



Belgian Nathan Vanspringel preps for Ford Performance development program

We all need a place to start. No matter your ambition in life, it requires that first step or you are never going to reach the podium.

For a race car driver, that first step is usually in a go kart with the support of your friends and family. But then what? How do you move from dreamer to champion?

At Ford, we are passionate about motorsports, and we want to encourage people to fulfill that passion. That's the genesis behind the Ford Performance Driver Development Program: a way to help inspire and grow the next generation of our sport.

And now, we have seeded the future with seven of the most skilled young drivers in racing to create our first team of Ford Performance Junior Drivers.

Marco Signoretti (Canada), Erik Evans (USA), Nathan Vanspringel (Belgium), Robert Noaker (USA), Sam Paley (USA), and Jenson Alzman (USA) are members of the inaugural program.

All six showed real promise on the track but had to face a panel of Ford Performance leaders to answer questions across a broad spectrum of their racing lives, from how they interact with engineers at the racetrack to how they handle media or high-pressure scenarios. All passed the test with flying colors.

Additionally, Ford Performance partner Haupt Racing Team in Europe is supporting two silver rated drivers for 2025. Salman Owega (Germany) and Finn Wiebelhaus (Germany) have been named Ford Performance GT3 Junior Drivers and will receive support more relevant to their career progression as they race Mustang GT3.

Yes, there are other programs in the industry that help to develop young talent. Some that can even take you from entry level up to Le Mans. But none with our approach.

We are the only manufacturer with the strategy that can develop a driver – and a race team or marketing partner – from entry level one-make Mustang Cup racing to the highly competitive and professional Mustang Challenge, all the way through to international GT4 racing and into GT3 at Le Mans.

And all on the same vehicle platform: Mustang.

No one else can offer that familiarity *and* the increasing challenges up the motorsport pyramid.

One goal of the Ford Performance Driver Development Program: To better prepare drivers for how intense racing – at any level – can be.

Of course, we keep our eye on the stopwatch. We are all competitors, but the experience is about more than winning.

That's why drivers involved in the development program will compete in race series around the globe under the mentorship of some of the best minds in motorsports.

Ford Multimatic Motorsports factory driver Mike Rockenfeller will mentor the Junior Drivers in North America, while his counterpart, touring car and sports car legend Andy Priaulx, will do the same in Europe.

But Rocky and Andy aren't there to talk only about braking points and line adjustments. They and our team of specialists in engineering, marketing, communications, plus physical and mental fitness professionals, are there to help make the driver over the course of their career – not just a lap.

It's this continuous feedback loop, plus the additional tools and skills, that we feel sets our program apart.

Tamara Falkenstein is Ford Performance manager of driving experiences.

2025 Ford Performance Junior Driver Team

Marco Signoretti

Erik Evans

Nathan Vanspringel

Robert Noaker
Sam Paley
Jenson Altzman

2025 Ford Performance GT3 Junior Drivers

Salman Owega
Finn Wiebelhaus

###

About Ford Motor Company

Ford Motor Company (NYSE: F) is a global company based in Dearborn, Michigan, committed to helping build a better world, where every person is free to move and pursue their dreams. The company's Ford+ plan for growth and value creation combines existing strengths, new capabilities and always-on relationships with customers to enrich experiences for customers and deepen their loyalty. Ford develops and delivers innovative, must-have Ford trucks, sport utility vehicles, commercial vans and cars and Lincoln luxury vehicles, along with connected services. The company does that through three customer-centered business segments: Ford Blue, engineering iconic gas-powered and hybrid vehicles; Ford Model e, inventing breakthrough electric vehicles along with embedded software that defines exceptional digital experiences for all customers; and Ford Pro, helping commercial customers transform and expand their businesses with vehicles and services tailored to their needs. Additionally, Ford provides financial services through Ford Motor Credit Company. Ford employs about 174,000 people worldwide. More information about the company and its products and services is available at corporate.ford.com.

About Ford in Belgium & Luxemburg

Ford Belgium distributes Ford vehicles and Ford original parts in Belgium & Luxemburg, since 1922. Ford Lommel Proving Ground is the lead test facility for validation of all Ford models in Europe, with approximately 370 employees.

Ford Lommel Proving Ground offers high end Drive Training for external companies, associations and private individuals.

###

Contact:

Julien Libioul – Directeur Communications & Public Affairs – jlibioul@ford.com