

Poznań, 28th September 2014

The title goes to Lithuania – emotions until the very end – Volkswagen Castrol Cup 2014 final

The last round of the season did not disappoint the fans. At Poznan Circuit we had everything what we can expect - a fierce duels, beautiful emotions and a great show. The main actors of the show were not only the first three drivers - Robertas Kupcikas, Jeffrey Kruger and Jan Kisiel. The hero of the weekend was also Kuba Litwin, who won the first race, and took second position in race 2. This was a good result for Kuba at the end of the bitter season. In Poznan we could many great drivers competing as a guest, as well as a VIP driver - Olympic champion in speed skating - Zbigniew Brodka.

Qualifying session

Results of the last qualifying session of 2014 season clearly show that title race still go on. Jeffrey Kruger, second in current standings of the cup, won double pole position. Classification leader – Robertas Kupcikas will begin, both first and second race from position number 6.

Double pole position won by Kruger and slightly worse Kupcikas' performance gives driver from South Africa the chance to reduce gap between him and Kupcikas. Before two final races Kupcikas is 72 points ahead of Kruger. In this situation, even if Jeffrey wins, Kupcikas only needs to finish sixth in first race to seal the title. If Kruger gets maximum of 100 points for this round he will be the champion when Kupcikas won't get more than 27 points.

In the first race Kuba Litwin will be the second driver on the grid. Position number 3 and 4 belongs to Krystian Korzeniowski and Jonas Gelzinis respectively. Maciek Steinhof and Robertas Kupcikas will be 5th and 6th on the grid.

Among drivers who still can secure third podium spot better was Marcus Fluch, who will start from 7th position, while Janek Kisiel scored 11th result. 10th place went to Jordan Lee Pepper, and Karol Basz will begin from 14th grid. Gosia Rdest was 15th, while Jerzy Dudek – 18th. Best lap time won by Zbigniew Bródka gave him 25th position.

At the start of the second race top six places will be taken by the same pack of drivers as in the first race, but in a slightly different order. The first line again belongs to Kruger and Litwin, while Maciek Steinhof took third spot. Next to driver from Cracow there will be Krystian Korzeniowski, and Jonas Gelzinis, Robertas Kupcikas occupy further places respectively.

Scirocco R-Cup winner – Jordan Lee Pepper won the eighth starting position. Karol Basz reached 13th position. Meanwhile Gosia Rdest went fast enough to win 15th position. Jerzy Dudek will start again from the 18th grid. Among competitors who are currently closest to podium again Marcus Fluch (10th result) was faster than Kisiel (12th position). Still, there are of course other guys who want to join the battle for the podium spot.

Quotes after qualifying session before the 7th round of the Volkswagen Castrol Cup:

Krystian Korzeniowski (3rd on the grid in race 1, 4th on the grid in race 2):

- This is my fifth round in Poznan, so I already know the track very well, what certainly does matter. Today I just tried to do my job and it paid off, so I am happy with the result.

Karol Basz (14th on the grid in race 1, 13th on the grid in race 2):

- I have good feeling behind the wheel already. In qualifying I had a small problem with the gearbox, so the time could be a bit better. I hope that during the race everything will be fine and I will be able to concentrate on pushing for the higher positions. The car is very nice to drive.

Jeffrey Kruger (1st on the grid in race 1, 1st on the grid in race 2)

- Both of the races are going to be very interesting. The championship still is very far from me, but at least now we can put some mental pressure on Robertas. I'm gonna keep the pace tomorrow and hope for the good result at the end of the season. In the race I want to do exactly this what Robertas is doing whole year – to start and run away from the rest of the pack.

First race

Robertas Kupcikas finished the first race at Poznan Circuit in 4th place. Thanks to this result Lithuanian secured the win in the Volkswagen Castrol Cup 2014 and the Polish champion title. The second driver, who was very satisfied after the finish, is Kuba Litwin. The driver of the Golf number 21 took over the lead after Kruger's small mistake, and drove first until the finish.

The winner didn't have an easy task. It was raining during the night and the track still was a little bit damp in few places. Kuba's second place on the grid was on the wet side of the track. Despite this driver from Szczecin kept his head cool and made a very good start, so Kruger could not run away too far. On next laps Kuba kept Kruger's pace. This tactics paid off. Kruger made a small mistake and left the track for a while, which let Kuba to take the lead.

Meanwhile Robertas Kupcikas was in trouble on the first lap. For the leader of the Cup points were more important than victory in this race. Therefore, the Lithuanian driver started cautiously because he wanted to avoid collisions in the first corners. As a result, after second corner Kupcikas was already 9th. However, we didn't have to wait long for his counterattack. Kupcikas soon achieved great racing pace, approached his rivals and after a few overtaking maneuvers finished the race in fourth position. Meanwhile Jeffrey Kruger sealed second place in Volkswagen Castrol Cup 2014.

Krystian Korzeniowski was unlucky again. The driver of the Interia.pl-branded Golf made a great start and was close to third place after first corner. Unfortunately, after the second corner Krystian had a small collision with Maciek Steinhof. As a result of this incident, Krystian went off the track lost a lot of positions. A driver from Bielsko did not give up, he returned to fight and finally crossed the finish line in 15th position.

