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Van Amersfoort Racing in ATS F3 cup with three drivers.

Volkswagen is launching an offensive against the established Formula 3 constructors. This season the team from Wolfsburg is aiming for the first prizes in the main championships: the Formula 3 Euro Series, the German F3 and the British F3 championship. Like last year, Van Amersfoort Racing will be putting together a team with engines and support from Volkswagen.

The team from Huizen has formed a strong line-up to defend Laurens Vanthoor's title from last year. Vice-champion Stef Dusseldorp is joining the Huizen team, and so are two other talented drivers: the German Daniel Abt and the Austrian Willi Steindl. This is the first time in the history of Van Amersfoort that the team is racing three cars in Formula 3.

"We're facing strong competition this year and will have to pull out all the stops to defend the title", says team owner Frits van Amersfoort. As well as Van Amersfoort Racing, the British-Swedish Performance Racing also uses Volkswagen engines, and Motopark Academic and HS Technik have switched to VW too. These developments present an interesting new challenge for Frits van Amersfoort's team.

Last year Van Amersfoort Racing set the pace in the ATS F3 Cup with four prizes: the championship and vice-championship title, the Rookie championship and the championship title among the teams. Now that champion Laurens Vanthoor is leaving for the F3 Euro Series, it follows that he will be succeeded by 2009 vice-champion Dutchman Stef Dusseldorp. "Stef showed last year that he has a lot of talent and the potential to succeed Laurens. He made a couple of minor errors last year, but if he can improve on that he'll put up a strong challenge.

As well as Dusseldorf, VAR has another two up-and-coming talents in its team. Frits van Amersfoort: "Daniel Abt comes from a famous racing family and is the new German promise for the future. He is the first Abt not to drive for the family team. Daniel is the reigning champion of Formula ADAC. He hasn't gained much F3 experience yet, so we are treating this season as a learning year. Even so, I think there's a good chance that he could give us all a surprise."

The third Dallara Volkswagen is being driven by the 17-year-old Austrian Willy Steindl. Steindl has been racing in Formula ADAC since he was fifteen, and is now moving on to the next stage. "He's still very young and has a lot of potential", says Frits van Amersfoort. "I see Willy as having a lot of future promise, but up to now he hasn't had much luck in his career. This year he'll be able to show us what he's made of. He pleasantly surprised me with his performance during our test days in Spain."

Next week Van Amsterfoort Racing will be testing with the Formula 3 team in Italy in order to make thorough preparations for the 2010 season. "We're facing a big challenge. The competition in the ATS F3 Cup is stronger than ever this season, but we'll be taking up the challenge with passion and spirit, concludes Frits van Amersfoort, who has managed successful drivers in the past like Jos Verstappen, Christijan Albers, Bas Leinders, Tom Coronel, Giedo van der Garde, Ho-Pin Tung, Carlo van Dam and Renger van der Zande.

Van Amersfoort Racing bv