



## Race – Round 16, Interlagos

Date November 1, 2008

Unchallenged in practice, qualifying or today, 2008 Formula BMW Americas champion Alexander Rossi (Eurointernational) took the Round 16 victory in front of the Brazilian Grand Prix crowd. Starting from pole, Rossi led all 14 laps around the 2.677-mile Interlagos circuit, setting a race record on lap 12 (1:40.842 minutes), to hold off Formula BMW Europe driver Daniel Juncadella (Eurointernational) by 2.078 seconds at the checkered flag. Rookie and Formula BMW Junior Mikael Grenier (Apex-HBR Racing Team) finished third to take over the lead in Rookie points for the first time this season.

Grenier now leads fellow Formula BMW Junior Gianmarco Raimondo (Autotecnica), who finished sixth, by two points. Brazilian Giancarlo Vilarinho (Eurointernational) finished fourth to move to third in Rookie points. Formula BMW Junior Alexandre Ruiz (Apex-HBR Racing Team), also from Brazil, finished ninth, falling to fourth in the standings. With only 12 points between them, these four young men will decide the 2008 Rookie Championship in tomorrow's final race of the season.

Another notable Rookie performance was put in by Luis Felipe Nasr (Amir Nasr Racing). Starting third, the young Brazilian finished fifth in his very first Formula BMW start.

The race began after a slight delay for track repairs. Under threatening late afternoon skies all 13 cars got off to a clean start with Juncadella taking the fight to Rossi in the early laps. The Spaniard dropped a wheel, fell back and consolidated his hold on second place. Grenier, charging from the seventh starting spot, reached third by the third lap. Behind them it remained Vilarinho, Nasr, Raimondo and Toledano. Ollie Millroy went off in the late stages of the race, but was able to hold on to eighth. Ruiz, after a fine battle with Ostella, finished ninth after Ostella fell out with mechanical problems. Favoretto, coming from the rear of the field had contact with Foresti. Foresti, in his first Formula BMW start, finished tenth. Favoretto, who realized a 30 second penalty for the contact with Foresti, finished eleventh.

Rossi said, "It was a fantastic win! My main goal was to go out there and maintain the lead over Daniel. Midway in the race the pressure was there from him and I knew I had a little more in the car. I was timid in the first few laps with the cooler temperatures, and fortunately the mistakes I made were not big enough for him to capitalize. When I saw he was closing again, I pushed forward and never looked back. It is a great way to start the weekend."

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Juncadella said, "It was a nice race, a normal start, but it was slippery on the inside. I tried to push as hard as possible to close the gap with Alexander. I did a mistake and lost one-half second and he had a nice gap and I couldn't close it to the end. Tomorrow I hope for a better start and pass him then, if not I will put a lot of pressure and I can win."

Grenier said, "It was a hard race because I was starting seventh. I had two really good laps at the beginning and I took third place and I stayed on track to keep my place. Now that I am leading the Rookie Points, I don't expect to podium, but just to finish in front of Gianmarco to win the Rookie championship and come back next year."

The 2008 Formula BMW Americas Championship will conclude with Round 17 tomorrow at 10:00 a.m.

## Race – Round 16 – 14 laps

1	Alexander Rossi	Eurointernational	23:43.448
2	Daniel Juncadella	Eurointernational	23:45.526
3	Mikael Grenier (J, R)	Apex-HBR Racing Team	23:55.066
4	Giancarlo Vilarinho (R)	Eurointernational	23:56.087
5	Luis Felipe Nasr (R)	Amir Nasr Racing	23:57.261
6	Gianmarco Raimondo (J, R)	Autotecnica	24:02.683
7	Alfonso Toledano	Euro Junior Team	24:09.799
8	Ollie Millroy (J)	Atlantic Racing Team	24:14.559
9	Alexandre Ruiz (J, R)	Apex-HBR Racing Team	24:22.235
10	Lucas Foresti (R)	Amir Nasr Racing	24:22.845
11	Ricardo Favoretto (J)	Autotecnica	24:31.872
12	David Ostella (R)	Eurointernational	21:11.439 (-2L)
	Jorge Goncalvez	Apex-HBR Racing Team	not running

J = Formula BMW Junior  
R = Rookie

## Overall points standings following 16 of 17 Rounds:

1.	Rossi	228
2.	Favoretto	141
3.	Grenier	126
4.	Raimondo	124
5.	Vilarinho	116
6.	Ruiz	114
7.	Goncalvez	88

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8. Pelletier	77
9. Ostella	58
10. Jovanovic	20
11. Toledano	11
12. Nasr	10
11. Dalenberg	4
12. Foresti	3

## Rookie points:

1. Grenier	126
2. Raimondo	124
3. Vilarinho	116
4. Ruiz	114
5. Ostella	58
6. Jovanovic	20

## Team Points:

1. Eurointernational	415
2. Apex-HBR Racing Team	298
3. Autotecnica	161
4. Jensen Motorsport	24
5. Amir Nasr Racing	13

## 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 5<sup>th</sup> to the 7<sup>th</sup> 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 One, Formula BMW was the first single-seater series outside the US in which the HANS system was made mandatory.

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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."

Note to editors:

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