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SUPPLEMENT

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**Félix da Costa wins
Macau for 2nd time**

GRAND
PRIX
MACAU

ANTÓNIO Félix da Costa produced a brilliant performance to take his second victory in the Formula 3 Macau Grand Prix yesterday.

The Carlin driver initially lost the lead from pole position to teammate Sérgio Sette Câmara, but capitalized at a Safety Car restart on lap seven to retake the top spot and then hold on for victory.

Câmara had had a storming first lap – picking up a good slipstream to slingshot past Callum Ilott and da Costa on the run through Mandarin and then opening up a 1.2 sec-

ond advantage.

But his lead was reduced to nothing when a Safety Car was called out on lap five to recover Nikita Mazepin's crashed car at Faraway. At the restart on lap seven, da Costa managed to get past and then set about pulling clear over the next few laps before a second Safety Car on lap 10 to retrieve Nick Cassidy's crashed car.

The race restarted on lap 13 and da Costa managed to build up enough of a gap to Câmara to just escape a challenge on the run down to Lisboa. He was 1.1 seconds clear at

OVERTAKE SEALED SATURDAY QUALIFICATION VICTORY

ANTÓNIO FÉLIX da Costa pulled off a brilliant overtaking move on Callum Ilott on lap five of the delayed Suncity Group Formula 3 Macau Grand Prix Qualification Race to seal victory on Saturday. After a delayed start to remove water that had blown on to the track, it was front row starter Ilott who had jumped to the head of the field after getting a good slipstream down to Lisboa.

and leading the field through the first corner. However, the Safety Car was called out immediately after a spectacular incident involving Daiki Sasaki and his B-Max Racing teammate Ye Hong Li. At the restart on lap five, da Costa tucked right in to Ilott's slipstream and managed to slingshot around the outside of the van Amersfoort driver on the run to Lisboa.

F3

Félix da Costa wins for the



Q&A ANTÓNIO FÉLIX DA COSTA

F3 winner says victory to close year is 'amazing'

PAULO BARBOSA



ANTÓNIO Félix da Costa was “a happy boy” after he won the Macau Grand Prix for the second time. The Portuguese driver burst into tears at the podium, when he was being cheered by Portuguese fans. He admitted that yesterday’s victory closes his participation in the F3 race, although he hopes to return to Macau “many times.”

- How does it feel to win your second GP?

António Félix da Costa (AFC) - I think it feels better [than the first]. I’m not meant to be here, I’m not meant to race an F3 car [...] none of this really makes sense. It was a super late call. I only did two days of testing and we came here with a car without a single sponsor. I was called up to come here and [the team owners] said they would try to find a sponsor and I said: ‘It doesn’t matter. I love this race and I love

this car and this track. Forget it; I’ll come and do it.’ I was pretty [relaxed] this whole weekend, until today, when I thought, ‘Okay, I need to do it.’ [...] I’ve been through a rough season, attracting bad things all year. [...] So to win here and close the year is amazing.

What about becoming the second Portuguese winner of the day after Tiago Monteiro?

AFC - This was the only time of the month when I put pressure on myself to do it. I woke up with a different feeling [than the other days] and Tiago made my life super hard because he won. My [father] called me last night and said: ‘If the two of you win, it would be an historical [victory].’ [Da Costa gestures to represent the pressure that put on him to win.] I’ve said all week that if I come away in the top five it would be amazing – and it would be! But today I knew that I had to do it.

How did the Safety Car help cement your win?

AFC - I was super impressed with Sérgio [Sette Câmara]. When I saw him in front of me, I thought: ‘No way. He will be hard to catch.’ During the first two laps he just [shot] away. [...] Then I settled into a nice rhythm and closed the gap, and just when I got into that range to overtake [him], the Safety Car came out. [...]

It was a bit strange because I think that the Safety Car was a bit out of [synchronization] with the Race Control, because [the car] switched the lights off very late and that probably didn’t give Sérgio enough room to make the perfect restart and I was close enough to make the pass.



