

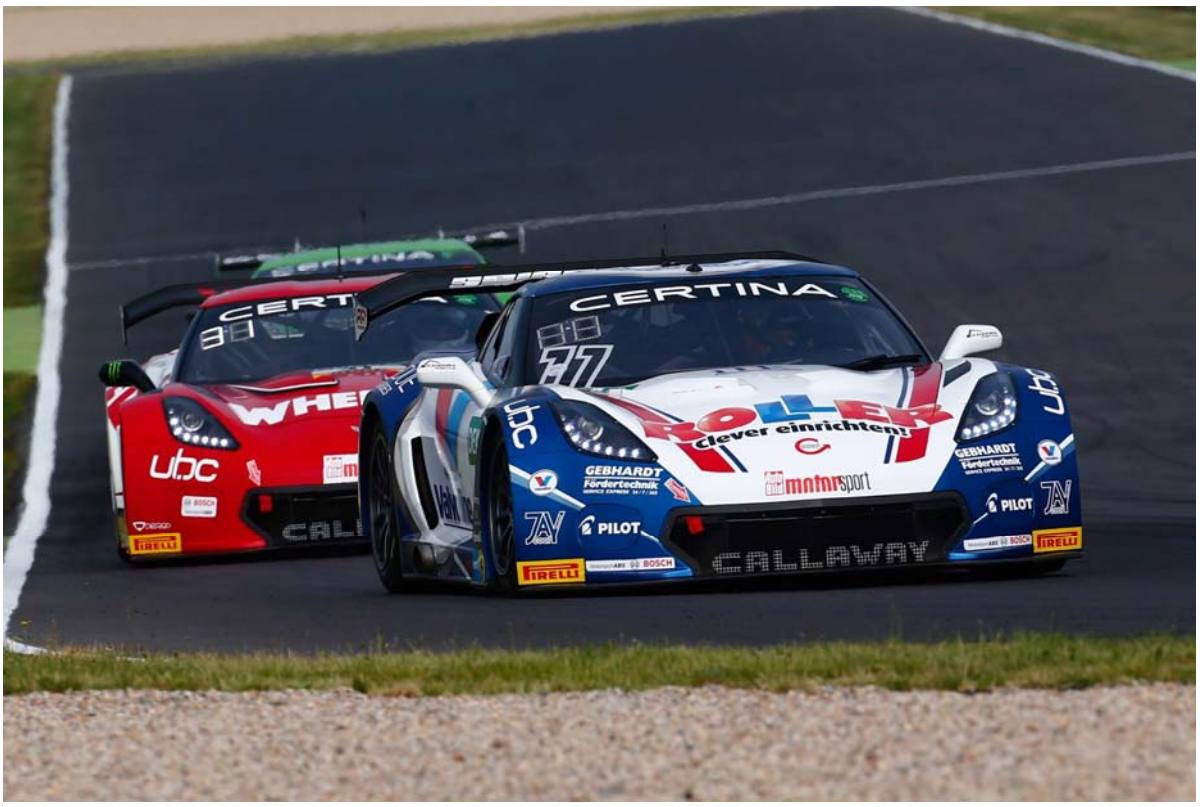
ADAC GT Masters Lausitzring Report

The Third Round of the German ADAC GT Masters saw yet another shift in the 2016 Title battle in favour of the all new C7 GT3R. Heading into the race weekend, the Leingarten based Callaway Competition was ready to bring their race winning momentum from Sachsenring to the front of the field yet again. "We witnessed a positive race weekend at Sachsenring, Explains Team Principal Ernst Wöhr. “However, we are not resting on our laurels and after an extensive data analysis we have further optimized the setups of the vehicles. We will definitely give everything we have!"

Both Qualifying sessions saw mixed results for the Nr77, Nr69, and the Nr31 Whelen machine. While the Nr77 & 69 qualified in the top 5 for both races (including pole for the Nr69 for race 2), the Nr31 suffered power steering issues for both sessions. Because of this, the red Whelen beast was relegated to last on the grid. After a solid points finish for race 1 (which included 3rd for the Nr69 & 4th for the Nr77), Race 2 would show yet another exciting battle against Germanys best. After starting from pole, Dominik Schwager held off a charging Daniel Keilwitz in 2nd (after starting 3rd) until the halfway mark. The decisive moment of race 2 came during the teams mandatory pit stops.



