



RACE PARTNER

Press release

Comtoyou Racing in DTM with two Aston Martin Vantage GT3

Gembloux, February 20, 2025

Participating in the DTM, a significant choice for Comtoyou Racing

Already approached at the end of the 2024 season, the Comtoyou Racing team has decided to enter the DTM Championship 2025. Official partner of Aston Martin Racing, the team based in Gembloux (B) will therefore field two Aston Martin Vantage GT3s in the highly prestigious German championship reserved for GT3 category cars, which will kick off in Oschersleben on April 26 & 27.

Legendary - probably one of the most contested and spectacular circuit motor racing disciplines - interest in the DTM championship has far exceeded German borders and has continued to inspire dreams for 41 years, for manufacturers, teams, and drivers, not to mention the 470,000 spectators who fervently gathered around the events just last year. The eighth manufacturer represented in DTM, alongside BMW, Ferrari, Ford, Lamborghini, McLaren, Mercedes, and Porsche, Aston Martin brings that very particular exotic and British touch, well relayed by the team, which adds impressive sporting results to its strong presence on the tracks. Let us recall that in their first year of collaboration, Comtoyou Racing and Aston Martin Racing won last year's centenary of the 24 Hours of Spa...

The key men around the team

Team owner **Jean Michel Baert** loves taking on challenges: « *Our team is relatively young, we have quickly progressed whether in TCR or GT3 with Audi previously, and now with Aston Martin, with a certain level of success. This has become possible thanks to the spirit that prevails within our ranks, around a shared passion at all levels. Surrounding ourselves with the right people and seizing constructive opportunities allow us to tackle major challenges like our commitment to DTM. We thought long and hard about it during the offseason, and here we are now. We will approach this first season to learn and show ourselves at the forefront as soon as possible.* »

It's not **François Verbist**, the team director, who is the least happy about this decision : « *We are not abandoning, far from it, our commitment to the GT World Challenge Europe, Sprint, and Endurance, as well as of course our 'national' event, the 24 Hours of Spa, but we also wanted to evolve into another format of races, short, intense, with one driver per car. It's a complementary approach to our activity, which is very focused on endurance. The Aston Martin Vantage GT3 is now mature, and with technical work adapted to DTM, the current motivation of our team and that of our partners, I have a positive feeling, while remaining humble and modest: it's DTM !* »

Finally, it is impossible to mention this commitment without revealing the identity of the sporting director, as we are talking about key figures: namely **Kris Nissen**, the former brilliant driver with over 100 DTM starts who later successfully became the director of Volkswagen Motorsport ! The German-speaking dane is driven by an extraordinary passion for competition, and especially for the DTM: « *This challenge is really very exciting, the Vantage and the team have great potential, I know François Verbist well who was with us at VW for many years, and the team boss reminds me of those German team leaders like Joest or Kremer for whom nothing was impossible. All the ingredients are there, I am delighted to bring all my experience to the benefit of this team.* »



The DTM Championship consists of eight races held on major circuits in Germany, with two dates outside the country, one in Zandvoort (NL), and the other at the Red Bull Ring in Austria.

Each meeting consists of two one-hour races, one on Saturday and the other on Sunday, with a mandatory pit stop for tire changes during the events. The big difference with endurance races, even short ones, lies in the fact that each driver is the sole operator of their car.

Therefore, the setup and pure performance on the track largely depend of them.

A 100% Belgian team of drivers !

By opting for two drivers highly experienced in single-seaters, possessing great experience and significant successes in GT3, the Team places its trust in two loyal pillars of the Gembloux team.

On board the car bearing the team's lucky number, 007, we find Gilles Magnus, and in the 008, with equal pleasure, one of the team's drivers, Nicolas Baert.

Regarding this team flying the Belgian flag: « *We are very attached to our country and as soon as we have the opportunity to make our colors shine, we do so, and this considerably strengthens... the team spirit and adds enjoyment to what we undertake. New partners like the watchmaker Raidillon, Herock Workwear, and Champion lubricants are established in Belgium, and others should follow soon. For the drivers, we are closely following Gilles and Nicolas; it is a sporting opportunity to bring together this Belgian and high-performing duo as well.* » says Jean Michel Baert.

