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RACECAR EURO SERIES 2011 ROUND 4 – FRANCE – MAGNY-COURS – 2/3 JULY JUNIOR POWER IN MAGNY COURS

This last RACECAR Euro Series round before the summer break already felt like holidays. The 25,000 spectators enjoyed the hot and shining sun of Magny Cours the whole weekend and the famous DJ Laurent Wolf made them feel in Ibiza. On the track, the rising stars brilliantly shined. Caution !! The junior class is booming: Boucenna (19), Palette (21), Perrin (24), Fournillier (20), Gonneau (25), Ide (22) will fight for championships!

Sprint ELITE: Helary and the young guns

Eric Helary realised the best time in his last lap of qualifications. He keeps the 1st place till the final victory. Behind him, Ander Vilarino, Romain Thiévin, Steven Palette, Wilfried Boucenna and Lucas Lasserre all qualify in only 5/10th of seconds. We could so expect a great fight for the lead. And we will get it. Vilarino and Thievin rub one against the other and restart at the bottom. The two Juniors Palette and Boucenna duel intensively for the 2nd place and finally Boucenna finishes ahead of Palette. Behind, Lasserre and Iannetta fight for the places of honour and finish in this order. Carole Perrin, who started 16th, Antoine Lioen, Bruno Cosin, Vincent Gonneau and Didier Moureu complete the top 10. In Junior Trophy, Boucenna and Palette are joined by Perrin. Lioen, Cosin and Moureu make the Challenger Trophy podium. Boucenna, realising the fastest lap time, reaches his first pole position of this season for the Endurance race.

Sprint OPEN: Premiere for Gonneau

Of course, the championship leaders, Romain Fournillier and Manu Brigand well situate them in the front of the grid during the qualifications. But, for 4/10th of seconds, Vincent Gonneau pinches them the pole position. The true performance of the weekend, the driver of the Belgian team Active Events assumes his leading position and will finally reach his 1st ever victory in RACECAR Euro Series after a superb duel with Romain Fournillier. Brigand, 3rd, looks to the leading duet trying to participate also. Behind them, the squad is animated. From the start, a driver in difficulty generates a dust cloud which leads to the immediate stop of Joseph Merszei, Alain Grand, Franck Violas and Jean-Paul Mommey. Some individual incidents will also animate this turbulent sprint. Once again, Tanguy Ide finishes 4th and scores big points. Jérôme Laurin, Philippe Baudinière and Claude Boueix make the Legend Trophy podium when Gérald Cormon, Laurent Wolf and Jean-Luc Pocino make the Gentelman Trophy one.

Endurance ELITE: Boucenna, absolute master

Starting 1st, Boucenna manages a good start containing the ardent squad behind him. He resists during the 20 minutes to the attacks of the specialists Helary, Lasserre and Thievin who finishes in this order before giving the wheels to their OPEN drivers. Boucenna becomes the 6th different winner in 8 races this season. The rest of the top 10 is battled. Challengers Schneider, Lioen and Cosin fight for the win of the Trophy. Vincent Capillaire and especially the rookie Stephane Romecki, who started 11th and 15th, make good recoveries to finally finish 8th and 9th. Iannetta and Vilarino crashed together in the turn 1. The Stewards will judge that the explanations between the 2 drivers and their non sportive behaviors

Contact : **RACECAR Series**

36 rue du Val Fleuri, 41350 Saint Gervais la Forêt, France

racecar@teamfj.com - (+33) 02.54.45.54.45 - (+33) 06.08.16.94.42





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deserve exclusion of the 2 drivers. Championship leader, Lucas Lasserre, receives a 20" penalty for a questionable overpass on Thievin. He finally finishes 9th.

Endurance OPEN :

After the drivers' change, Philippe Baudinière, Boucenna's co-driver, starts 1st. Brigand overpasses him and will keep the lead till the final victory. Tanguy Ide and Pascal Hugot keeping trying to catch him fight for the other 2 steps of the podium. Finally, this is the young driver of the Helary Racing Team who finishes 2nd. Romain Fournillier, who finished 12th of the 1st ELITE segment, reaches the 8th place of the OPEN final classification. Places in front of him are well caught by Grand, Havette, Baudiniere and Eric Dermont. Grand wins the Legend Trophy ahead of Baudiniere and Laurin. In the Gentleman Trophy, Havette wins ahead of Violas and Olivier Fouillat.

The sun of Magny-Cours was not the only one to warm the track this last week end. Once again, the RACECAR drivers demonstrated their high determination in winning the NASCAR seat promised to the Championship winner. During the summer break, each one will prepare his back for the 5th round in September on the Brands Hatch track during the DTM event. After half of the season, the 2 championships are still very open. They will be even more challenged because, only 8 of the 10 best results of each driver will be counted before the Finale. The last 2 rounds promised battled matches and some surprises. Not to be missed!

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