

ROUNDS 1 & 2 – CURITIBA, BRAZIL RACE REPORT

Weather: rainy with a wet track in Race 1; sunny with a dry track in Race 2

MULLER AND TARQUINI ON TOP AGAIN

History repeated in Brazil with Yvan Muller and Gabriele Tarquini taking a victory apiece for the second year in succession in Curitiba and leaving Brazil as joint leaders of the Drivers Championship, the only difference being the teams they are competing for.

The Chevrolet team commanded Race 1 with all three of their drivers filling the podium. The good points haul means the USA brand comes away from Curitiba leading the Manufacturers' Championship with 70 points.

All eyes were on the newly formed SEAT customer team, SR-Sport, to see what they had to offer. Race 1 provided a best result of fourth with Tarquini, but the defending champion came fighting back in Race 2 to take victory ahead of team mate Jordi Gené and making it a satisfactory end to the weekend for the team.

BMW Team RBM struggled on race day after the weather went against them despite being the pace setters for most of the weekend. Local boy Augusto Farfus had to settle for two sixth places, while Andy Priaux was forced out of the second race after a clash with his team-mate.

The newcomers were impressive. Norbert Michelisz and Michel Nykjær showed they can chase the most experienced drivers, Fredy Barth opened the roll of honour of the new Rookie Challenge, while Darryl O'Young fought for the Independents' victory in Race 1 with Stefano D'Aste and Sergio Hernández.

RACE 1 – MULLER LEADS CHEVROLET TRIO

Yvan Muller led team mates Rob Huff and Alain Menu across the finish line for an all Chevrolet podium at the opening round of the WTCC in Curitiba.

A torrential downpour before the start meant the race began behind the Safety Car, but as the drivers came through to start the race two laps later, Muller capitalised on having a clear view from pole position to lead the chasing pack into the first corner.

From second on the grid, Jordi Gené did his best to stay amongst the Chevrolets but after running wide at the Esse de Baixa while pushing Muller for the lead he lost out to Huff and Menu. He then ran wide again at the Entrada do Miolo dropping down to tenth in his SEAT León TDI.

Gabriele Tarquini, Tom Coronel and Norbert Michelisz also ran wide at the first corner as the drivers got to grips with the wet weather.

Coronel then set his sights on BMW Team RBM's Augusto Farfus and Andy Priaux up ahead, getting down the inside of Farfus on lap six to take sixth position and splitting the BMWs. A couple of laps later Farfus re-took the position down the inside at the Curva da Vitoria with Gené also pushing his way through demoting Coronel the eighth.

The final order across the line was Muller from Huff, Menu, Tarquini, Priaux, Farfus, Gene and Coronel making it a SEAT León TDI front row for Race 2.

Fredy Barth finished ninth to win the Rookie Challenge after passing Norbert Michelisz on the penultimate lap. Michelisz rounded out the top ten to become the first Hungarian driver to score a world championship point in circuit racing since Zsolt Baumgartner's Formula 1 point in 2004.



Proteam Motorsport's Sergio Hernández was the top Independent after making his way from last on the grid to thirteenth overall. Stefano D'Aste and Darryl O'Young were battling for the Independents' lead but after making contact Hernández held his line to move ahead of the pair.

Andrei Romanov was the only driver not to finish. After running into the gravel at the Esse de Baixa in his BMW 320si he managed to limp back to the pits and into retirement.

Monroe Performer

Overall: Rob Huff 1:33.904; Independent: Sergio Hernández 1:34.986

Withdrawals

A. Romanov: race incident

RACE 2 – THE CHAMPION STRIKES BACK

Reigning champion Gabriele Tarquini led SR-Sport team mate Jordi Gené across the line for a SEAT León TDI one-two, over 5-seconds ahead of the rest of the field. Chevrolet's Alain Menu rounded out the podium.

After the earlier downpour, Race 2 was a different story with a dry track and bright sunshine. Poleman Tom Coronel had a terrible start ending in the gravel at turn one after contact with Rob Huff and then slowly creeping back to the pits.

