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Press Release: ADAC Opel 6 Hour Ruhr – Pokal – Rennen Race Report

Hey! The ADAC Opel 6 Hour Ruhr – Pokal – Rennen race was held September 5th at the Nurburgring. My co-driver Jon Miller and I brought home the **Rotek Racing –**

**Children’s Tumor
Foundation
Racing4Research BMW
Z4 6th** in the V5 class.



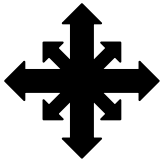
Upon arriving in Germany, Jon and I went to work getting him up to speed around the Nurburgring. The time we spent reviewing video and walking the track really paid off. Jon was immediately on pace in his first laps during public access time on Thursday. It is a

pleasure to work with a driver of Jon’s caliber. Friday, Jon continued his training with a required VLN classroom session and on-track coaching before posting very competitive lap times under 10 minutes. “Today was completely overwhelming and incredibly humbling,” commented Jon. “This track is unlike anything else. Your ears pop from over 1000 feet of elevation change per lap. You’re airborne in 5th and 6th gear a few times per lap. I’m driving a relatively slow car and cooperation here is key. The GT3 cars are on another planet, speed wise.”

In order for Jon to get the full experience of the Nurburgring, Mother Nature delivered rain on Saturday morning for qualifying. Again, Jon did a terrific job before handing the **Rotek Racing BMW Z4** off to me for my first laps. I ran two laps on rain tires and then pitted for a set of **Yokohama** slicks and qualified on the drying track 6th in the V5 class, 85th overall in the field of 170 cars, with a lap of 10:29.451.

After qualifying, Jon and I sat down with our race engineer Nick Silvester to review data and discuss our observations on the wet line around the Nurburgring while the **Rotek Racing** crew prepared the car for the race. The rain returned just before the last call to the grid. The team decided to change to rain tires, so Jon had to start at





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the back of the second starting group. When the lights went green, Jon took advantage of our **Yokohama** rain tires to move quickly forward in the field. After two laps, the track dried sufficiently to pit for slicks and a topping up of the fuel. Over the next hour, Jon did a great job turning in solid lap times to keep us in the top five in the V5 class.

I took over the **Rotek**

Racing – Children’s Tumor Foundation Racing4Research BMW Z4 for my first stint about two hours into the race on a completely dry track. I pushed hard despite a significant vibration caused by warped front brake rotors and too much understeer on the Grand Prix circuit portion of the track. My third lap was largely free of traffic and I recorded a lap in the low 9:50’s before setting the fast lap for the car at 9:48.21. Based on data from previous races, the fuel consumption during Jon’s stint and the **BMW’s** range calculation, we decided to extend my run to nine laps. Unfortunately, on my last lap when I went back to throttle after the first jump at Pflanzgarten, the engine stuttered out of fuel. I tried every trick I know to get the car back to the pits but finally rolled to a stop on the entrance to Galgenkopf. The track officials towed me out of harm’s way and the **Rotek Racing** crew got me some fuel to get back to the pits where I turned the car over to Jon. At this point, the damage was done. Running out of fuel cost us a couple laps. All the data indicated we should have been able to stretch my stint to nine laps. Despite feeling nauseous in the car, Jon put in a full eight-lap stint and recorded his fast lap of 9:52.61, a great time considering it was his first outing in the car and on the Nurburgring. I jumped back in the car with about an hour left in the race and battled all the way the finish to take 6th place in the V5 class, 93rd overall.

Obviously, I am disappointed Jon and I could not bring home a podium finish for **Rotek Racing**. On the other hand, I am extremely satisfied with my pace in the car, working



with Jon at the Nurburgring was great and I am proud to have represented **Children's Tumor Foundation Racing4Research**. For information or to make a donation, visit www.ctf.org, www.racing4research.org or <http://ctf.kintera.org/r4r2016/thilenius>.

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