

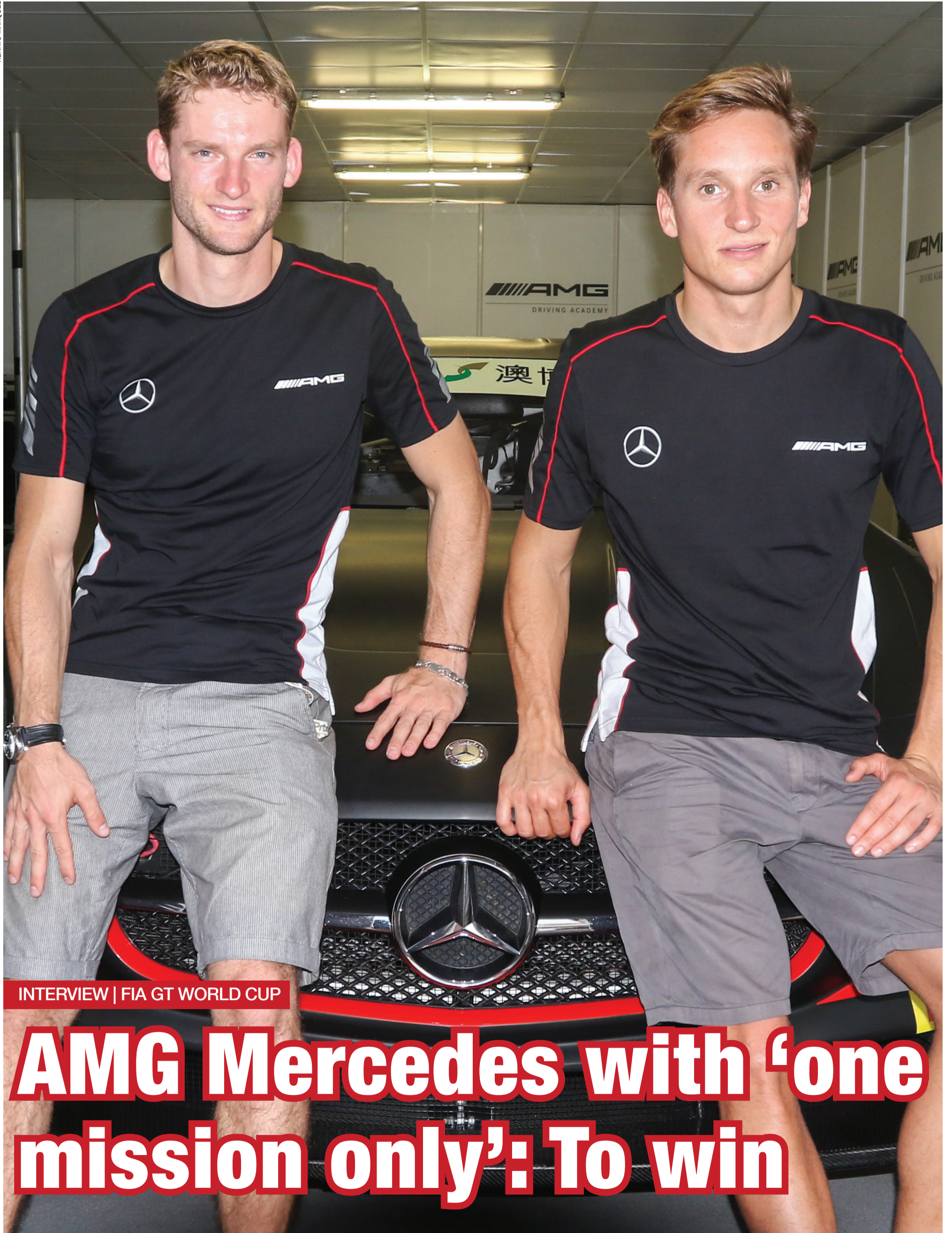
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SUPPLEMENT

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REYNATO MARQUES



INTERVIEW | FIA GT WORLD CUP

AMG Mercedes with 'one mission only': To win

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AMG Mercedes with 'one mission only': To

Renato Marques

DDOUBLE Macau GT winners in 2014 the duo Maro Engel and Renger Van der Zande are already showing that they can repeat the feat this year. To learn about the team and its ambitions in the FIA World GT Cup the Times spoke to the racers on the sidelines of yesterday's free practice session.

"I think we set our goal pretty clear doing P1 and P2 again in the first session, we did it last year [in the Macau GT Cup race] and we want to do it again. We are on a roll again to start this year the same way we finished last year," Van der Zande said.

However, the Dutch race-car driver expects to be challenged, since he believes that the Audi team will start to push stronger during today and tomorrow's sessions and he expects other teams to show



their strengths too. "They will get closer at some point but we still can improve ourselves too. There is only one mission and that's is the 1-2 again." Asked about his opinion on

“We are on the roll again to start this year the same way we finished last year.

RENGER VAN DER ZANDE

the new competition scheme - a World Cup to be raced in one single event - the Dutch driver has no doubts exclaiming, "It is great! It is very competitive and it is also a more promoted event. We know that Macau always been about the Formula 3 and now we are reaching the same level competition-wise."