Gené took over the lead with Tarquini, Huff, Menu and Muller behind. After making a bad start Augusto Farfus made contact with fellow BMW Team RBM racer Andy Priaulx off the start with the latter making it back to the pits but also out of the race due to the damage sustained. Farfus then ran wide at the Esse de Baixa dropping from his third grid spot down to seventh

On lap three Tarquini made his move for the lead, taking the inside line through the Esse de Baixa and moving ahead of Gené.

Tarquini and Gené began to pull out in front with the three Chevrolet's of Huff, Menu and Muller behind. Huff began to drop back and eventually Menu and Muller both capitalised demoting the Brit to fifth. Huff then began to feel pressure from behind with Farfus, Tiago Monteiro and Michel Nykjær all chasing him for position.

The final order across the line was Tarquini from Gené, Menu, Muller, Huff, Farfus, Monteiro, Nykjær and Michelisz.

Sergio Hernández took his second Independents' victory of the day rounding out the top ten, despite pressure from Franz Engstler in the closing stages. Nykjær's eighth place finish also gave him the Rookie Challenge win.

After the damage sustained from an incident in Race 1, Andrei Romanov was the only driver not to make the start of Race 2.

Monroe Performer

Overall: Gabriele Tarquini 1:25.803; Independent: Sergio Hernández 1:27.085

Withdrawals

A. Romanov: DNS; A. Priaulx: race incident; T. Coronel: race incident

FLASH NEWS

ENGINE CHANGE ON HERNÁNDEZ'S CAR

Proteam Motorsport changed the engine on Sergio Hernández's BMW 320si car after this morning's warm up.

As a consequence the Spanish driver, who had qualified 17th, was demoted to the back of the starting grid for Race 1.

43 TONNES OF FOOD COLLECTED BY WTCC

The WTCC once again made a contribution towards the aid of the starving people of Brazil.

As they did in the previous three years, free tickets were offered to the public in exchange for two kilograms of food.

43 tonnes of food were collected through the campaign and donated to the charity society Instituto Pró-Cidadania de Curitiba who will distribute them to those in need. The amount of food collected by WTCC since 2007 totals 152 tonnes.

DRIVERS CALL TO SAVE ANDRÉ COUTO'S SON

The SR-Sport cars of Gabriele Tarquini and Tiago Monteiro sport the sticker "www.saveafonso.com" in support of the website established by Macau driver André Couto to find a donor for a bone marrow transplant for his son Afonso.

The 6-year old boy is currently hospitalized at Porto's Oncological Hospital after he was diagnosed with leukaemia last November. The bone marrow transplant could save his life.

Other WTCC drivers, including Tom Coronel are giving their support by promoting the message "be a marrow donor". Andy Priaulx and his charity team have organised a special drop-in clinic in Guernsey enabling people to join The Anthony Nolan Trust Bone Marrow Register. This clinic will take place on Thursday 11th March at Kings Life, Guernsey.

THE WORD TO THE WINNERS

Yvan MULLER – Winner of Race 1: *"It's great to win and get fourth in the second race so I'm very happy. The race was complicated because at the beginning there was some standing water. Then the track dried out and to be on the wet tyres on a dry track was not easy. After five laps I wanted to save the tyres because I knew it was drying but I was saving a bit too much and when Huff came up behind me I had to wake up."*

Gabriele TARQUINI – Winner of Race 2: *"We have no team orders so it was a great race. I had a tough time over the winter but in qualifying the car was great. The plan was to get a podium and maybe a win and I did that so it's a fantastic start to the season. The SR-Sport team have done a fantastic job. I feel really satisfied and this victory is special. Last year I knew I could fight for the title but this year my plan is to score some victories and the first one is here."*

