



Press Release: **ADAC Nurburgring Qualifying Race** Report, 4/17/16

Hey! I am back from a terrific weekend in Germany driving the **Rotek Racing BMW Z4** in the 6 hour **ADAC Nurburgring Qualifying Race**. My goals for the weekend were to get comfortable in the **Z4**, identify areas to improve the chassis and, using the data



collected there last season, find more pace. All I can say is, "Mission accomplished!" My co-drivers, Roland Pritzker and Dale Lomas, and I took the checkered flag sixth in the competitive V5 class.

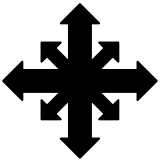
Our weekend at the Nurburgring started with some drama when it turned out neither of my originally planned co-drivers had worked through the track's complicated licensing requirements. Robb Holland at **Rotek Racing** was able to enlist local Ring Taxi

driver and author of the popular **Bridge to Gantry** (<http://www.bridgetogantry.com/>) website as an additional co-driver while Roland fought his way through the process.

I jumped into the **Rotek Racing BMW Z4** first in the initial qualifying session Saturday afternoon. Rain showers most of the day had dampened the track, so I took a conservative approach before turning the car over to Roland and Dale. Dale's experience on the Nordschleife enabled him to qualify the **Rotek Z4** fourth in class. I was happy with our position in the field, but really wanted some dry running.

The track was still damp when the final qualifying session started on Sunday morning. I ran my first lap on rain tires before pitting for slicks. The combination of a drying track and slick **Yokohama** tires put me on the provisional pole in class. Unfortunately, the track continued to dry and my time was ultimately only good enough for fourth.

At the drop of the green flag, I moved into second on the Grand Prix circuit portion of the track and pulled out a small gap to the other cars in the V5 class entering the Nordschleife. A fresh rain shower on the pace lap had dampened the track from Hohe Acht to Brunnchen, but I chose to stay on slicks and I fell back to third on the long Döttinger Hohe straight at the end of the first lap. Over the next seven laps, Mother Nature provided rain, snow, hail and sunshine while the **Rotek Racing BMW Z4** circulated in the lead pack. I headed for the pits on lap eight with the lead and the current fastest race lap of 10:12.402.



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In the first pit stop, I turned the car over to Roland while the **Rotek Racing** crew installed a new set of **Yokohama** tires and refueled the car. Roland put in a solid stint before giving the car back to me on the second stop. I continued to chase the leaders from third position in V5 during my second stint, lowering my personal best lap to 10:10.465. Dale took over on the third stop, but an issue with refueling dropped us to fifth in class. At the final stop, Roland jumped back into the **Rotek Racing BMW Z4** and brought the car home safely in sixth.

I certainly would have liked to finish on the podium, but I am very satisfied with our result and, as a shakedown for the **ADAC Zurich Nurburgring 24 Hour Race**, we learned a lot. The time spent in the off-season studying data and video from last season definitely paid off. By running the car in higher gears and preserving momentum, I improved my pace and did it with a lot fewer gear changes per lap. The handling of the **Rotek Z4** on rain and slick tires in the constantly changing weather conditions we are likely to see in the 24 is good. We have some ideas to further reduce understeer and improve the performance of the open differential. Additionally, the data collected on fuel mileage, tire wear and brake wear will help define our race strategy next month. I cannot wait to get back in the **Rotek Racing BMW Z4!**

I will be back in Germany May 26-29, 2016 for the **ADAC Zurich Nurburgring 24 Hour Race**. You can follow the progress of the **Rotek Racing BMW Z4** on the official Nurburgring 24 Hour website at [www.24h-rennen.de](http://www.24h-rennen.de). Of course, it is not too late to make plans to attend the event in person. I guarantee you, and the roughly 200,000 other people in attendance, will have a good time!

## **About THILENIUS GROUP**

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