

Formula BMW Americas



Qualifying – Rounds 3 & 4, Circuit Gilles Villeneuve, June 7-8

Date June 6, 2008

Today's single qualifying session for Rounds 3 and 4 of the Formula BMW Americas Championship was held under clearing skies. The drying track put a premium on the ability of the 16 young drivers to put together not one, but two fast laps, to qualify for both races.

BMW Junior Ricardo Favoretto (Eurointernational), of Sao Paulo, Brazil, set the fastest lap of the session to score the Round 3 pole, the second of his career. His lap of 1:46.284 minutes around the 2.71-mile, 13-turn Circuit Gilles Villeneuve was just .261 seconds ahead of Daniel Juncadella (Euro Junior Team). Juncadella, of Barcelona, Spain, stands third in the Formula BMW Europe series and is one of six drivers from that series to make the trip to Montreal this weekend. Alexander Rossi (Eurointernational) was third, only .018 seconds behind Juncadella.

Overall and Rookie points leader Gianmarco Raimondo (Autotecnica) set the fourth fastest time in the session, a 1:46.571 minute lap, and backed it up with a lap only .016 seconds slower to score the Round 4 pole. Rossi, with a second lap of 1:46.651 minutes, will start on the outside of the front row in Round 4 and Favoretto will start third.

The top-five qualifying Rookies in Round 3 were Raimondo (P4), Grenier (P5), Millroy (P9), Vilarinho (P10) and Ruiz (P11). In Round 4, again it was Raimondo (P1), Grenier (P5), Millroy (P9), Vilarinho (P10) and Ruiz (P11).

Favoretto (1st, 3rd)

"The track was very slippery in the beginning of the session. In the last five minutes, I tried as hard as I could. I made a mistake on my very last lap so I could not hold the pole for Round 4. I will need to have two different race strategies. For tomorrow I need to get a good start and get a gap so not allow my competitors to draft me. On Sunday, it will be me trying to draft to the front."

Raimondo (4th, 1st)

"The track was more forgiving from this morning's practice session and there was more grip on the curbing so you could use them quite a bit. I was surprised to get the pole for Round 4 after setting only the fourth fastest time in the session, but that shows you what consistency will do for you."

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Rapid
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Titel
Date June 6, 2008
Page 2

Juncadella (2nd, 4th)

Note: Juncadella's car, a brand new chassis, was imported for this race last Friday. It was built, painted and on the truck to Montreal this Monday – completed by the Euro Junior Team in only 62 hours. “We have had many technical problems today. The gear shift cable broke in practice so I was only able to complete two laps. In qualifying, a tire valve stem broke. I had to come in to change the tires and did not get as many laps as I could have. Second and fourth are good results, but I know we will do better in the races.”

Rossi (3rd, 2nd)

“My car developed a vibration under braking that got worse as the session went on. A track like this puts a premium on braking so I had to give up quite a bit of time. Still, third and second are good starting positions. Most importantly now, I have to sit down with my engineers, find the brake problem, and fix it.”

The Round 3 race is scheduled to begin at 2:45 p.m. Saturday and Round 4 is scheduled for a 9:30 a.m. start on Sunday.

Overall points standings: Raimondo (40), Pelletier (22), Ruiz (18) Rossi (17), Favoretto (16), Grenier (15) Goncalvez (12) Vilarinho (11), Ostella (6) Jovanovic (6). Rookie points: Raimondo (40), Ruiz (18), Grenier (15), Vilarinho (11), Ostella (6), Jovanovic (6)

Licensing courses for the 2009 season are scheduled for July 28-29 and August 4-5. They will be held at the Formula BMW Racing Center at the Circuit de la Comunitat Valenciana Ricardo Tormo, in Valencia, Spain. Applications are now available at www.formulabmwamericas.com.

