



Qualifying – Rounds 10 & 12, Road America, August 8

Date August 8, 2008

Overall points leader Alexander Rossi (Eurointernational) was the fastest driver in both qualifying sessions for the first and third of this weekend's three Formula BMW Americas races at Road America. Rossi, however, will only sit on the Round 10 pole. Formula BMW Junior and Rookie Mikael Grenier (Apex-HBR Racing Team) was awarded the Round 12 pole and a new qualifying record after IMSA officials determined that Rossi, Adrien Tambay and Giancarlo Vilarinho violated rule 5.7 (Unjustifiable Risk) and had their fastest laps in today's session disallowed. The grid for Round 11 will be set by a driver's finishing position in tomorrow's Round 10 race.

Round 10:

Alexander Rossi (Eurointernational) scored his fifth pole of the season in Thursday's red flag-shortened qualifying session for Round 10 of the 2008 Formula BMW Americas Championship. Rossi, who won a race here last season, took the pole with a lap of 2:17.806 minutes around the 4.048-mile, 14-turn Road America circuit on the checkered flag lap. A shunt by teammate David Ostella brought out a 10-minute stoppage in the middle of the session. Formula BMW Junior Alexandre Ruiz (Apex-HBR Racing Team) qualified second for the 16-year old Brazilian's best qualifying effort of the year. Ruiz was the top-qualifying Rookie driver in the field. Finishing on the podium twice in 2007 as a guest driver, Adrien Tambay (Eurointernational) returned as a guest from Formula BMW Europe, qualified third.

Rookie Giancarlo Vilarinho (Eurointernational) completes the second row qualifying fourth and Maxime Pelletier (Apex-HBR Racing Team) rounds out the top five.

Rossi said, "We led both practice sessions so I began the session with confidence. I wasn't expecting the grip to drop off the way it did. I think all the different rubber compounds from the other classes affected our tires. The red flag did not make it any easier."

Ruiz said, "The team did nice work getting my car ready for qualifying. I love this track. It is so fast, so awesome. I am very happy to begin tomorrow on the front row."

Tambay said, "I like this circuit. It is long and fast. The red flag affected my session, because after we restarted there was concentrated traffic. I only had one clear lap."

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Round 12:

In a repeat of yesterday's qualifying session Alexander Rossi (Eurointernational) was the fastest, but IMSA officials penalized Rossi and two other drivers for Unjustifiable Risk (IMSA rule 5.7) and disallowed each of the drivers their fastest lap. Formula BMW Junior and Rookie Mikael Grenier (Apex-HBR Racing Team) was awarded his first career pole after an excellent effort. Rossi's second fastest lap of the session was good enough to leave him on the front row in second. Ricardo Favoretto (Autotecnica), who had struggled in earlier sessions to find his usual speed, began to settle in to his new team and qualified third.

Alexandre Ruiz (Apex-HBR Racing Team) continued with the success from yesterday qualifying fourth and Adrien Tambay (Eurointernational) qualified fifth.

Round 10 is scheduled to start at 10:00 a.m. tomorrow. On Sunday, Rounds 11 and 12 are scheduled to start at 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. respectively.

Qualifying – Round 10

1	Alexander Rossi	Eurointernational	2:17.806
2	Alexandre Ruiz (J, R)	Apex-HBR Racing Team	2:18.337
3	Adrien Tambay (J)	Eurointernational	2:18.626
4	Giancarlo Vilarinho (R)	Eurointernational	2:18.629
5	Maxime Pelletier	Apex-HBR Racing Team	2:189.051
6	Jorge Goncalvez	Apex-HBR Racing Team	2:19.118
7	Mikael Grenier (J, R)	Apex-HBR Racing Team	2:19.180
8	Ricardo Favoretto	Autotecnica	2:19.277
9	Gabby Chaves	Autotecnica	2:19.391
10	David Ostella (R)	Eurointernational	2:19.531
11	Gianmarco Raimondo (J, R)	Autotecnica	2:19.574
12	Corey Dalenberg	Jensen Motorsport	2:21.024

Qualifying – Round 12

1	Mikael Grenier (J, R)	Apex-HBR Racing Team	2:16.676
2	Alexander Rossi*	Eurointernational	2:16.737
3	Ricardo Favoretto	Autotecnica	2:16.936
4	Alexandre Ruiz (J, R)	Apex-HBR Racing Team	2:16.938
5	Adrien Tambay (J)*	Eurointernational	2:16.995
6	Giancarlo Vilarinho (R)*	Eurointernational	2:17.518
7	Gianmarco Raimondo (J, R)	Autotecnica	2:17.605

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8	Gabby Chaves	Autotecnica	2:17.808
9	Jorge Goncalvez	Apex-HBR Racing Team	2:17.820
10	Maxime Pelletier	Apex-HBR Racing Team	2:17.891
11	David Ostella (R)	Eurointernational	2:18.249
12	Corey Dalenberg	Jensen Motorsport	2:19.916

* fastest lap disallowed as per IMSA rule 5.7

J = Formula BMW Junior
R = Rookie

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 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 Program 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.

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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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