

Poznań, 15th June 2014

Lot of action and emotions in Poznań as Kupcikas stays on the top

On June 13-15 Volkswagen Castrol Cup returned to Poland. The third round of the innovative racing series took place at Poznan Circuit. There was 22 competitors from 8 countries. First race was dominated by the rain, which started just on the first lap. In these conditions Robertas Kupcikas was unbeatable. The Lithuanian driver had a great start and overtook Jan Kisiel already before first corner. Meanwhile Jerzy Dudek scored his best result in Volkswagen Castrol Cup. Famous goalkeeper finished 11th in first race. Before Saturday's race we had prestigious VIP duel. Filip Chajzer - journalist known from TVN has proved to be faster than his colleague Agnieszka Szulim. In the second race Jan Kisiel had his small drama. Starting from pole position Kisiel, made a false start, and got a drive-through penalty. Jeffrey Kruger could not waste such a chance. Capetown-born driver went for his first victory this season.

Qualifying session

Jan Kisiel won the qualifying session for the first time in the history of his starts in Volkswagen Castrol Cup. At the end of a very fierce fight, Kisiel was overjoyed. He made two fastest laps and also Sunday's race he will start from pole position. During the morning qualifications dangerous clouds hung again over Poznań Circuit, but fortunately there was no rain. Conditions were stable, so the cars went out on slick tyres. Almost from the beginning of the session Jan Kisiel showed greatest pace. 20-year-old from Warsaw told that before the round in Poznań he wanted to work hard on concentration and pace in qualifying. Kisiel did as he said – he covered two fastest laps.

For most of the session there was fierce battle behind Kisiel's back. Most changes in the lead we had at the beginning of the session, when the drivers had new tyres. The fight was extremely fierce. Finally, the second time belonged to Robertas Kupcikas. Lithuanian driver lost only 0.063 seconds to Kisiel. Just a little bit slower lap made Marcus Fluch (+ 0.079 s). Maciek Steinhof was fourth (+ 0.243 s). Krystian Korzeniowski also showed good performance, and won fifth position (+ 0.266 s). Kuba Litwin couldn't be satisfied. Szczecin-born driver didn't perform as he expected, and he will begin first race from 16th grid. Meanwhile Jerzy Dudek continued improving his performance. Former goalkeeper got 13th result. Gosia Rdest finished three positions higher.

Battle for second best time was very leveled as well. Second best time determines the starting order before race on Sunday. Here again Kisiel was the fastest. This means that he won a double pole position. Kisiel will be chased by second Marcus Fluch. Jeffrey Kruger, third in overall standings grabbed 3rd spot. The fourth time belonged to Krystian Korzeniowski. Kupcikas went significantly slower (7th place). Jerzy Dudek will start the second race from the 18th place and Gosia Rdest again finished in 10th place.

Quotes after qualifying

Jan Kisiel, 1st in qualifying:

- Yesterday before going to bed, I thought a lot about how to drive in qualifying session. As you can see it paid off. I am very happy with this result. This is my first pole position in the history of my starts in Volkswagen Castrol Cup. I try to keep my head cool before the race. You don't get points for pole position, so in race I have to focus on the good start and run away from drivers behind me.

Krystian Korzeniowski, 5th in qualifying:

- Before qualifying was aiming to be in top five. That was my goal and I'm glad I accomplished it. I know the track, so it's a lot easier for me than at other circuits. From the beginning I knew how to drive here, so I just needed to do so. The race will certainly be a very hard fight, especially because I am surrounded by very fast drivers. However, I hope to be on the podium!

Jerzy Dudek, 13th in qualifying:

- It's getting better for me. I have better feeling, what is visible in the results. When I got into the car I realized that my shoes are not tied. I could not tie them by myself, so I asked my helper to do it. I told him that if I get fifteenth place or better, he will have to tie my shoes every time I get to the car. We managed to win 13th position so now my helper will have extra job – to tie my shoes.

VIP Duel: Szulim vs Chajzer

Before the drivers started to fight for the best lap times, the fans gathered at Poznan Circuit could watch duel of the TV stars. It was well known TV journalists behind the wheel of racing, 310-horsepower GTI Golfs. First car was driven by Agnieszka Szulim and second one by Filip Chajzer. Filip made a good and clean start and gained a significant gap over Agnieszka. Szulim started to chase Chajzer. She was gradually decreasing the gap. Before the last corner Agnieszka was already behind the rear bumper of Golf driven by Filip. Unfortunately, the error she made on the last corner, caused a spun. She went off the track and stuck in gravel trap. This meant that Filip Chajzer took the victory.

Agnieszka Szulim:

- I'm disappointed, because I really wanted to beat Filip. Contrary to appearances, my excursion off the track does not scare me. Maybe it's because I felt very safe behind the wheel of a racing Golf. More than myself I was afraid of it or I will not hurt your truck. During the race I was nervous and I made too many mistakes that did not allow me to hunt down Philip. I saw that there is a chance to overtake him, so I tried to attack on the last corner. Too early I punched Push - to - Pass and therefore the last arc but it was too fast. Even though I lost it and so I can not stop smiling. It was great fun.

Filip Chajzer:

- My driving was rubbish. I was nervous and I think I made all the mistakes I could make. I did exactly the opposite what I was supposed to do. Fortunately I had a good start, what allowed me to build an advantage, but with every corner Agnieszka reduced the gap between us. On the last corner she was very close to me. We drove almost head to head. Aga wanted to overtake me on the outside, and it probably this was her mistake. I hope that there will be rematch soon.

