

Colin Bönighausen before debut in the German Porsche Carrera Cup

The 19-year-old FIRE Racing driver Colin Bönighausen from Lower Saxony will make his racing debut in the world's most competitive one-make cup next weekend in Imola.

The prestigious Porsche Sixt Carrera Cup Deutschland (PCCD) has been attracting professionals as well as amateurs and young drivers for 35 years. One of the youngsters in the 2024 class is the German Colin Bönighausen. Bönighausen will start his first season in the Porsche 911 GT3 Cup in the orange and white livery of his partner FIRE and the familiar starting number 55. The PCCD will contest eight double races in five European countries in 2024, six of them will be part of the DTM. The season will kick-off with the FIA World Endurance Championship (WEC) event in Imola from 19 to 21 April. Bönighausen knows what to expect at the start of the season: „The circuit is still old-school, with gravel in the run-off zones, high kerbs and challenging up and down sections - there's no room for mistakes here!“

Colin Bönighausen also completed the official pre-season test days on the Formula 1 circuit in northern Italy, mainly on a wet track: „It was the first time I had driven the Cup car without ABS in the wet. When you looked at the brake pedal, it felt like the tyres were already locking ...“ Despite the lack of experience in the rain, Bönighausen finished in the front midfield. What does that mean for the first races? „Anything from 5th to 15th place is possible - I'm looking forward to finally seeing where we stand,“ says a motivated Bönighausen.

His supporter Andreas Baese from the property investment company FIRE Group is delighted with Bönighausen's development so far: „Colin has the heart of a real racing driver - no matter what happens, he keeps on fighting. This winter, he fought his way back from the back of the field to the top positions in one race - without strategic aids such as pit stops, just with overtaking manoeuvres.“ In the meantime, FIRE Racing has developed into a hotbed for young talent: „We support several drivers from a generation who are all going through the same 'strains' to make it to the top. Our job is to let them do their job without any worries.“ The major target that FIRE Racing has for its talented drivers is the famous 24 Hours of Le Mans.

The FIRE Racing Porsche 911 GT3 Cup will race in the PCCD 2024 under the management of CarTech Motorsport's David Prusa. The racing team from Ismaning near Munich has recently established itself among the top teams, and Bönighausen already knows the majority of the team from the races in the Middle East: „Frank Funke is again my race engineer, and a few mechanics were also involved in the winter.“ After successfully finishing third overall in the Porsche Carrera Cup Middle East, Colin was also nominated for the PCCD talent pool, where he will be additionally trained in the areas of performance, mental strength and media relations.

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The starting field in the PCCD 2024 consists of 25 participants plus guest drivers. „It will be similar to karting, where there is action all around you.“ Bönighausen was already able to practise the standing starts with the racing clutch in the winter, „but the standard of the driver field is a lot stronger now“. Baese, who also gets behind the wheel himself from time to time, adds: „The PCCD is another, higher level. If someone already has three or four years of experience, that’s an advantage. But Colin is hungry and wants to learn - that’s what we’re here for!“ Colin’s team-mates at CarTech are Michael Essmann, Ahmad Alshehab and Theo Oeverhaus from the FIRE Racing team. Other rivals include well-known names in the sport such as Larry ten Voorde, Robert de Haan and Harry King. Colin will be competing against all of them the upcoming weekend. <

COLIN’S NEXT RACES: 19–21 April Imola (ITA)

LIVESTREAM SATURDAY from 16:20 **LIVESTREAM SUNDAY** from 8:35 on YouTube (CEST times)

Dates Porsche Carrera Cup Deutschland 2024:

26–28 April Oschersleben (GER)

7–9 June Zandvoort (NLD)

21–23 June Budapest (HUN)

16–18 August Nürburgring (GER)

6–8 September Sachsenring (GER)



Pictures: Porsche

That’s Colin:

Colin Jamie Bönighausen („CJB“), born in Hanover (Germany) in 2005, has been involved in motorsport since he was ten years old. He is currently undergoing apprenticeship training to become a plant mechanic. Like many racing drivers, the driver from Lower Saxony began his motorsport career in karting. The title in the ROK Cup Germany as well as numerous victories and top results in the ADAC Kart Masters and the Rotax Max Challenge highlight Colin’s career to date. In 2022, he switched from racing karts to racing cars. He celebrated immediate success in the Porsche 911 GT3 Cup car and won the Porsche Sprint Challenge Central Europe in both the Sprint and Endurance classifications. With third place overall in the Porsche Carrera Cup Middle East, he once again demonstrated his talent in the winter of 2023/2024. The 19-year-old is now about to make his debut in the Porsche Carrera Cup Deutschland.

More at www.cjb-racing.de

About FIRE Racing:

FIRE Racing is backed by Colin Jamie Bönighausen’s main sponsor – the FIRE Group! The FIRE Group is a Dubai-based property investment company founded by leading experts from the property and finance industry. It specialises in combining the world of real estate with modern blockchain technology and making it accessible to investors of all kinds. FIRE stands for “Fixed Income Real Estate” and offers everyone the opportunity to invest profitably in luxury real estate around the world and includes a large community that cheers for Colin on the racetrack!

More at www.fire-token.com

About VPD Racing:

Since 2010, VPD Racing from Adnet in Salzburg is a reliable partner for hobby racers and professional racers. The experienced team offers a wide range of products for kart racing, including a full-service center for chassis and motors as well as full support during race events. Colin Bönighausen is an official partner of the team and thus continues to benefit from VPD Racing’s expertise and broad network. In return, he shares his experience with the team and thus supports their customers.

More at www.vpdracing.com