2010 FIA World Touring Car Championship
RACE 1 RESULT

POS	NO	CLS	DRIVER / TEAM	NAT	CAR	TIME	LAPS	GAP	KPH	BEST
1	6		Yvan MULLER	FRA	Chevrolet Cruze	26:57.181	16		131.60	1:34.400
2	7		Robert HUFF	GBR	Chevrolet Cruze	26:58.234	16	1.053	131.52	1:33.904
3	8		Alain MENU	SUI	Chevrolet Cruze	27:02.763	16	5.582	131.15	1:34.646
4	1		Gabriele TARQUINI	ITA	SEAT Leon TDI	27:04.317	16	7.136	131.02	1:34.438
5	11		Andy PRIAULX	GBR	BMW 320si	27:08.806	16	11.625	130.66	1:34.676
6	10		Augusto FARFUS	BRA	BMW 320si	27:09.279	16	12.098	130.63	1:34.824
7	4		Jordi GENE	ESP	SEAT Leon TDI	27:11.560	16	14.379	130.44	1:34.855
8	2		Tom CORONEL	NED	SEAT Leon TDI	27:11.828	16	14.647	130.42	1:34.448
9	18		Fredy BARTH	SUI	SEAT Leon TDI	27:15.954	16	18.773	130.09	1:34.744
10	5		Norbert MICHELISZ	HUN	SEAT Leon TDI	27:17.540	16	20.359	129.97	1:34.904
11	3		Tiago MONTEIRO	POR	SEAT Leon TDI	27:18.872	16	21.691	129.86	1:34.258
12	17		Michel NYKJAER	DEN	SEAT Leon TDI	27:19.826	16	22.645	129.78	1:34.997
13	25		Sergio HERNANDEZ	ESP	BMW 320si	27:32.154	16	34.973	128.82	1:34.986
14	15		Franz ENGSTLER	GER	BMW 320si	27:35.273	16	38.092	128.57	1:35.418
15	20		Darryl O'YOUNG	HKG	Chevrolet Lacetti	27:41.873	16	44.692	128.06	1:35.847
16	19		Harry VAULKHARD	GBR	Chevrolet Lacetti	27:47.186	16	50.005	127.65	1:36.445
17	26		Stefano D'ASTE	ITA	BMW 320si	27:47.923	16	50.742	127.60	1:36.047
18	21		Mehdi BENNANI	MAR	BMW 320si	28:18.006	16	1:20.825	125.34	1:35.527

NOT CLASSIFIED

16	Andrei ROMANOV	RUS	BMW 320si	9:55.461	5	D.N.F.	111.69	1:40.649
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FASTEST LAP

7	Robert HUFF		Chevrolet Cruze	1:33.904	15	88.02mph	141.65kph
25	Sergio HERNANDEZ		BMW 320si	1:34.986	13	87.01mph	140.04kph

Curitiba

Circuit Length = 3.6950 km.

Start: 14:15 End: 14:41

Steward:	Steward:	Steward:	Issued at:
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2010 FIA World Touring Car Championship
RACE 2 RESULT

