



EUROPEAN SERIES

18th & 19th July 2026

Round 4, Races 7 & 8

Misano, Italy

Ford Racing's Development Drivers and their teams had to dig deep as some unexpected factors tested their resolve in Italy. The Misano track is another venue which is hard on brakes and also has unforgiving kerbs, which led to many GT4 teams suffering suspension and tyre damage.

By Mike Rysiecki

Images by JEP, Courtesy of SRO

Venue: Misano, Italy

4.2 km road circuit, 16 turns

Weather: Race 1 dry, 30.0°C / 45.3°C, Race 2 dry, 29.3°C / 46.4°C

37 entries, 21 Silver, 14 Pro-Am, 2 Am

Mustang GT4 Entries:

#61, Academy Motorsport - Nathan Vanspringel (BE) & Erik Evans (USA), Blue / Silver, Ford Racing, Liqui-Moly / ADV Automotive / e-Rock Marketing / Emerald Coast Motor Club

#68, TeamFloral - Michiel Haverans (BE) & Sam Paley (USA), Blue / White, Ford Racing, Grid Seat, Ironwood / The Braxx Collection

Qualifying for Race 1, Saturday afternoon

61, Nathan Vanspringel, 1:42.425, qualified 33rd

68, Sam Paley, 1:41.245, qualified 10th

Race 1, 34 Laps, Saturday evening

61, Nathan Vanspringel & Erik Evans, finished 16th

68, Michiel Haverans & Sam Paley, finished 26th

After a difficult qualifying session in which one of GT racing's 'uncontrollables' reared its head, Nathan pulled up track positions in the race after starting near the back. Team Floral also suffered their share of bad luck and retired 4 laps from the end amongst the 12 cars not completing the full race distance.



Qualifying for Race 2, Saturday afternoon

61, Erik Evans, 0:00.000, DNS

68, Michiel Haverans, 1:41.528, qualified 9th

Race 2, 33 Laps, Sunday morning

61, Nathan Vanspringel & Erik Evans finished 29th

68, Michiel Haverans & Sam Paley finished 3rd



Academy Team Principal, Matt Nicoll-Jones said,

"In a race of many (9) retirements Team Floral got the best of what racing luck was available in the second race, with another 3rd place podium finish. After starting at the back Erik drove with his heart to bring the #61 Mustang through half of the field by the driver change. Then Nathan took over before an unexpected drivetrain failure." Erik Evans was philosophical after the race and with his trademark smile said "Luck goes both ways; our pace is there but luck has not been with Academy recently". Matt Nicoll-Jones intends to swing the balance back in their favour with some additional testing at Zandvoort. "This team has the partners and the people to rise to it." That has never been in doubt.

2026 European GT4 Silver Drivers Championship after 4 races:

Michiel Haverans & Sam Paley 6th

Marco Signoretti 12th

Cameron McLeod 13th

Nathan Vanspringel & Erik Evans 14th

Jenson Alzman 20th

2026 European GT4 Silver Teams Championship:

TeamFloral 6th

Academy Motorsport 9th

2026 European GT4 season upcoming rounds:

Zandvoort, Netherlands, 19th-20th September

Portimao, Portugal, 17th-18th October