#007 Gilles Magnus: « *For me, participating in the DTM has always been a goal, the overall level is extraordinarily high, and being able to take part with Comtoyou makes the opportunity even more beautiful. I am delighted to return to my heart team, with which I have already achieved numerous successes. This season will allow us to learn this very demanding championship and to grow together throughout the season, while showcasing our strengths from the very first opportunity. I am looking forward to discovering the Vantage GT3 soon in Oschersleben.* »

Born in Antwerp in 1999, Gilles comes from a background filled with success in karting and single-seaters, then became an experienced GT driver, notably as an official Audi driver with Comtoyou, which he now joins in DTM. His career:

2014: Vice World Champion Karting Junior X30

2015: Vice European Champion Karting Junior X30

2016: French Champion F4 – Rookie of the Year RACB – 1 win – 13 podiums

2017: Vice Champion Northern Europe Formula Renault 2.0 – 2 wins – 3 podiums – 5 Pole positions
Winner of the 24 Hours of Zolder

2018: Belcar Endurance Champion
GT4 Sprint Cup Europe Champion

2019: 2nd FIA Motorsport Games Touring Car – Comtoyou Racing

2020: FIA WTCR Rookie Champion
Winner TCR Class 24 Hours of Dubai

2021: FIA WTCR Independent Category Champion
Winner of the 24 Hours of Zolder

2022: 5th FIA WTCR Championship (3 wins) – Official Driver Audi Sport

2023: 3rd GT World Challenge Sprint Gold Cup – Official Audi Sport Driver

2024: Winner 24 Hours of Dubai – Audi (Magnus-Winkelhock-Haase-Reicher-Zhou)
GT World Endurance Gold Cup Champion
GT World Sprint & Endurance Combined Gold Cup Champion
Gulf 12 Hours of Abu Dhabi Winner



#008 Nicolas Baert: « *New season, new challenges! I am very happy to see how much Comtoyou Racing has grown since my first year with the team in 2020. Today, participating in the DTM is a dream come true. Since my beginnings in motor racing, I have always followed this championship with the ambition that one day, I would be on the starting grid alongside the best drivers in the discipline. This opportunity represents a key moment in my career, and I am more motivated than ever to take on this challenge with passion and determination.* »

Born in Braine l'Alleud (B) in 2001, Nicolas also comes from single-seater racing, then moved on to TCR events and then to GT3, also with success. A member of the Aston Martin Academy of young drivers, Nicolas knows the team and the Vantage GT3 well. His career:

2019: Spanish F4 Championship

2020: 3rd TCR Europe Championship & Rookie Champion

TCR Benelux Champion – Rookie of the Year RACB

2021: European Junior TCR Champion

Champion TCR Benelux

2022: GT World Challenge Europe Silver – Audi R8

2023: GT World Challenge Europe Endurance Gold Champion – Comtoyou Racing

2nd GT World Challenge Europe Sprint / Hockenheim

3rd 24 Hours of Spa

2024: Aston Martin Academy Driver

GT World Challenge Europe Sprint

2nd GT World Challenge Europe Sprint Pro / Barcelona

Aston Martin Vantage GT3 DTM:

- Aluminium chassis Bonded and reinforced
- 90° V8 engine - 32 valves / Direct injection - Front longitudinal position
- Displacement 4.0 L - Borg Warner twin-turbocharged - Torque 700 Nm
- Power 543 hp - Power / liter ratio 135.75 hp / L
- Sequential gearbox on the steering wheel - 6 gears – Propulsion

DTM 2025 Calendar:

1- 25-27/04 – Oschersleben

2- 23-25/05 – Lausitzring

3- 06-08/06 – Zandvoort (NL)

4- 04-06/07 – Norisring

5- 08-10/08 – Nürburgring

6- 22-24/08 – Sachsenring

7- 12-14/09 – Red Bull Ring (At)

8- 03-05/10 – Hockenheim

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