POS	NO	CLS	DRIVER / TEAM	NAT	CAR	TIME	LAPS	GAP	KPH	BEST
1	1		Gabriele TARQUINI	ITA	SEAT Leon TDI	20:13.311	14		153.48	1:25.803
2	4		Jordi GENE	ESP	SEAT Leon TDI	20:14.587	14	1.276	153.32	1:25.898
3	8		Alain MENU	SUI	Chevrolet Cruze	20:18.718	14	5.407	152.80	1:25.947
4	6		Yvan MULLER	FRA	Chevrolet Cruze	20:19.296	14	5.985	152.73	1:25.949
5	7		Robert HUFF	GBR	Chevrolet Cruze	20:21.606	14	8.295	152.44	1:26.213
6	10		Augusto FARFUS	BRA	BMW 320si	20:21.907	14	8.596	152.40	1:26.219
7	3		Tiago MONTEIRO	POR	SEAT Leon TDI	20:23.730	14	10.419	152.18	1:26.256
8	17		Michel NYKJAER	DEN	SEAT Leon TDI	20:25.119	14	11.808	152.00	1:26.156
9	5		Norbert MICHELISZ	HUN	SEAT Leon TDI	20:30.887	14	17.576	151.29	1:26.674
10	25	I	Sergio HERNANDEZ	ESP	BMW 320si	20:37.555	14	24.244	150.48	1:27.085
11	15	I	Franz ENGSTLER	GER	BMW 320si	20:37.954	14	24.643	150.43	1:27.087
12	21	I	Mehdi BENNANI	MAR	BMW 320si	20:43.383	14	30.072	149.77	1:27.128
13	19	I	Harry VAULKHARD	GBR	Chevrolet Lacetti	20:44.234	14	30.923	149.67	1:27.233
14	26	I	Stefano D'ASTE	ITA	BMW 320si	20:53.639	14	40.328	148.55	1:27.723
15	20	I	Darryl O'YOUNG	HKG	Chevrolet Lacetti	20:53.792	14	40.481	148.53	1:27.428
16	18		Fredy BARTH	SUI	SEAT Leon TDI	21:23.091	14	1:09.780	145.14	1:26.520

NOT CLASSIFIED

2			Tom CORONEL	NED	SEAT Leon TDI	8:53.987	1	D.N.F.	24.91	
11			Andy PRIAULX	GBR	BMW 320si		0	D.N.F.	N/A	

FASTEST LAP

1			Gabriele TARQUINI		SEAT Leon TDI	1:25.803	3	96.33mph	155.03kph	
25	I		Sergio HERNANDEZ		BMW 320si	1:27.085	4	94.91mph	152.74kph	

Car 18, Drive-through penalty applied, ref Stewards decision 12.

Curitiba

Circuit Length = 3.6950 km.

Start: 15:33 End: 15:53

Steward:	Steward:	Steward:	Issued at:
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2010 FIA WORLD TOURING CAR CHAMPIONSHIP - DRIVERS' CHAMPIONSHIP

position	driver	Curitiba (BRA) 7 March		Puebla (MEX) 11 April	Marrakech (MAR) 2 May	Monza (ITA) 23 May	Zolder (BEL) 20 June	Portimão (POR) 4 July	Brands Hatch (GBR) 18 July	Brno (CZE) 1 August	Oschersleben (GER) 5 September	Valencia (ESP) 19 September	Okayama (JPN) 31 October	Macau (CHN) 21 November	TOTAL
1	Yvan MULLER (FRA)	25	12												37
1	Gabriele TARQUINI (ITA)	12	25												37
3	Alain MENU (SUI)	15	15												30
4	Robert HUFF (GBR)	18	10												28
5	Jordi GENÉ (ESP)	6	18												24
6	Augusto FARFUS (BRA)	8	8												16
7	Andy PRIAULX (GBR)	10	0												10
8	Tiago MONTEIRO (POR)	0	6												6
9	Tom CORONEL (NED)	4	0												4
9	Michel NYKJÆR (DEN)	0	4												4
11	Norbert MICHELISZ (HUN)	1	2												3
12	Fredy BARTH (SUI)	2	0												2
13	Sergio HERNÁNDEZ (ESP)	0	1												1

2010 FIA WORLD TOURING CAR CHAMPIONSHIP - MANUFACTURERS' CHAMPIONSHIP

position	manufacturer	Curitiba (BRA) 7 March		Puebla (MEX) 11 April	Marrakech (MAR) 2 May	Monza (ITA) 23 May	Zolder (BEL) 20 June	Portimão (POR) 4 July	Brands Hatch (GBR) 18 July	Brno (CZE) 1 August	Oschersleben (GER) 5 September	Valencia (ESP) 19 September	Okayama (JPN) 31 October	Macau (CHN) 21 November	TOTAL
1	CHEVROLET	43	27												70
2	SEAT CUSTOMERS TECHNOLOGY	23	43												66
3	BMW	22	18												40