Maro Engel and Renger Van der Zande

Van der Zande also sees in this competition a much more interesting way for the manufacturers to participate - the main point for it to grow. "Next year will be even

'I'm loving every minute of it'

THE AMG Mercedes-Benz duo that won last year's Macau GT Cup edition - Renger van der Zande and Cup winner Maro Engel - set an early pace for the first-ever FIA GT World Cup in the free practice session.

This time, van der Zande topped the timesheets with a lap of 2:20.796, just 0.242 of a second quicker than his teammate.

"It's fantastic, such a thrill! Every second, even coming out of the pit lane, is a challenge but I'm loving every minute of it. The only shame is that [the Macau GT Cup] is only four days every year," he commented.

Completing the Top 3 was three-time race winner Edoardo Mortara in the maiden run

of the Audi R8 LMS.

The 2015 GT Asia Series champion Darryl O'Young set the fourth fastest time in the Craft Bamboo Aston Martin Vantage GT3, ahead of 2015 Le Mans 24 Hour winner Earl Bamber, completing a very competitive Top 5.

Macau's Andre Couto had a good first contact with the car in the Guia circuit and was the fastest of the three McLaren 650s GT3s, clocking in seventh overall behind O'Young's teammate Stefan Mucke.

Many possibilities remain for today's runs, with two sessions on the way: practice in the morning and the qualifying round in the afternoon.



Felix Rosenqvist

F3 Rosenqvist in but not riskin

SJM Theodore Racing's Swedish racer Felix Rosenqvist nabbed yesterday's provisional pole position for the Macau Formula 3 Grand Prix, after dominating the first qualifying session.

After a first practice session where Carlin's Antonio Giovinazzi took the lead, Rosenqvist moved to the top of the timesheets despite good times achieved by both Callum Iloft and Giovinazzi, both less than one second away from the top.

Young Briton Iloft stayed second

win



Engel sees this race in a very positive way, "I have a lot of positive memories from last year and I'm back with the same team to do the same."

For the racer this year there are a lot of extra motivations with the World Cup trophy in dispute and the fact that every car is racing on the same tires, admitting that this last factor forced the team to do some "technical adjustments".

"Winning in Macau last year was a dream come true and I will do everything to repeat that again," he said.

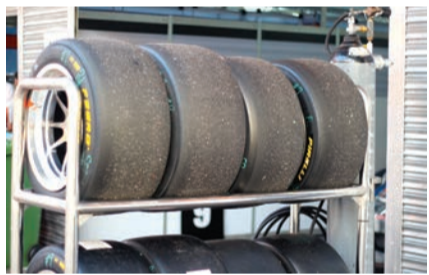
It's a big race and everybody is watching the GTs.

MARO ENGEL

Like Van der Zande, Engel expects the competition to be strong and to win he is certain that he needs to put a very good set of laps during the full length of the race.

Questioned if more manufacturers will want to join after a positive result running the competition this year, he has no doubts: "This is the ultimate track, the event is amazing and the competition is super strong so I am sure that they would want to come and compete against the best. This will be the place where all the best manufacturers in the world want to be, would be nice to see them all here," Engel said.

Sharing the thoughts of Van der Zande, Engel thinks that this GT World Cup is pairing the Formula 3. "We do not need to overtake the Formula 3. There is space in Macau for two great races, two main headline events, side-by-side to make it even greater."



stronger. It's a big race and everybody is watching the GTs. We are on primetime of the timetable and that says a lot."

Last year's champion Maro

in the lead, 'pushing, pushing a crash'

-best in the qualifying session, his confidence unaffected by the morning's crash at the Lisboa bend.

At the end of the session, Rosensqvist commented, "I was still learning how the Prema car works around every lap in Macau and then I reached a point where I moved up a step in my driving abilities of the car. That's what I was really looking for, and now I feel more confident and we're looking good. It's a good start to the weekend and I didn't use any new tyres, so we're good on stra-

tegy too. On my quick lap I was pushing, but not risking a crash - it was a good lap."

Ilott appeared delighted with his performance, especially after having lost an important amount of track-running time in the morning session after his crash.

"It was a good result," said the Briton. "After this morning I thought we were going to struggle, but I just stayed out there and kept improving. I could see my board each lap saying P5, P4, P3, and then P2, so I'm pretty happy."

MOTO GP

John McGuinness sets provisional pole

Renato Marques

THE first afternoon of this year's Grand Prix saw the inaugural battle for the lead of the 49th edition of the Macau Motorcycle Grand Prix. With temperatures rising and rubber squealing on the track, the times started to drop as the pack's two most experienced riders raced to top the day's leaderboard.

Michael Rutter and John McGuinness were in a lively contest, trading places at the top, the likes of which we have not seen them do for a long time on the streets of Macau.

Martin Jessopp, another serious candidate for the final win, finished in the top three at 0.465 sec off McGuinness. Jessopp dominated the morning free practice session and was inclusively the fastest in each of the three time sectors, but never managed to put together a full lap with that pace.