First race

Dry track, wet track, safety car, many overtaking maneuvers – there was a lot of action during first race of Volkswagen Castrol Cup second round. It was Robertas Kupcikas who won. Kupcikas made a great start even though he started the race from part of the track which was much more wet. Lithuanian driver overtook Jan Kisiel and was leading from start to finish. It was his third win in a row.

Before the race track was almost completely dry. The weather didn't announce the coming troubles. All the cars started on the slick tires designed for dry tarmac. At the beginning of the first corner Kupcikas was already before Kisiel. Paweł Krężelok was another driver who made a great start, while Marcus Fluch remained third. First drops of rain came already on the first lap. Just a lap later a real shower came. On the safety car came out. The rain did not stop, so after 7 laps, the stewards decided to stop the race. Then Volkswagen Racing Poland technical crew started to work. Mechanics quickly put wet-weather tyres in 22 cup cars and drivers could get back on track behind the safety car. Safety car came off after two laps and fantastic fight at the track could begin.

Kupcikas immediately gained pretty big gap and Kisiel chased him for the remaining laps. There were uncountable number of duels, overtaking maneuvers and contacts between the competitors. It was a great race for Gosia Rdest. Jeffrey Kruger looked surprised, after Gosia brilliantly overtook him on the second corner. One of the many duels between Steinhof and Krężelok did not end well for the first of those two drivers. After a contact Steinhof lost his rear-end and went off the track losing many positions. Greatest emotions came on the very end of the race. Michael Gadomski was a last action hero. The driver of a yellow Golf fought to the very end. On the last lap Gadomski came out of the last corner very fast and a just few meters before the finish line overtook Gosia Rdest.

Quotes after the first race

Krystian Korzeniowski, 5th in qualifying, 4th in race:

- I performed well but it was not enough to be on the podium. But tomorrow I will start from the fourth grid, so I will be closer to the podium. Decision to change tyres was good. There was no way to continue on slicks in the rain.

Michał Gadomski, 12th in qualifying, 5th in race:

- At the end chased a large group of drivers. One of the drivers of this group went a little sideways, which slowed down the rest, and I could catch up with them. I could use Push – to – Pass twice, so at the end I used it to do to stay ahead of Gosia. I am very pleased. Tomorrow it may rain, because I think wet weather suits me.

Gosia Rdest, 10th in qualifying, 6th in race:

- It was very good. I'm glad, because in the practice it did not look so promising. There was a lot of action in the race. I regret that we did not have one more wet lap on slicks, I felt very confident. My experience from racing in the UK was helpful. I am pleased that I did a few overtaking maneuvers.

Jeffrey Kruger, 10th in qualifying, 6th in race:

- I do not have much experience in driving on this track in the wet. In fact, only during the race I was able to learn driving on a wet Poznań Circuit. I tried to be careful. I think I did a good race, although the fight was very tough. On the last lap I lost a position, but I am glad I took important championship points.

Second Race

The mistake which Janek Kisiel made on the start gave Jeffrey Kruger a chance to grab his first victory in Volkswagen Castrol Cup. Kisiel, starting from pole position, made a false start, and received a drive-through penalty. Kruger, who followed Kisiel, could not waste such an opportunity. Jeffrey Kruger started from the third position and overtook Marcus Fluch at the beginning. Everything showed that battle for the win will be between Kisiel and Kruger. After Kisiel got his penalty Kruger could drive to the finish with calm.

Most action happened behind the rear bumper of Kruger's car. There was a great duel for second place – Robertas Kupcikas chased Marcus Fluch. The Swede kept his head cool, and drove very good race, so Kupcikas had no chance to attack and eventually passed the finish line third.

Behind Kupcikas there was a whole group of drivers, initially led by Krystian Korzeniowski. However few laps later, Korzeniowski was overtaken by Jonas Gelzinis. Then Korzeniowski had to recognize the superiority of Steinhof. On the next lap also Paweł Krężelok and Jan Kisiel got in front of Korzeniowski. Kisiel, after drive-through penalty, dropped to 10th position, what made him furious. Kisiel started to chase rivals madly. He was pushing really hard and caught a group of drivers in front of him. On the following laps he managed to get in front of Jirasek and Korzeniowski. There was not enough time for Kisiel to overtake Krężelok, and Janek finished 7th. Jerzy Dudek was involved in fights for the lower positions and finally he was 19th. Gosia Rdest did not finish the race.

Quotes after the second race**Marcus Fluch, 2nd in qualifying, 2nd in race:**

- Without a doubt – I'm happy after this round. I won here a year ago and I really like this track. In qualifying I struggled a little bit at the beginning, but in the next phase I calmed down and did some good laps. I got a lot of important points, even though it was tough, especially today, when Robertas was pushing behind me.

Maciek Steinhof, 5th in qualifying, 5th in race:

- Today the race was cool. Clean driving, good pace, but unfortunately for the second time I had a bad start. I lost three positions and then I had to chase my rivals. My car is a bit damaged after all those contacts, but points are more important.

Ales Jirasek, 9th in qualifying, 9th in race:

- This round was much better for me than the previous ones. I feel that I made a big step forward. We focused on my driving style and it brought better results. I still learn how to manage tyres and how to use Push – to – Pass system. The next round is on my home track. I know it well. If I want to be on the podium, there I have a greatest chance to do it.

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