Round 3 starting grid

1	Ricardo Favoretto (J)	Eurointernational	1:46.284
2	Daniel Juncadella	Euro Junior Team	1:46.545
3	Alexander Rossi	Eurointernational	1:46.563
4	Gianmarco Raimondo (J, R)	Autotecnica	1:46.571
5	Mikael Grenier (J, R)	Apex-HBR Racing Team	1:46.820
6	Maxime Pelletier	Apex-HBR Racing Team	1:47.012
7	Mihai Marinescu	Integra Motorsports	1:47.065
8	William Buller	Autotecnica	1:47.136
9	Ollie Millroy (J, R)	Atlantic Racing Team	1:47.245
10	Giancarlo Vilarinho (R)	Eurointernational	1:47.409
11	Alexandre Ruiz (J, R)	Apex-HBR Racing Team	1:47.683

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RACING



Rapid
2-WAY

Formula BMW Americas



Titel
Date June 6, 2008
Page 3

12	Doru Sechelariu	Autotecnica	1:47.824
13	David Ostella (R)	Eurointernational	1:48.219
14	Jorge Goncalvez	Apex-HBR Racing Team	1:48.757
15	Veilbor Jovanovic (R)	Jensen Motorsport	1:50.820
16	Asad Rahman (R)	Atlantic Racing Team	1:53.552

Round 4 starting grid

1	Gianmarco Raimondo (J, R)	Autotecnica	1:46.587
2	Alexander Rossi	Eurointernational	1:46.651
3	Ricardo Favoretto (J)	Eurointernational	1:46.707
4	Daniel Juncadella	Euro Junior Team	1:46.770
5	Mikael Grenier (J, R)	Apex-HBR Racing Team	1:47.006
6	Mihai Marinescu	Integra Motorsports	1:47.071
7	Maxime Pelletier	Apex-HBR Racing Team	1:47.282
8	William Buller	Autotecnica	1:47.310
9	Ollie Millroy (J, R)	Atlantic Racing Team	1:47.335
10	Giancarlo Vilarinho (R)	Eurointernational	1:47.700
11	Alexandre Ruiz (J, R)	Apex-HBR Racing Team	1:47.752
12	Doru Sechelariu	Autotecnica	1:47.927
13	David Ostella (R)	Eurointernational	1:49.073
14	Jorge Goncalvez	Apex-HBR Racing Team	1:49.200
15	Veilbor Jovanovic (R)	Jensen Motorsport	1:50.974
16	Asad Rahman (R)	Atlantic Racing Team	1:53.591

Background:

Formula BMW is the world's leading entry-level series in formula racing. In 2008 the three Formula BMW series – Formula BMW Europe, Formula BMW Pacific and Formula BMW Americas – will be held in the key motor sport markets of Europe, pan-Asia and North and South America. The end of the year will see the Formula BMW World Final staged for the fourth time. The winner will be granted the opportunity of a test drive with the BMW Sauber F1 Team. Formula BMW will be held on the undercard of Formula One on 12 occasions. The series gives young racing talents the chance to enter professional motor sport in a safe racing car – the Formula BMW FB02.

The FB02 has been in use since season 2002. It is powered by a 140 hp BMW engine that takes it to a top speed of up to 230 km/h. It ranks among the safest vehicles in its category and exceeds the FIA safety regulations that govern this class of car. Innovations such as the FORS (Formula Rescue Seat) were developed by BMW Motorsport specifically for Formula BMW. Following Formula

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RACING



Rapid
2-WAY

Formula BMW Americas



Titel

Date June 6, 2008

Page 4

One, Formula BMW was the first single-seater series outside the US in which the HANS system was made mandatory.

Formula BMW drivers have the opportunity to take part in an Education and Coaching Programme that runs parallel with the racing season. The program includes driver coaching at the races by professional race drivers, attending a Formula One test, fitness courses, tuition in driving technique and strategy, as well as seminars on sponsoring and sport management.

Among the 20 team drivers in this season's Formula One, there are now four Formula BMW graduates: Nico Rosberg, Adrian Sutil, Sebastian Vettel and Timo Glock. The test and reserve drivers add three more to the tally, namely Christian Klien, Sebastien Buemi and Nicolas Hülkenberg.

In the words of BMW Motorsport Director Mario Theissen: "With our worldwide Formula BMW concept, we offer drivers and teams a platform which, in this format, is unprecedented in a junior series and which allows them to benefit from our Formula One involvement. Through Formula BMW the drivers are equipped with the tools they need to assert themselves successfully in the world of professional motor racing."

Note to editors:

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