2026 WWK SCHWAIGER & PARTNER FIM SPEEDWAY GP OF GERMANY – LANDSHUT – BURB'S BRIEFING

Hello and welcome to Burb's Briefing! Here is some information and a few talking points which may assist your coverage of the WWK Schwaiger & Partner FIM Speedway GP of Germany – Landshut this Saturday ...

WHERE?

- Landshut's OneSolar Arena made a popular return to the Speedway GP calendar in 2024 – the first time it had hosted a round since its only previous SGP event in 1997.
- The 1997 edition did not run too smoothly as it was postponed due to heavy rain on Saturday, July 5, before being staged on Sunday, July 6, with Danish legend Hans Nielsen topping the podium ahead of his fellow countryman Brian Andersen in second and third-placed American legend Greg Hancock, who went on to win the first of his four Speedway GP World Championships that year.
- Things went much more smoothly in 2024, with the OneSolar Arena packed for Germany's biggest speedway event. There was a Danish winner once again, with Mikkel Michelsen topping the podium for his first-ever Speedway GP win. Poland's Bartosz Zmarzlik was second and Australia's Jack Holder took third place.
- The 2025 Speedway GP in Landshut was won by Bartosz Zmarzlik, with Britain's Dan Bewley second and Latvia's Andzejs Lebedevs achieving his first-ever SGP podium in third.
- This year is the first time Landshut has staged two nights of back-to-back FIM Speedway action with SWC Semi-Final 1 on Friday and the WWK Schwaiger & Partner FIM Speedway GP of Germany – Landshut on Saturday.
- The OneSolar Arena was constructed in just 350 days between August 29, 1974, and August 17, 1975, with the first meeting taking place in September 1975.
- The Bavarian venue is located 10 kilometres from the centre of Landshut and around an hour's drive from Munich, with Munich Airport just half an hour away. Landshut also has an airfield, located next to the stadium.

- Landshut took over as FIM Speedway GP of Germany host from Teterow's Bergring Arena, which staged six Speedway GPs from 2016-2023 – missing the 2020 and 2021 series due to the pandemic.
- With the German speedway leagues struggling for clubs and badly hampered by the pandemic, the Landshut Devils took the brave step of entering the Polish Second Division in 2021, winning promotion to the First Division at the first attempt. The move was incredibly bold given that some of their early matches were raced under heavy Covid-19 crowd restrictions.
- Landshut was forced to drop down to Poland's National League – formerly known as the Second Division – for the 2024 season after the PGE Ekstraliga took over the First Division, rebranding it as Metalkas 2. Ekstraliga. The league is now closed to non-Polish clubs.

WHEN?

- Qualifying: Saturday, May 2 - 14:00 CEST
- WWK Schwaiger & Partner FIM Speedway GP of Germany – Landshut: Saturday, May 2 - 19:00 CEST

FIM JURY

REFEREE: Pawel Slupski (Poland)

JURY PRESIDENT: Armando Castagna (Italy)

FMNR REPRESENTATIVE: Christian Froschauer (Germany)

RACE DIRECTOR: Phil Morris (Great Britain)

THE MEN TO BEAT – ZMARZLIK

- Poland's Bartosz Zmarzlik heads into 2026 seeking to become the first rider in the sport's history to win a seventh FIM Speedway World Championship.
- He matched New Zealand legend Ivan Mauger and Swedish great Tony Rickardsson's record of six in 2025.
- Zmarzlik also became the first rider in the sport's history to win four world titles in as many years. He previously shared the record of three with Mauger (1968-1970). Can he make it five?
- The Lublin and Lejonen rider won the 2025 Speedway GP World Championship by just one point on 183 – staying cool in a tense battle with Brady Kurtz (182) in the second half of the season.
- Zmarzlik won three of the opening five rounds in Landshut, Prague and Manchester R5.

- His victory in Landshut was remarkable in that he suffered the frustration of getting last choice of starting positions for the event. Despite winning the sprint race, he was sent to the back of the line for failing to arrive at the starting position selections on time.

