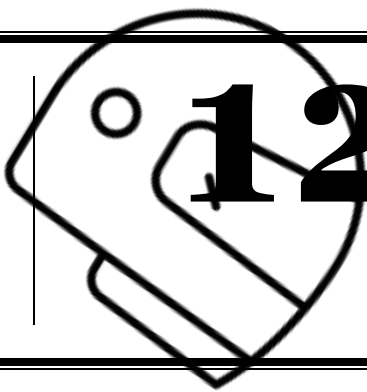


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Issue #8

Our Motorsport Issue



Violeta Milusheva,
12.B

Exclusive Interview

With **Stefan Bostandjiev** from
Overdrive Racing

Many of you may not be aware, but there is only one Bulgarian team in motorsport. It's called Overdrive Racing team and they race in the elite European series of GT4. Turns out they are a community of people who believe in Bulgaria's motorsport and build its future one step at the time. Most of the members of the team – from mechanic to driver – are Bulgarian. I had the unique opportunity to meet one of the team's drivers – Stefan Bostandjiev.

Born on May 23, 2004, Stefan is a bright young man who can convince you everything is possible. He was born and raised in London (UK) by Bulgarian parents. Ever since he was a little kid he had a penchant for extreme sports. After interviewing him, I could even say he is what in Bulgarian we call a "maximalist" – he lives every moment to the max, he is a big achiever, has big dreams and motivates hundreds of young boys who want to pursue a career in motorsport.



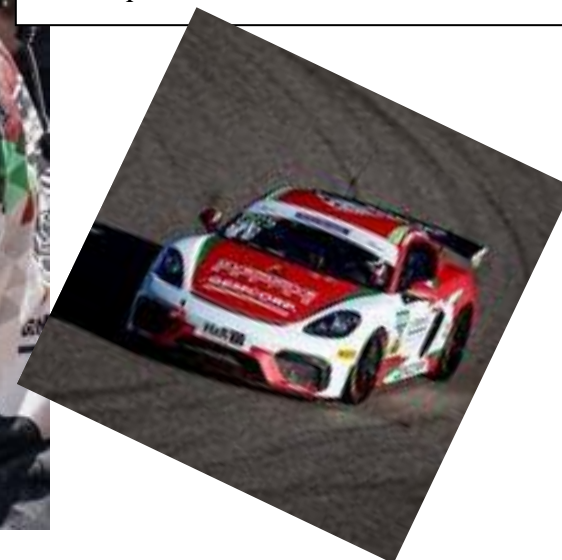
Who took you karting for the first time?

I drove my first kart at 4 years old in Ibiza, my mom took me. Next to our house in Ibiza there was this karting track and we went there. Actually, I was doing it properly at the age of 14-15. Everything started with rental karts, like Sofia Ring mall. After some time, I was doing the best time of the week, month, year at the tracks and I started looking for professional teams. My dad took me for a professional test drive when I was 15. After that I did some research and then did my first professional race in the UK.

What did you feel back then? Did you know this was going to be your passion and your career?



If you want to experience the adrenaline, the rush, the (im)possible dream or just want to feel close to Overdrive Racing and its drivers you could watch the movie *The First Lap* – a documentary encapsulating the dream story of Bulgaria's first and only racing team competing at an international motorsport level.



Catch up with [stefanbostandjiev23](https://www.instagram.com/stefanbostandjiev23) on Instagram and at <https://stefanbostandjiev.com/made-for-race/>

The Bulgarian Racing Dream

For sure not, I was a crazy kid when I was 3 years old, into the most extreme things, with a passion for extreme sports, and karting was one of the things I got into. The older I got, the more I watched Formula 1 and just enjoyed the sport.

In August 2020 you joined Overdrive Racing. How did that happen?

There is a personal reason to it, of course. I was very close to my cousin, he was the co-owner of Overdrive. I emailed Georgi Donchev – the owner – “my dream would be to make a career out of racing, I would like to test your race car”. We booked it and in August 2020, I drove Porsche GT3 Cup car.

Your debut was in 2021 at Testtage Motorsport Oschersleben Arena (Germany) – what were the expectations and preparations for that race?

The preparation started from September 2020 to March 2021, 10 days in Portugal to get familiar with the car. I had a good performance - 9th place in both races. I was new to the sport, I went there with no expectations, I did what I could.

What is the feeling to drive a fast car with no speeding limit?

As a racing driver, you don't think about the feeling, you think about the job, which personally, I think is a shame. The most fun I had was when I was in a car just for the thrill of it. This is when you feel free. Now I get in the cars, I am not scared of anything, I think about performance, lap time.

What is the hardest thing in your sport? Do you think it's lonely?

Definitely not lonely, but the hardest aspect is the mental side of the sport. It's about the people who can do this at the highest performance level all the time and recover from the negatives. Because they learn from the mistakes and forget about them as quickly as possible. If you always come back to the mistake, you will always doubt yourself and never improve. Accept it and learn from it.

What is your biggest dream?

My biggest dream is to win the races of Le Mans 24h, Spa 24h, Nürburgring 24h, while representing Bulgaria in motorsport at a very successful level.

