From sim racing to the Formula E finale: Jani and Lotterer revved up

07/07/2020 The Formula E finale in Berlin will see the TAG Heuer Porsche Formula E Team report back at the beginning of August, after a break from racing of more than five months. In the tenth episode of the "Inside E" podcast, the two Porsche works drivers Neel Jani and André Lotterer talk about their excitement over the upcoming six races.

They also look back at the period of the coronavirus lockdown and report on their experiences in the ABB Formula E "Race at Home Challenge" and in the virtual 24 Hours of Le Mans.

The two Porsche works drivers had very different experiences over the past few months – Lotterer was at his holiday home in France while Jani was with his family in Switzerland. Despite the difficult time overall, they both gained positive experiences. "Usually, we are hardly at home. It was great to have more time in one place and enjoy the little things," said Lotterer. Jani also described the recent months as a "unique opportunity" to do things that there just isn't time for usually. "In normal circumstances, we are on the go the whole time and have to prepare for the next races. I was able to spend more time with my family and focus on other projects, such as working in the garden," said the Swiss.

Jani and Lotterer didn't get bored during the coronavirus lockdown. After the disruption to the ABB FIA Formula E Championship, the Porsche works drivers went from real-world racing to sim racing. In the "Race at Home Challenge", Formula E collected donations in aid of the child welfare organisation UNICEF with the virtual 24-hour race at Le Mans as a further sim racing highlight. "I have great respect for what sim racers achieve in this kind of endurance race from a mental perspective," said Jani. Lotterer also makes comparisons with the real-world endurance classic. "There are definitely elements that you can use in real-world endurance races. For example, the traffic management," added the German.

Now, the long wait for the return to the real-world cockpit is over. With six Formula E races in nine days, the TAG Heuer Porsche Formula E Team faces a tight sporting schedule. On the track at Berlin-Tempelhof, there will be two double-header races on each of the three different track configurations. "It will be an intensive period, but I am really looking forward to it," said Jani. "The simulator work is different because we prepare for three track layouts for one venue," said Lotterer. There is great motivation and excitement for the return.

Info

The Porsche Formula E podcast is available in English and can be downloaded in the Porsche Newsroom. "Inside E" is also available on other platforms, such as Apple Podcasts, Spotify and Google Podcasts.

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