

Formula E in Punta del Este

In this Edition we want to present you a special report and exciting interview with one of the smartest, best looking and promising pilots of the Formula E Race which took place on the 17th of March here in Punta del Este.

The Formula E, officially the ABB FIA Formula E Championship, is a class of auto racing that uses only electric-powered cars. This series was conceived in 2011, and the inaugural championship started in Beijing on 13 September 2014.

Daniel Abt (born 3 December 1992) is a German racing driver. He has competed in such series as the German Formula Three Championship, the GP3 Series, the GP2 Series, and won the 2009 ADAC Formel Masters championship. He currently competes in Formula E with ABT Schaeffler Audi Sport.

- When you were younger, did you think that you would be famous one day?

No and I don't really see me as a famous person. Of course there are a lot of people who follow us in the social media but to be famous means something else to me.

- Why did you join the Formula E?

That was when the Formula E started. They went to my father because he had a lot of experience in motor sports. He was a very well known tuning expert, especially for AUDI and Volkswagen so they asked him if he wanted to built up a team because they were looking for a german team. This was the time for me when I had to decide what to do so I saw it as a chance so we agreed.

- How long have you been an E Race Pilot so far?

Since the beginning. This is already my fourth year.

- Have you been to Punta del Este before?

Yes, That's the third time so I know Punta del Este and it is always very nice to come back.

- Have you got your own family?

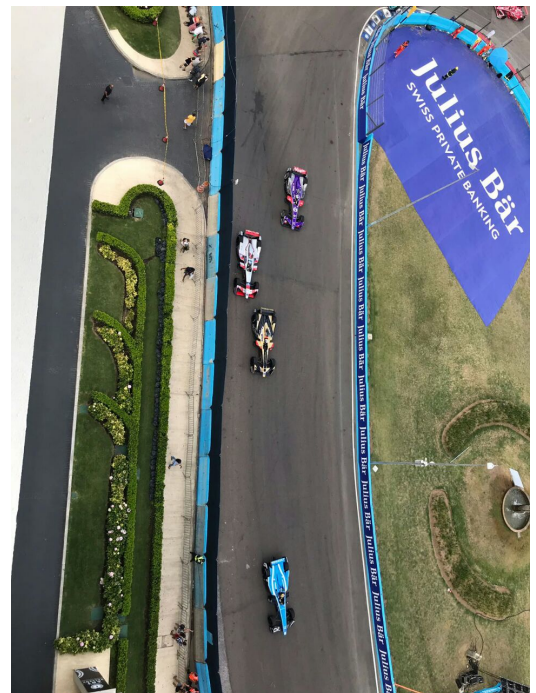
I have a girlfriend but I don't have children. I have a sister and - of course- there are my parents.

- Do you bring your girlfriend along?

Sometimes yes but we are always traveling so much and you don't get to Punta so quickly so I did not take her this time. She usually accompanies me when I am racing in Europe.

- Which is the most challenging aspect of being a driver in your experience?

The most challenging aspect is always to be faster than the others because everybody wants to win and that is not so easy. Every time we start on different racetracks and new cars so you never get bored and the competition is very hard.



- What is the most rewarding thing of being a pilot?

The outstanding thing is that I could make my hobby to a profession. With the Formula E we visit so many different places of the world and can meet many interesting people.

- Are you afraid about something while you are driving?

Yes. I am afraid of dying. That sounds weird but I really am.

- If you would not be a pilot, what would have been an option for you?

This is a difficult question. You never know what would have happened if... At your age I wanted to make music, rap music. To me the most important thing is to do things you like to do.

- What is the difference between a Formula 1 and a Formula E car?

The biggest difference is that the Formula E cars are absolutely electric cars. They have electric motors and the Formula 1 cars are running with gasoline. Formula E races only take place in certain towns and not like the Formula 1 where circuits are often out in the country and sometimes even in no men's land. Besides some differences, they have a lot in common.

- Are there friendships between pilots or are they all lone wolves ?

That is partly right. Well, for example yesterday we all had dinner together and we were all in a good mood. I must say that in the Formula E in general there is a good atmosphere between all of us. I think that friendships exist and we respect each other but when we are on the racetrack we forget about it.

- At your first victory this year you won but you got disqualified, why?

Yes, I won the race but then they checked the numbers of the motors and someone made a mistake and told the people who controlled it a wrong number and in the book of rules it says that you can't do that and that looked as if we would have changed the motor but we did not so, yes, it was a small mistake but a very big consequence.

- What do you think about that?

I was very sad and it was even more disappointing because it was my 25th birthday. It was not very nice but we won in Mexico and we will be successful in the future.

- Do you want to stay at the Formula E or do are you more interested in the normal series?

I want to stay with the Formula E. I really have a lot of fun. Every year it is getting bigger and more people are watching it. It is just a very nice series with many cool people and for me there is no equivalent.



- Do you have other goals as a race pilot?

To be a Formula E Champion! That would be a Highlight. Perhaps even this year. You never know... I will do my very best.

- Do you have a favorite racetrack?

That is very difficult to say. I don't think so. At the Formula E there are so many exciting tracks! I cannot decide.

- Can you tell me something about the track here, in Punta del Este?

It is something special because of the location. The track can be very sandy when the wind blows so it is easy to crash but it is a lot of fun and if the weather is good.

- How do you estimate this track?

I think every track is different and special and here they have many chicanes and you can easily drive over them too fast.

- Do you prefer the Formula E motors or race cars run by gasoline?

I like both. Both have their advantages and disadvantages. I think the electric motors are important because of the environment.

- Can you make a last statement?

The Formula E might not be so interesting for some people in this moment but I think it will be the future.

