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SMITH MISSES OUT ON CLEAN SWEEP AFTER EARLY CRASH IN MITTEL RheIN CUP RACE 4 BUT WINS “TRUCK MASTER GERMANY”

The final race of an eventful weekend at Nürburgring saw a surprise result in the fourth Mittelrhein Cup race – as three of the hot favourites were involved in an early crash that saw Ryan Smith forced to an immediate retirement.

Smith was involved in a fierce battle with local German hero Heinz-Werner Lenz and when the MAN and Mercedes drivers tangled and spun off several others including BTRA front runner David Jenkins had to take avoiding action.

Smith managed to get slowly back to the pitlane but steering and suspension damage meant his race was over while Lenz pitted and rejoined a lap down after hasty repairs. Jenkins was able to continue but had fallen towards the back of the field and had to work hard to salvage a fighting fifth place.

As a result of this second lap incident Jamie Anderson and Luke Taylor were able to run away at the head of the field – the MAN duo battling hard all the way to the chequered flag and separated by just 0.814s after 13 fiercely contested laps.

Simon Reid took the final podium spot – bringing his Iveco home in third while Stuart Oliver defended his fourth spot from repeated Jenkins attacks right the way to the finishing line.

Luke Garrett maintained his 100% Nurburgring winning record with another fine drive to claim the BTRA Division 2 honours, the MAN driver also finishing 9th overall, just behind top Dutch driver Cees Zandbergen (Scania).

Craig Reid went one better than his brother Simon, bringing his Iveco through to 2nd in the Div.2 category while Steve Powell (MAN) picked up the third place trophy after fighting his way past his brother John and Brad Smith.

TRUCK MASTER GERMANY 2018: RYAN SMITH

Despite his disappointment at not finishing the final race Ryan Smith still had good reason to be celebrating after the final podium presentations on Sunday evening.

The British driver had a big smile (and an even bigger trophy) as he collected the “Truck Master Germany” title – which recognized his amazing overall performance during the 2018 ADAC Truck GP event.

Three wins in the Mittelrhein Cup plus strong performances in all four FIA European Championship races made Smith the undisputed star of the event.

But Ryan will have little time for celebrations as his hectic schedule will see him racing in the BTRA British Championship at Thruxton in just six days time – followed by the next FIA Euro round at the Slovakia Ring the weekend after.