Jerzy Dudek and Gosia Rdest, as well as Adam Rzepecki were unlucky. These drivers didn't finish the race. Marc Coleselli was fastest among guest drivers, as he took 10th place. Meanwhile Karol Basz finished just behind Coleselli. Jordan Lee Pepper crossed the line in 13th place. Zbigniew Bródka finished the race without problems at the 22nd position.

In the final laps particularly interesting was the fight for the lowest step of the podium in the classification of the season. The better situation had Marcus Fluch, who drove in fifth place, while Janek Kisiel stuck in 8th place, just behind Michal Gadomski. Kisiel in many ways tried to overtake Gadomski. Finally, Kisiel managed to pass Gadomski literally a 100 metres before the finish line. Kisiel crossed the finish line just a few feet in front of Krężelok and Gadomski. This attack allowed Kisiel to level the points between him and Fluch. Both, Pole and Swede have 400 points, but this Fluch is currently on third place thanks to greater number of victories.

Quotes after Race 1 at Poznan Track:

Jakub Litwin (2nd in qualifying, 1st in race 1):

- This victory is very important to me, especially after so many problems, which I experienced this year. Winning at home track tastes great. I wanted to dedicate this victory to my parents and my girlfriend, because they were with me and supported me in all the difficult moments this season. I am glad that at the end of the season I was able to show my pace, especially when all the competitors got used to the car, and this track has no secrets to them.

Marcus Fluch (7th in qualifying, 5th in race 1):

- First race was pretty good. I had a good start and I managed to pass some guys in front of me. After first laps I was on 4th position. The feeling in the car was perfect, and the car itself was perfect too. Now I am ready for the good fight in the second race. I feel lot of emotions, as it more or less clear between me and Janek. First to finish grabs third podium spot. For sure it will be a tough race for both of us.

Janek Kisiel (11th in qualifying, 7th in race 1):

- Start was pretty good for me. On the next lap I tried to respect the tires, because I knew that at the end of the race it will be crucial. I was not wrong and risky attack on the last corner before the finish line failed. So do not let Marcus jump in scoring and I'm still in the game for third place.

Jeffrey Kruger (1st in qualifying, 2nd in race 1):

- On the third lap, in second corner there was some mud on the exit. I was going first so I couldn't see it. When I hit this mud I was immediately out of the track. Guys behind me could see this and slow down and avoid the trouble. Kuba was next to me, and mud was still on my tyres, so he got much more grip than me. I think Kuba deserved to win. His pace was really good – I couldn't catch him.

Second Race

Kisiel's two points

Janek Kisiel defeated Marcus Fluch by two points in the fight for the third podium spot of Volkswagen Castrol Cup 2014 season. Kisiel finished the last race of the season in 6th place, while Marcus Fluch finished in 10th position. Meanwhile Jeffrey Kruger won his second race of the season. Next to driver from South Africa on the podium were also Jakub Litwin and Maciek Steinhof.

Fluch or Kisiel - it was the most important question before the start of the 14th race of the season Volkswagen Castrol Cup 2014. Marcus and Janek were the only drivers who still could fight for third podium spot. Before the start Fluch was in slightly better situation thanks to better position on the grid (10th), while Janek Kisiel had to start 12th.

In the early laps Fluch was in front of Kisiel, but Janek didn't want to wait too long for the situation development. Kisiel soon passed Jonas Gelzinis and was just behind Fluch's car. For many laps Kisiel could not find a way to overtake Marcus. Eventually the patience paid off. Kisiel waited until Marcus was involved in duel with other driver and overtook both of them.

At the forefront of the situation did not change. Kruger and Litwin were on the lead with a pretty comfortable gap. Steinhof was third, followed by Kupcikas and Korzeniowski. The latter didn't have a successful weekend. Collision in the first race and the unfinished second race, it was not a good scenario for Krystian.

Guest drivers showed solid performance. Jordan Lee Pepper was seventh, Coleselli finished eight while Karol Basz finished ninth. Gosia Rdest took the 12th position, and Jerzy Dudek passed the finish line 18th. Zbigniew Bródka was 23th this time.

Robertas Kupcikas, who win Volkswagen Castrol Cup 2014 received great and valuable prizes. Volkswagen Golf – the Car of the Year 2013 – and 30 000 euro were the main prizes for a winner of Volkswagen Castrol Cup. A runner-up of the series – Jeffrey Kruger was be awarded with 20 000 euro and a third overall driver – Janek Kisiel collected 10 000 euro. The money are devoted to driver's career development.

Quotes after Race 2 at Poznan Track:

Maciek Steinhof (3rd on the grid, 3rd in race 2):

It's nice to finish season with the podium in last race. The final race was really clean and pleasant. Frankly I'd rather be higher in the standings of the season. Still it is enjoyable to finish the season with champagne on the podium, especially in Poznan.

Robertas Kupcikas (6th on the grid, 4th in race 2):

There was a lot of fight in the second race, so the driver in the lead could run away from us. My qualifying was not the best one, and as we know this season it is particularly important. It is difficult to think of a podium if you begin sixth.

Marcus Fluch (10th on the grid, 10th in race 2):

To be honest I'm very disappointed. I really wanted to win third place at the end of the season and it seems that just I wanted too much. I struggled in this race to keep Janek behind, which meant that it was incredibly difficult race for me.

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