Ian Hutchinson was the fourth fastest on track yesterday and the only rider on the second 28 to clo-



Martin Jessopp



Michael Rutter



John McGuinness

ck 2:28.776, over a second slower than Jessopp. Gary Johnson, Horst Saiger, Peter Wickman, Lee Johnston, Conor Cummins and Jimmy Storrar closed the Top 10 with the first 5 riding on the same second (2:29) with

Storrar falling behind the group by roughly 1.4 sec.

This qualifier was split in two after the session was stopped, due to Russell Mountford's crash in the narrowest and windiest section of the circuit. Although an official report on

his condition was unavailable at press time, the Times learned that Mountford was seriously but non-fatally injured, and sustained several fractures.

A surprising disappointment is last year's winner Stuart East-

on, who has always presented fantastic rides in all his visits to the territory. Easton seems to be far from last year's results as he is still recovering from an injury, but also seemed to lack confidence in his first outing on his Yamaha.

NOVEMBER 19 - 22

19th of November (Thursday)

06:00 Circuit Closed
 06:30 - 07:00 Circuit Inspection
 07:30 - 08:30 Suncity Group Macau Motorcycle Grand Prix - 49th Edition - Practice
 08:50 - 09:20 Suncity Lotus Celebrity Cup Race - Practice
 09:35 - 10:15 Suncity Group Formula 3 Macau Grand Prix - FIA F3 Intercontinental Cup - Practice
 10:30 - 11:10 Macau Road Sport Challenge - Practice
 11:25 - 11:55 Suncity Group Macau Guia Race 2.0T - Practice
 12:30 - 13:00 SJM Macau GT Cup - FIA GT World Cup - Practice
 13:20 - 14:00 CTM Macau Touring Car Cup - Practice
 14:20 - 15:00 Suncity Group Formula 3 Macau Grand Prix - FIA F3 Intercontinental Cup - Qualifying
 15:45 - 16:30 Suncity Group Macau Motorcycle Grand Prix - 49th Edition - Qualifying
 16:40 - 17:10 Chinese Racing Cup - Practice
 18:40 - 18:40 Circuit Opened

20th of November (Today)

06:00 Circuit Closed
 06:30 - 07:00 Circuit Inspection
 07:30 - 08:15 Suncity Group Macau Motorcycle Grand Prix - 49th Edition - Qualifying
 08:40 - 09:10 Suncity Lotus Celebrity Cup Race - Qualifying
 09:35 - 10:15 Suncity Group Formula 3 Macau Grand Prix - FIA F3 Intercontinental Cup - Practice
 10:40 - 11:10 SJM Macau GT Cup - FIA GT World Cup - Practice
 11:35 - 12:05 Macau Road Sport Challenge - Qualifying
 12:30 - 13:00 Suncity Group Macau Guia Race 2.0T - Practice
 13:55 - 14:25 CTM Macau Touring Car Cup - Qualifying
 14:55 - 15:25 SJM Macau GT Cup - FIA GT World Cup - Qualifying
 15:55 - 16:35 Suncity Group Formula 3 Macau Grand Prix - FIA F3 Intercontinental Cup - Qualifying
 16:45 - 17:15 Chinese Racing Cup - Qualifying
 18:45 - 18:45 Circuit Opened

21st of November (Saturday)

06:00 Circuit Closed
 06:30 - 07:00 Circuit Inspection
 07:30 - 08:10 Suncity Group Macau Guia Race 2.0T - Qualifying
 08:40 - 09:40 Macau Road Sport Challenge - 10 laps
 10:10 - 11:10 Suncity Lotus Celebrity Cup Race - 10 laps
 11:25 - 11:45 Suncity Group Macau Motorcycle Grand Prix - 49th Edition - Warm Up
 12:15 - 13:15 SJM Macau GT Cup - FIA GT World Cup - Qualification Race - 12 laps
 13:45 - 14:45 Suncity Group Formula 3 Macau Grand Prix - FIA F3 Intercontinental Cup - Qualification Race - 10 laps
 15:05 - 16:05 Suncity Group Macau Motorcycle Grand Prix - 49th Edition - 12 laps
 16:35 - 17:15 Chinese Racing Cup - 8 laps
 18:45 - 18:45 Circuit Opened

22nd of November (Sunday)

06:00 Circuit Closed
 06:30 - 07:00 Circuit Inspection
 07:00 - 07:30 Safety and Rescue Cars - Testing laps
 08:30 - 09:30 CTM Macau Touring Car Cup - 12 laps
 10:00 - 12:00 Suncity Group Macau Guia Race 2.0T - 2 Races of 10 laps each with 15 minutes break between Races
 12:55 - 14:15 SJM Macau GT Cup - FIA GT World Cup - 18 laps
 14:20 - 14:40 Special Event
 15:10 - 15:25 Lion Dance
 15:30 - 16:30 Suncity Group Formula 3 Macau Grand Prix - FIA F3 Intercontinental Cup - 15 laps
 18:30 - 18:30 Circuit Opened