

EuroSpeedway Lausitz, 25th May 2014

Perfect weekend for Robertas Kupcikas at EuroSpeedway Lausitz

On 24th and 25th May there was the second round of Volkswagen Castrol Cup held at EuroSpeedway Lausitz circuit in Germany. There were 24 competitors on the grid representing 9 countries. Among them there was Jerzy Dudek – a former goalkeeper of Real Madrid, FC Liverpool and Poland national team. A well-known tv presenter, Agnieszka Szulim who is about to take part in the third round of Volkswagen Castrol Cup in Tor Poznań in the middle of June also arrived in German track. She had the opportunity to chat with fellow drivers and taste the racing atmosphere. Just like a month ago at Hungaroring, this time also both races were won by the same driver. At EuroSpeedway Lausitz Robertas Kupcikas showed his utmost skills and won on Saturday and Sunday, which gave him the first position in the standings after two rounds of Volkswagen Castrol Cup.

Qualifying session

From the first laps of qualifying session Robertas Kupcikas name was at the top of lap board. On the next laps the other drivers struggled to beat Lithuanian driver. Kupcikas, however, withstood the pressure and he will start first race from pole position. Right behind him will start the drivers who are familiar with the EuroSpeedway Lausitz – Jakub Litwin and Maciek Steinhof. On Saturday morning there was no rain over the German track. Before Volkswagen Castrol Cup competitors went to fight for starting positions, drivers from other racing series were on the circuit. Thanks to this there was a clear and dry racing line on the circuit. Therefore, all racing Golfs came out for qualifying on slick tires. Right from the beginning of qualifying session it was Robertas Kupcikas who led the field. The Lithuanian driver quickly set a very good time taking pole position to both races. A gap between 12th driver and the fastest one was less than a second. For a long time Maciek Steinhof was second, and Jan Kisiel third. This sequence did not change in the first part of the session. After 15 minutes on the track appeared Golf number 21 driven by Jakub Litwin. The Szczecin-born driver showed great performance and won second spot on the grid with the lap time just 0.212 s slower than Kupcikas. In fourth place eventually finished Jonas Gelzinis, Jan Kisiel was fifth. Top six was completed by Jeffrey Kruger. Jerzy Dudek finished his laps with 18th result. Gosia Rdest came with 9th time. According to Volkswagen Castrol Cup regulations the second best times from qualifying decided about the grid for the Sunday race. This time it was Jan Kisiel how was right behind Robertas Kupcikas, while another Lithuanian pilot Jonas Gelzinis grabbed the third place.

First race

Those who followed the first race of Volkswagen Castrol Cup held at EuroSpeedway Lausitz track certainly could not complain of boredom. For a vast majority of the distance the field was led by pole position holder Robertas Kupcikas. However, the most interesting things happened behind him. There, in a thrilling duels were involved: Maciek Steinhof, Jonas Gelzinis, Jan Kisiel, Jeffrey Kruger and Gosia Rdest. When the red lights went out, the best reflex was shown by Kuba Litwin. Starting from the second grid, the Szczecin born driver had an advantage over Kupcikas. The joy of the pilot didn't last long, however. Even before the first corner of the Golf driver of the number 21 was delayed braking too hard and fell off the track. Then Kupcikas was back in the lead, which he gradually built. The drivers behind him were involved in many fights, which really helped the Lithuanian competitor. The other places were occupied by Steinhof, Gelzinis, Kruger and Fluch. The last one who won both races at Hungaroring, took the 8th grid and after a few laps was promoted to 4th position. Jan Kisiel had a bad luck. Starting from 6th grid he initially had one of top spots. Unfortunately he touched the other driver and went down to the field. Gosia Rdest was very competitive while Jerzy Dudek eventually grabbed a very good 14th place. Kuba Litwin who lost many places managed to finish the race in 10th spot.

Comments after the first race

Robertas Kupcikas: qualifications pos. 1, Race pos. 1

- I spoiled the start a little. I do not know exactly what happened, so I will have to check it out after the race telemetry data. After the start I tried to get my first place, and I was able to do it due to Kuba Litwin's mistake. After that I tried to go as fast as possible and control the course of the race.

Jonas Gelzinis: qualifications pos. 4, Race pos. 4

- I had a good fight with Jeffrey Kruger. Unfortunately, this struggle swallowed all my Push - to - Passes, so at the end I was for him an easy prey to hunt. Jeffrey drove literally 10 inches behind me and could even use the system twice. So I could not defend against it.

Paweł Krężelok: qualifications pos. 7, Race pos. 6

- I'm pretty happy with the race, though of course the sixth position is not the peak of my dreams . However, given my pace at this track, I can be happy with the result. After the start I broke traction, which cost me some valuable fractions of a second. After a few laps I managed to overtake a few drivers in front of me, but it was not enough to chase leaders have time.

Second Race

During the Sunday's race it was Robertas Kupcikas who took the pole position. Right behind him the top grids were completed by Jan Kisiel, Jonas Gelzinis, Jakub Litwin and the South Africa resident Jeffrey Kruger. After two days of mixed weather, this time all competitors raced in full sun. What's interesting, as many as three drivers (Kupcikas, Steinhof and Fluch) were on top of leader board having 82 points. Robertas Kupcikas had a perfect start and maintained the lead that he cemented successively. The same concerned Jeffrey Kruger who was promoted from 9. place to 5. On the third lap there was a contact between Kuba Litwin and Marcus Fluch. Litwin had to slow down and fell down the order. Eventually he didn't finish the race. Robertas Kupcikas who triumphed nine years ago at EuroSpeedway Lausitz track in one of the races of the first edition of Volkswagen Castrol Cup withstood the pressure and like the day before, reached for a deserved victory. After the bad luck on Saturday, this time Jan Kisiel finished the competition in second place. Top three was closed by Jeffrey Kruger. Gosia Rdest, the only woman-driver had a very good performance and finished the race on 8th position. The former goalkeeper of such clubs as FC Liverpool and Real Madrid, Jerzy Dudek once again confirmed that it had a great feel behind the wheel of a racing car. After a good result on Saturday when he finished 14th, this time he completed 15 laps of the race in 17th place.

After two rounds abroad Volkswagen Castrol Cup moves to Tor Poznań where on 13-15 June the third round of the series will be held.

Comments after the second race

Robertas Kupcikas: qualifications pos. 1, Race pos. 1

- Leading the race is never easy. Everyone wants to overtake you, everyone is waiting for your mistake, and you must not give them a chance. When you chase driver in front you need to attack, you can drive more aggressively and take risks. So I tried to go to the finish line safely.

Jan Kisiel: qualifications pos. 2, Race pos. 2

- I was very close to Robertas, but I did not want to risk too, because yesterday I lost a lot of points. That's why I preferred to get my 42 points safely. Robertas set a very good pace, so I can be happy that I could keep up. I drove without mistakes and do not let Kupcikas to rest. This was my first time at this track, so 2nd place is certainly a success.

Marcus Fluch: qualifications pos. 6, Race pos. 5

- It was my toughest race in the Volkswagen Castrol Cup. I really had a lot of work behind the wheel. At the beginning I struggled a bit. I did not notice Pawel Krężelok on the inside and we had little contact. Then I had contact with Jakub Litwin. After these incidents, my car did not handle as good as it should, so I could not attack. I'm glad I got to the finish line.

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