburgring Nordschleife
- The two Hyundai Motorsport Customer Racing built cars finished 1-2 in the TCR class, the best of them completing 38 laps to finish 28th overall.

Nürburg, Germany

May 19, 2019 – Hyundai Motorsport's two cars set new benchmarks for the class in endurance racing on a consistently strong Nürburgring 24 Hours Qualifying Race weekend to complete preparations for the Nürburgring 24 Hours.

The two-car team, comprised of one i30 N TCR and one Veloster N TCR, was planned to provide the final on-track running for the endurance specification machines ahead of next month's event. Each entry was driven by a three-man crew. The all-German trio of Manuel Lauck, Andreas Gülden and Peter Terting were tasked with driving the i30 N TCR, while the Veloster was entrusted to the combination of Marc Basseng, Moritz Oestreich and Nico Verdonck.

The strength of the Hyundai Motorsport Customer Racing built machines and the additions to the car for long-distance racing showed in Saturday evening's first qualifying session. Lauck's best lap put the i30 N TCR 40th overall, while Oestreich set the best lap for the trio piloting the Veloster N TCR to take a spot in the order only a few places behind.

Rain intervened, preventing the drivers from going any quicker as the session ran into twilight. The team's attention instead turned to testing the headlight configuration on both machines, ready for the night running of the 24 Hours weekend.

The beginning of the race brought mixed conditions. Morning rain had dampened the circuit, leaving a greasy surface. Starting the i30 N TCR Lauck opted for a combination of slick tyres on the front and wets on the rear axle. In the Veloster N TCR Verdonck decided on a more aggressive strategy, with four dry weather Dunlops for his opening stint.

The decision gave Verdonck the upper hand in the opening laps – Lauck one of many drivers who had to pit in order to revert to fully slick tyres in the early going. However, a left-rear puncture would force Verdonck to limp back into the pits giving the position back to Lauck. With fresh rubber on the car the Belgian returned to the race, the Veloster N TCR otherwise undamaged.

The Veloster remained on the pace, but was slowed in the second half of the race by a minor issue. Happily, the team was able to quickly fix the car during a very brief stay in the garage, minimizing the time lost in the overall standings and keeping the team on course for a top 40 finish in the near 100-strong entry.

The final stint to the flag in the i30 N TCR went to Peter Terting. He brought the car to the finish,

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completing 38 laps of the 25km circuit, an achievement that gave them victory in the TCR class in 28th overall. Anchoring the crew in the Veloster N TCR Verdonck was only a lap behind, to complete a consistent weekend and a perfect warm-up for the longer race to come.

Hyundai Motorsport Team Director Andrea Adamo said: *“The Nürburgring 24 Hours Qualifying Race was a very important step in our work towards the 24 Hours, and the performance of the team and cars was the perfect outcome from the event. Both the Hyundai i30 N TCR and Hyundai Veloster N TCR proved to be consistently quick around such a demanding track and have the reliability necessary for the 24 Hours. We must now complete the final preparations for the Nürburgring 24 Hours to make sure we can repeat this performance, and more.”*

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About Hyundai Motorsport GmbH

Established on 19 December 2012, Hyundai Motorsport GmbH is responsible for Hyundai's global motorsport activities, including the FIA World Rally Championship (WRC) and Customer Racing projects. In WRC, Hyundai Motorsport quickly established a strong reputation taking victory in its debut season in 2014. The team amassed ten wins up to the end of the 2018 season and finished as runners-up in the manufacturers' championship on three consecutive occasions. Since the establishment of its Customer Racing activities in September 2015, Hyundai Motorsport has become a trusted partner for teams and drivers looking for success on the rally stages or on racetracks around the world. From its competitive i20 R5 rally car to the competitive i30 N TCR, Hyundai Motorsport-built cars have claimed victory in several championships, including national rally series in France and Spain, as well as the teams' and drivers' titles in the inaugural FIA World Touring Car Cup (WTCR) season. Unified under Hyundai Motorsport, WRC and Customer Racing are together playing instrumental roles in driving Hyundai's global high-performance N brand, and are supporting an important perception shift for the Hyundai brand around the world.

Further information about Hyundai Motorsport is available at: <http://motorsport.hyundai.com>

About Hyundai Motor

Established in 1967, Hyundai Motor Company is committed to becoming a lifetime partner in automobiles and beyond with its range of world-class vehicles and mobility services offered available in more than 200 countries. Employing more than 110,000 employees worldwide, Hyundai sold more than 4.5 million vehicles globally. Hyundai Motor continues to enhance its product line-up with vehicles that are helping to build solutions for a more sustainable future, such as NEXO – the world's first dedicated hydrogen-powered SUV.

More information about Hyundai Motor and its products can be found at:
<http://worldwide.hyundai.com> or <http://globalpr.hyundai.com/>

To download high-resolution photos for editorial use, full drivers' profiles, as well as other useful press information about the team please refer to:

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