Vanhoor hit the barrier, which dramatically launched his Audi into the air

GT CUP

Vanhoor triumphs

BELGIAN Laurens Vanhoor emerged victorious after a dramatic and shortened SJM Macau GT Cup – FIA World Cup yesterday on Macao’s 6.2km Guia street circuit, claiming the FIA Manufacturer title for Audi. Second behind the Audi Sport Team WRT was Kévin Estre in the Manthey Racing Porsche 911 GT3R (991), with defending champion Maro Engel taking the final podium spot for Mercedes-AMG Driving Academy.

Winner of the non-manufacturer entries was Bentley Team Absolute driver Adderly Fong, with Rowe Racing’s Nicky Catsburg second in the BMW F13 M6 GT3, and Fabian Plenz in an Audi R8 LMS third.

Vanhoor led the field away from pole at the rolling start, with the Manthey Racing Porsche duo of Bamber and Estre in hot pursuit, the former making contact with Engel in the melee. Bamber was handed a five second penalty for the incident, which eventually cost him a podium finish.

The action had just got underway when

the Safety Car was involved. Ricky Capo crashed into the barrier, launching him into the air and crashing into the back of the Safety Car.

At the restart, Estre and Bamber charged into the lead. Behind them, Vanhoor followed, clipped the barrier, and was launched into the air, landing down the straight unscathed, and driving the upside down car to the pit lane.

I made a mistake and I'm sorry. That's what racing is all about.

the second time



the end of the lap, as Câmara then lost a place to Felix Rosenqvist who had got a slipstream and dived past into Lisboa.

Rosenqvist tried to close down the gap to da Costa but there were not enough laps left for him to mount a proper challenge and he came home 1.603 seconds adrift.

Câmara came home in third place, ahead of Kenta Yamashita, Ilott and Jake Hughes. Lando Norris charged from 26th on the grid to finish 11th.

Macau's Chang Wing Chung finished a creditable 12th, an encouraging performance given a limited racing season due to his studies. The 20-year-old, who was making his third appearance on the Guia Circuit, increased his pace throughout the Grand Prix week.



as called out on Lap 2 after

ashed at Fishermen's. After
nd the Safety Car for two
ace was suspended.

Bamber got past Vanthoor
to the lead. However, as
ed him through Mandarin,
pex curve and hit the bar-
matically launched the car
ding on its roof and skid-
straight. Vanthoor emerged
was able to climb out of
n Audi without assistance.
uspended and not restarted,

with the results declared after four laps.
Having won the race despite the crash,
Vanthoor was asked yesterday how he felt
about his victory. "I've officially won it but
the way it happened was very strange,"
said the driver. "I made a mistake and I'm
a winner. That's very awkward."

Said podium finisher Engel: "I'm really,
really proud of my team and how they foug-
ht hard this week. It was very difficult for
us as everyone could see the big gap in top
speed to the cars ahead of us, but we tried
our very best and I believe did our very
best."

For Fong, the win in the non-manufac-
turer class was the ideal ending to what has
been a successful season for the talented
Hong Kong driver: "Yesterday was all the
hard work and I just tried to keep it out
of the walls this year. Last year I pushed
a bit too hard and destroyed the car. The
car was quick, Bentley Team Absolute did
a great job as usual, and we were fighting
with the guys in front."

a mistake
a winner.
very awkward.

LAURENS VANTHOOR



Peter Hickman



MOTORCYCLE GRAND PRIX

Hickman doubles up in thriller race

FANS and spectators looked to Macau on Saturday in the hope of seeing a special race to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Macau Motorcycle Grand Prix and what they got was a classic confrontation from the greatest road racers in the world, with Britain's Peter Hickman (Bathams/SMT BMW) snatching a last-gasp win in a race packed with last-gasp moments.

Pole man Martin Jessopp (Riders Motorcycles BMW) didn't get the start he needed to secure his first victory on the Guia Circuit, and Michael Rutter (Bathams/SMT BMW) seized the moment, streaking off the line in pursuit of win number nine, with newcomer Glenn Irwin (Be Wiser Ducati) also getting away well and Hickman making a great start from the next row.