THE MEN TO BEAT – KURTZ

- Kurtz raced to five Speedway GP wins on the bounce in the final five rounds of 2025 – winning in Gorzow, Malilla, Riga, Wroclaw and Vojens to take the title fight to the final four laps of the season. Despite winning the final in Vojens, second spot for Zmarzlik was enough for him to seal gold.
- Despite missing out on gold, Kurtz set a new record of five straight wins – bettering the four achieved by Tony Rickardsson in 2005 – the year he won his sixth and final world title.
- Kurtz has a chance to set a new record of six in a row in Landshut on Saturday, which would be a dream start to 2026.
- Fine margins cost Kurtz the title. Zmarzlik outscored him in the five sprint races by 10 points to 9. But there's no doubt Kurtz's crash while he was leading on the final corner of the FIM Czech Speedway GP LCQ in Prague was his most expensive moment – as it cost him at least seven championship points, which would have won him gold.
- Fortunately for Kurtz, he was able to end 2025 as a world team champion – winning the FIM Speedway of Nations with Australia in Torun alongside Jack Holder and Jason Doyle.

THE CHALLENGERS – BEWLEY, LINDGREN, HOLDER & LEBEDEVS

- Zmarzlik and Kurtz are unlikely to have it all their own way in 2026. British racer Dan Bewley won his first Speedway GP World Championship medal in 2025 and has started the season well in Britain and Poland.
- Bewley finished second at the 2025 Landshut event and professes to like the OneSolar Arena track with its long straights.
- The Cumbrian will have the added advantage of racing Friday's FIM Speedway World Cup Semi-Final on the Landshut track – potentially offering him the chance to get a feel for conditions ahead of Saturday, along with GB teammate Robert Lambert, Ukraine's Nazar Parnitskyi and German wild card Norick Blodorn.
- Lambert will also hope to make the most of that extra track time as he bids to improve on an indifferent 2025 season, but one that still saw him finish seventh as he claimed the final automatic qualification place for 2026.
- Swedish star Fredrik Lindgren was fourth last year – maintaining his run of reaching the Speedway GP top five every season since 2018.

- Despite turning 40 on September 15 – two days after last year's final round – Lindgren admits his lack of a Speedway GP gold medal keeps him hungry to race on at the highest level.
- Aussie racer Jack Holder finished fifth in 2025 – comfortably booking his spot in the 2026 series. He will be keen to build on ending 2025 with an FIM SON world title, as well as starting this year by lifting his second Australian Championship in January.
- Latvia's Andzejs Lebedevs raced to a career-best sixth place in the 2025 Speedway GP series. He is very much targeting a medal in 2026.
- Lebedevs raced to an unforgettable third place in Landshut last season – his first-ever Speedway GP podium – which saw him tear up during an emotional interview.
- He returns for 2026 with two new Polish mechanics, Robert Zawada and Przemyslaw Klos, who will work alongside long-time Latvian spanner man Artem Bogdanovich. The Poles previously worked for former Speedway GP star Wieslaw Jagus and Russian rider Viktor Kulakov.

NEW KIDS ON THE BLOCK – PATRYK DUDEK

- Five riders join the Speedway GP line-up for 2026 – three familiar faces and two series debutants.
- Polish star Patryk Dudek makes his return to the World Championship after a two-year absence, having qualified as Speedway European Championship winner. He won three of the four SEC rounds in Bydgoszcz, Leszno and Pardubice, as well as finishing third in Gustrow.
- Dudek enjoyed a sublime 2025 season, winning his second Polish Championship, as well as lifting Poland's PGE Ekstraliga title with Torun and the Danish Speedwayligaen trophy with Slangerup.
- He finished second only to Bartosz Zmarzlik in the 2025 PGE Ekstraliga average charts on 2.363 points per race.

LEON MADSEN

- Double European champion Leon Madsen also makes his Speedway GP comeback after a year out of the starting line-up. He finished ninth in 2024 but did not receive a wild card from the SGP Commission. Madsen had to settle for the first substitute role.
- Unusually for a first substitute, he was only called up for one round, and he made it count – finishing third at the FIM Czech Speedway GP in Prague.
- Madsen punched his ticket for the 2026 Speedway GP series by finishing third at the FIM SGP Challenge in Holsted last August, having received a wild card for that meeting.

