



Race – Round 17, Interlagos

Date November 2, 2008

2008 Formula BMW Americas champion Alexander Rossi (Eurointernational) took his second win of the weekend, and a record tenth victory of the season, this morning in Round 17. Starting from his tenth pole position of the season, Rossi, of Nevada City, Calif., led all 14 laps around the 2.677-mile Interlagos circuit, to finish .889 seconds ahead of Formula BMW Europe driver Daniel Juncadella (Eurointernational), of Barcelona, Spain. Joining them on the podium was Rookie Luiz Felipe Nasr (Amir Nasr Racing) to cap an excellent first Formula BMW weekend for the 16-year old Brazilian.

Ricardo Favoretto (Autotecnica), after experiencing problems in qualifying that caused the 19-year old Brazilian to start last, kept his home town fans cheering by coming through the field to finish fourth.

Rookie and Formula BMW Junior Gianmarco Raimondo (Autotecnica), of St. Catharines, Ontario, finished fifth to capture the 2008 Rookie Championship. Raimondo's title is the second consecutive for Autotecnica after running Esteban Gutierrez to the Rookie championship last season. This is the third time a Canadian has won the Rookie title. In 2004, James Hinchcliffe won the inaugural Rookie championship. In 2006, Daniel Morad won, taking the overall championship the next season.

The three other contenders in the Rookie battle experienced problems today. Alexandre Ruiz (Apex-HBR Racing Team) finished ninth. Both Giancarlo Vilarinho (Eurointernational) and Mikael Grenier (Apex-HBR Racing Team) were not running at the end of the race. Contact with Raimondo on lap three had Grenier spinning off and a flat tire on lap eight ended Vilarinho's day.

Rookie Champion Raimondo said, "It was a really tight battle coming down to the final race of the 2008 Formula BMW Americas Championship. It was really tight race with Mikael. He pulled ahead on Saturday and I just focused on coming back. We got too close in corner eight and unfortunately he got the worse of it and I continued on with some damage, but drivable none the less. I am leaving now having done what I came to do. Being Rookie Champion is great and we are looking at options for next year maybe Formula BMW Europe or return here for the championship."

Rossi said, "Fantastic! No better way to finish the season than with a 1-2 sweep for EuroInternational. I have to thank the team. I had the perfect car all weekend. The race was a lot tougher than yesterday. I didn't get the start I was hoping for, but I was able to get the lead by turn four. I was able to maintain it from there. It

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was a fantastic race and I am just very happy“.

Juncadella said, “It was a better race than yesterday. I had a good start and was able to pass Rossi, but then he got by. I tried pushing harder and harder so that I could get him again. I did a mistake and he pulled away, but I got back close. I am happy for the team for two seconds and it was great training for the World Final because I was getting faster against Alexander so we look forward to that.”

Nasr said, “I did a better start and the car was even better than yesterday. It was a great to be on the podium for the first time in front of the Brazilian fans. The team made a good job. The car was good. I made some mistakes, but it was ok. It is great to get some experience in the cars and maybe I will race in Formula BMW next year.”

Race – Round 17 – 14 laps

1	Alexander Rossi	Eurointernational	23:44.708
2	Daniel Juncadella	Eurointernational	23:45.597
3	Luis Felipe Nasr (R)	Amir Nasr Racing	23:58.243
4	Ricardo Favoretto (J)	Autotecnica	24:02.059
5	Gianmarco Raimondo (J, R)	Autotecnica	24:02.493
6	Ollie Millroy (J)	Atlantic Racing Team	24:02.765
7	Alfonso Toledano	Euro Junior Team	24:04.653
8	David Ostella (R)	Eurointernational	24:09.164
9	Alexandre Ruiz (J, R)	Apex-HBR Racing Team	24:10.747
10	Lucas Foresti (R)	Amir Nasr Racing	24:17.221
11	Jorge Goncalvez	Apex-HBR Racing Team	24:17.397
12	Giancarlo Vilarinho (R)	Eurointernational	13:42.295 (-6L)
13	Mikael Grenier (J, R)	Apex-HBR Racing Team	3:32.674 (-12L)

J = Formula BMW Junior
R = Rookie

Overall points standings following 17 of 17 Rounds:

1.	Rossi	249
2.	Favoretto	153
3.	Raimondo	134
4.	Grenier	126
5.	Ruiz	118
6.	Vilarinho	116
7.	Goncalvez	90
8.	Pelletier	77
9.	Ostella	64

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10. Nasr	25
11. Jovanovic	20
12. Toledano	19
11. Foresti	6
12. Dalenberg	4

Rookie points:

1. Raimondo	134
2. Grenier	126
3. Ruiz	118
4. Vilarinho	116
5. Ostella	64
6. Nasr	25
7. Jovanovic	20
8. Foresti	6

Team Points:

1. Eurointernational	441
2. Apex-HBR Racing Team	304
3. Autotecnica	183
4. Amir Nasr Racing	31
5. Jensen	24
6. Euro Junior Team	14

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, this time at Mexico City's "Autódromo Hermanos Rodríguez" from the 5th to the 7th December. 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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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.

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."

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