A pit lane time infraction from the Nr16 Grasser Racing Lamborghini which pitted with Schwager, forced the C7 GT3 of Patrick Assenheimer to slow during both cars exit. This was due to the Nr16's slow pit lane speed while attempting to meet their minimum time requirement by the series. As a result, lost time (added to a quick lap from Keilwitz before their stop) saw them relegated briefly to 3rd. At the finish, Jules Gounon brought home his Nr77 Valvoline backed C7 GT3 1st, with teammate Assenheimer 2nd.



This marks the first 1-2 victory for the new Callaway built machine in only the cars 6th race. Elsewhere the Nr31 Whelen Engineering team C7 made an excellent recovery to finish 10th after starting from the back of the grid. The Nr77 now currently sits just 3 points behind the Championship leaders. Callaway Competition head into another short break in ADAC, with the next event at the Red Bull Ring set for 22nd-24th July. However, the team's next outing will be the VLN 4 event on 25th of June.



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Team Quotes:

Giovanni Ciccone (Team Principal Callaway Competition): “The victory at the Sachsenring was surprising for us, but we knew prior to this weekend that we should be competitive at the Lausitzring, because the track suits our car. But we would have never thought that it would be that great. We showed great pace in qualifying and the double-victory (with a win in the junior category as well) on Sunday, is the icing on the cake. It is a great achievement by everyone in the team and shows our dedication and continuing hard work we put into this project.”

Daniel Keilwitz (Nr 77 Valvoline/Roller C7 GT3): "Clearly, we're very happy with this victory. The start went well for me. On the run-in to the first corner, I briefly got ahead of the second Callaway Corvette driven by Dominik [Schwager], but I then drifted wide of the racing line on the second corner and didn't have enough traction. That allowed him to counter the move. So for the moment, I just slotted into place and followed behind. When the pit stop window opened, I stayed out a bit longer and went as fast as I could. That was the decisive factor in us coming out ahead after the change of drivers."

Jules Gounon (Nr 77 Valvoline/Roller C7 GT3): "I have to admit, things are going really well for us. As a rookie, however, I'm not looking at the championship table but rather focusing on each race as it comes. I'm getting more accustomed to the new Corvette with each outing. My thanks to the team who, as always, do such a great job. The race was a lot of fun. This is a highly competitive field of entrants."

Patrick Assenheimer (Nr 69 AutoArenA.de C7 GT3): "What a perfect weekend! Two races and two podium finishes. Of course, we could have won the second race as well. Dominik [Schwager] handed over the car to me in the lead - but then there was an incident with a Lamborghini - apparently the Lambo had undercut the minimum 65 seconds in the pit lane and was driving very slowly in the outer pit lane. That slowed me down, and I lost the lead to our Callaway team-mates. What a pity."

Dominik Schwager (Nr 69 AutoArenA.de C7 GT3): "If you'd told me before the weekend that we'd get two podiums, I would have said, bring it on! The Lausitzring really suits our Corvette. Starting from pole position, I was initially able to defend the lead. We were unlucky during the pit stops in that the Lamborghini blocked our path. That cost us two places to start with, but I'm satisfied at the end of the day."

Loris Hezemans (Nr 31 Whelen Engineering C7 GT3): “It was my first time at the Lausitzring and of course it was frustrating to have lost so much time in the practice sessions. But we managed a great finish with P10 on Sunday and I was able to set my lap-time within seven-tenth of the best lap.”

Boris Said (Nr 31 Whelen Engineering C7 GT3): "We had no time during practice and we did not get a timed lap during qualifying either. Our weekend actually started with the end of the first race. At this stage, we had completed enough laps to get a certain routine to start into a normal race. Loris and I had never raced here before and it is therefore really great to finish in tenth place after the frustrating beginning.”

Sven Barth (Nr 13 RWT Racing Z06-R): "Unfortunately our weekend was plagued with bad luck throughout, despite the good performance shown. However we are fully motivated to continue the hard work to turn it back around for Red Bull Ring. “