

# Formula BMW Americas



## Qualifying – Rounds 16 & 17, Interlagos, October 31

Date October 31, 2008

2008 Formula BMW Americas Overall Champion Alexander Rossi (Eurointernational), of Nevada City, Calif., recorded his fourth double-pole weekend of the season in today's Round 16 and 17 qualifying session. Leading the 13-car field in this morning's practice, the 17-year old dominated the late-day single qualifying session in front of the Friday Brazilian Grand Prix crowd for his ninth and tenth pole position of the season. His two fastest laps around the 2.677 Interlagos circuit were 1:40.093 (establishing a new Formula BMW qualifying record) and 1:40.095 minutes.

Qualifying on the outside of the front row for both Rounds was Daniel Juncadella (Eurointernational) with quick laps of 1:40.459 and 1:40.698 minutes. Juncadella, from Barcelona, Spain and a competitor in the Formula BMW Europe series has raced with Formula BMW Americas twice previously. His best finish was a win in Round 9 at Lime Rock Park.

The surprise of the day was Rookie Luiz Felipe Nasr (Amir Nasr Racing) who qualified third for both Rounds with laps of 1:40.653 and 1:40.725 minutes. Nasr, of Brasilia, Brazil, is making his very first Formula BMW start.

In the tight battle for the 2008 Formula BMW Americas Rookie title it was Giancarlo Vilarinho (Eurointernational) making the most of his home race to qualify fourth for both Rounds. Vilarinho stands fourth in the points, only 12 points behind leader Gianmarco Raimondo (Autotecnica). Raimondo, Mikael Grenier (Apex-HBR Racing Team), in second, and Alexander Ruiz (Apex-HBR Racing Team), in third, qualified sixth, seventh and tenth respectively for Round 16.

Rossi said, "It is fantastic to be in Brazil with Formula One. Starting on pole for both races is the icing on the cake. Hopefully we can convert it into two victories. I will focus on the launch and have the best races I can. This is by far the best track I have ever driven, it is great."

Juncadella said, "Qualifying was pretty good after a bad free practice. I wasn't sure if it was the tires, but my engineer said it was. I saw that was true because the car was a lot different in the first laps of qualifying. Maybe I needed to change something in the setup because I had some understeer in some of the corners. That is where I lost my time. Starting second for both races is good and I hope to be on the podium."

Nasr said, "It was very good for my first time in Formula BMW. The team worked hard and we got a great result for someone that has never driven the Formula

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BMW at a track like this. I think it will be very good. Because this is my first race in Formula BMW, I am a beginner, so I will do what I know and the best I can and we have a great car for tomorrow and we can have a great result.“

The Round 16 race is scheduled to start at 4:40 p.m. tomorrow. On Sunday, Round 17 is scheduled to start at 10:00 a.m.

## Qualifying – Round 16

1	Alexander Rossi	Eurointernational	1:40.093
2	Daniel Juncadella	Euro Junior Team	1:40.459
3	Luiz Felipe Nasr (R)	Amir Nasr Racing	1:40.653
4	Giancarlo Vilarinho (R)	Eurointernational	1:40.919
5	Alfonso Toledano	Eurointernational	1:41.122
6	Gianmarco Raimondo (J, R)	Autotecnica	1:41.152
7	Mikael Grenier (J, R)	Apex-HBR Racing Team	1:41.360
8	Ollie Millroy(J)	Atlantic Racing Team	1:41.385
9	Lucas Foresti (R)	Amir Nasr Racing	1:41.549
10	Alexandre Ruiz (J, R)	Apex-HBR Racing Team	1:41.602
11	David Ostella (R)	Eurointernational	1:41.729
12	Jorge Goncalvez	Apex-HBR Racing Team	1:41.732
13	Ricardo Favoretto(J)	Autotecnica	1:42.104

## Qualifying – Round 17

1	Alexander Rossi	Eurointernational	1:40.095
2	Daniel Juncadella	Euro Junior Team	1:40.698
3	Luiz Felipe Nasr (R)	Amir Nasr Racing	1:40.725
4	Giancarlo Vilarinho (R)	Eurointernational	1:40.925
5	Gianmarco Raimondo (J, R)	Autotecnica	1:41.232
6	Ollie Millroy (J)	Atlantic Racing Team	1:41.394
7	Mikael Grenier (J, R)	Apex-HBR Racing Team	1:41.408
8	Alfonso Toledano	Eurointernational	1:41.468
9	Alexandre Ruiz (J, R)	Apex-HBR Racing Team	1:41.662
10	Jorge Goncalvez	Apex-HBR Racing Team	1:41.824
11	David Ostella (R)	Eurointernational	1:41.838
12	Lucas Foresti (R)	Amir Nasr Racing	1:42.044
13	Ricardo Favoretto (J)	Autotecnica	1:42.282

J = Formula BMW Junior  
R = Rookie

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## 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.

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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