

## **Nico Verdonck: rendezvous at the 24 Hours of Spa!**

During the weekend of 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> July at the Spa-Francorchamps circuit Nico Verdonck, the Belgian racing driver will be one of the favourites competing in the '24 Hours of Spa', the fourth round of the **Blancpain Endurance Series**.

For this endurance race the **HTP Motorsport by ALD Automotive** team is entering the **Mercedes SLS GT3** bearing # 84. The team members are divulged: Nico Verdonck will race with Harold Primat and Bernd Schneider, winner of last year's 24 Hours of Spa.

**HTP Motorsport, winner of the 2013 edition of the 24 Hours of Spa, has opted for a Belgian driver to replicate that success again this year!**

Following the first races of the series held on the Monza and Silverstone circuits (and on 28<sup>th</sup> June at the Paul Ricard circuit) Nico will now be appearing in front of a home crowd and on home soil.

Nico Verdonck: *"Spa-Francorchamps is one of my favourite circuits. It's lay-out with numerous bends and curves and is exceptionally 'challenging', especially when you need to take into account the fact that the weather conditions during this race can change from one hour to the next. You need to concentrate, focus and pay great attention at all times. For the race I know I can count on fast teammates who have proven their worth in endurance racing, and a car that has also shown itself to be a worthy contender. So I'm taking on my most important race of the season full of confidence, and in fact I will be the only Belgian competing in a Mercedes. With the support from all my fans, partners and ALD employees it will be an unforgettable event."*

### **Who is Nico Verdonck?**

As a 28 year old Nico Verdonck can already look back on a great record of achievements: 16 victories, 37 podium places, 4 pole positions and 4 fastest race lap times.

At the age of 8 years he started off in karting, which today still remains his passion. On the various karting circuits he grabs numerous national and international titles. In 2003, at the age of 17 the young Nico makes the switchover to circuit racing, competing in the Formula Renault 1600 events for Mikke Van Hool's Astromega team. He is immediately crowned vice-champion in this category. In 2007 he clinches third place in the German F3 championship and two years later the new 'Formula Le Mans' series (sport-prototypes) is on his agenda. With the Dams team he becomes the first European Champion, thanks to 9 victories in 12 races!



# NICO VERDONCK

Since then Nico Verdonck's successes have continued to pile up:

- \* European Champion Formula Le Mans, Dams in 2009
- \* Belgian Touring Car Champion (T3), DB Motorsport in 2010
- \* Winner of the BES Championship (Navarra), Vita4One in 2011
- \* Winner of the 12 Hours BTCS, Team Neri in 2011
- \* Winner of the ADAC GT Masters (Spa), Lambda Performance in 2013

His drive? Absolutely everything that involves competition.

His ambition? To be as fully prepared as ever possible for every race. He works at this on a daily basis. And to this end he can count on his personal trainer Lieven Maesschalck, *"the best person who can keep me physically and mentally in top condition, so that I can give my all to my sport."*

An entrepreneur at heart, he also organises incentives for his partners, companies and private individuals. In addition he is also AMG's 'test driver' for Mercedes in Brussels. As a teacher Nico also devotes his time and energy to training young and talented drivers, who wish to develop their skills so that they feel safer and get more enjoyment from driving.

These 24 Hours are already looking pretty exciting!

You can follow the race live on <http://www.blancpain-gt-series.com/live>

You can find out more about Nico Verdonck on

[www.nicoverdonck.be](http://www.nicoverdonck.be) and <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Nico-Verdonck/43298212515>

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