MICHAEL JEPSEN JENSEN

- Few Speedway GP returns have ever been more remarkable than that of Danish champion Michael Jepsen Jensen, who races his first full-time Speedway GP season since 2015.
- MJJ burst on to the world stage with an unforgettable 2012 season, which saw him win the FIM Speedway World Cup with Denmark, the FIM Speedway Under-21 World Championship and the FIM Nordic Speedway GP at Vojens.
- He struggled to hit those heights in the years that followed and drifted away from the world stage.
- But in 2024, a season-ending injury for Jason Doyle handed him the chance to join Polish PGE Ekstraliga club Grudziadz midway through the year.
- It was a move that changed his career as his form caught fire and MJJ took it into 2025, winning the Danish Championship for the first time.
- That national title win earned him the wild card for the FIM Danish Speedway GP at Vojens last September, where he made his first SGP appearance since 2018. He finished an impressive third behind the world's top two, Brady Kurtz and Bartosz Zmarzlik.
- He returns to Speedway GP after taking fifth place in the 2025 FIM SGP Challenge. Only the top four are guaranteed qualification. But with fourth-placed Andzejs Lebedevs finishing in the Speedway GP top six, he didn't need the SGP place he won in Holsted, meaning it passed to Jepsen Jensen.

KACPER WORYNA

- Polish racer Kacper Woryna makes his full-time Speedway GP debut after finishing second at the FIM SGP Challenge in Holsted to qualify.
- He has made two previous Speedway GP appearances – one as a track reserve in Torun in 2016. He then served as 2022 FIM Torun Speedway GP wild card, scoring eight championship points and falling just a place short of the semis.
- Woryna has made a flying start to the biggest year of his career. He is thriving following a winter transfer to Lublin in Poland, where he is teammates with Bartosz Zmarzlik and Fredrik Lindgren.
- As of Thursday, Woryna was second in the PGE Ekstraliga average charts on 2.400 – a figure bettered only by Zmarzlik, who is on 2.714.
- He recently won Poland's Golden Helmet to earn a spot in this season's Speedway GP qualifiers for 2027. The Golden Helmet was twice won by his grandfather Antoni Woryna in 1967 and 1971.
- Antoni Woryna is also a former two-time FIM Speedway World Championship bronze medallist, reaching the podium in 1966 and 1970. Can Kacper follow in his footsteps?

NAZAR PARNITSKYI

- Ukraine's first-ever full-time Speedway GP rider makes his senior World Championship debut in Landshut on Saturday.

- Parnitskyi was originally nominated as first substitute rider for 2026, but was promoted into the starting line-up after Britain's Tai Woffinden withdrew as he continues his gradual recovery from the injuries he suffered in March 2025.
- The 19-year-old is the reigning SGP2 champion – winning the 2025 FIM Speedway Under-21 World Championship series, having claimed the silver medal in 2024.
- Despite the fact he is now a Speedway GP full-timer, Parnitskyi still plans to defend his SGP2 title, meaning he will race at Malilla, Lodz and Vojens in under-21 action the night before a Speedway GP round.
- He also benefits from a similar scenario here in Landshut as he leads Ukraine into their first-ever FIM SWC Semi-Final on Friday. They qualified by finishing fourth in Semi-Final 2 at the 2025 FIM Speedway of Nations in Torun.
- Speedway has largely halted in Ukraine since Russia's invasion, so Parnitskyi is playing a key role in keeping his country's flag flying high on the world stage. He has even seen photos from the frontline of troops watching him in action on live streams. Now he fights for them in Speedway GP.
- He has been honing his skills with Polish club Leszno, who played a key role in launching his career. He helped the club win the 2025 Metalkas 2. Ekstraliga to regain their spot in the PGE Ekstraliga for 2026.

WHERE TO WATCH

Fans can catch every moment of Speedway GP and SWC action live on global broadcaster Warner Bros. Discovery's streaming platforms HBO Max or discovery+. Coverage of every Speedway GP Qualifying session is also available on these platforms.

HBO Max is available across Europe, with FIM-MOTO TV providing coverage around the world.

ACROSS EUROPE: Live on HBO Max and discovery+

BRITAIN: Live on HBO Max and TNT Sports

POLAND: Live on Eurosport 3, HBO Max and Player

SWEDEN: Live on Kanal 9 and HBO Max

DENMARK: Live on 6'eren and HBO Max

AUSTRALIA: Live on Fox Sports

GERMANY: Live on Servus TV, HBO Max and discovery+

ACROSS THE BALTICS: Live on Go3, TV3 Sport and HBO Max

CZECHIA: Live on HBO Max

SLOVAKIA: Live on STVR Sport and HBO Max

USA/Canada: Live on Racer

REST OF THE WORLD: Live on FIM-MOTO TV