But Jessopp wasn't done and soon became the focal point of a battle which raged throughout the opening laps, four riders in a two-second spread; Rutter, Irwin and

Jessopp swapping places in the slipstream and under brakes in all the classic overtaking spots, with Hickman right behind.

A box-full of neutrals braking into Lisboa sent Jessopp back to fourth and lucky to be upright, but he was soon back on the pace and back up to battle Hickman for second-place honours. This nose-to-tail battle looked like going all the way to the end when fuel problems sent Irwin into the pits to retire.

With a couple of laps to go Hickman swept past Rutter on Dunlop tyres that were in better condition than his rival's Metzlers, and after that he was never challenged for the win, although Rutter was hounded all the way to the flag by a determined Martin Jessopp. But Rutter never wavered, and as the crowd rose to its feet the trio crossed the line with less than a second separating them, Hickman the winner by half a second, Rutter a mere tenth ahead of Jessopp.

Commenting on the race result Jessopp said "one issue cost me the win but fairplay to Pete [Hickman] and Michael [Rutter]. The pace was insane for a road race!"

After the race, Hickman acknowledged that he had just won his most difficult race ever and thanked the all team for their role.

"What a hard race that was. I knew I would be strong at the end. I got away fast and was hoping they'd start to [fall behind] about halfway through the race. They didn't and I really had to dig in," said Hickman.

Slightly behind the front trio was Conor Cummins (Honda) in the fastest of the non-BMW's followed by Horst Saiger, the Lichtenstein rider who has progressively improved each year racing in Macau. In this year's 50th edition, Saiger put on a great performance not even dented by a crash at Lisboa during the second qualifying session, which fortunately resulted in nothing more than a few bruises. RM

GUIA RACE | TCR

Monteiro takes maiden Macau victory



TIAGO Monteiro took victory in the Suncity Group Macau Guia Race yesterday – delivering his first ever win around the challenging Guia street circuit. The Portuguese driver had started the main event from third on the grid, but made a brilliant getaway to surge into the lead past front row starters Stefano Comini and Jean Karl Vernay.

He was able to build up enough of a gap to hold on to his advan-

tage through Lisboa, and seemed to be in full control until a red flag was brought out on lap three after Sunny Wong had crashed at Poliça and his car blocked the track.

After a lengthy delay to clear the track, the race was eventually restarted behind a safety car for what would be a two-lap shoot-out. Monteiro got away cleanly again though, and instead the man coming under the most pressure was second placed Comini. Co-

mini's Leopard Racing teammate Vernay had got a good slipstream away from the line and was able to drag past the Swiss driver on the run down to Lisboa.

Vernay pushed on hard to try to close down to Monteiro but ran out of time to try to challenge him, with the pair separated by 0.926 seconds at the chequered flag.

Monteiro – who had never won before at Macau in either the F3 or Guia races – was delighted with his success. "It is fantastic, really fantastic," said the West-

Coast Racing driver. "I have been here many times in F3 and WTCC – and I was close to winning a few times. Two years ago there were just three corners missing and my power steering broke. I lost everything then – so I needed revenge here in Macau. I knew we could do it and when this opportunity came up I accepted it right away."

Behind Vernay, Comini conceded another position to Pepe Oriola on the last lap and came home in fourth place. That was enough for him to clinch his second TCR Series title.

DRIVERS APOLOGIZE FOR POOR SHOW

NUMEROUS INCIDENTS during the two TCR races yesterday meant only four full laps of green flag took place in just over two-and-a-half hours on the track. Several drivers stepped up to apologize to spectators for the poor show. "I'm sorry for the fans," said Jean-Karl Vernay, as cited by Touring Car Times. "I really must apologize for the show today. We were not able to show what a TCR race was, we just had safety cars and red flags, and I'm sorry for that." Other drivers, including Spain's Pepe Oriola, echoed Vernay's sentiments.

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TOURING CAR CUP

Poon celebrates sixth win

Hong Kong driver Paul Poon Tak Chun celebrated a sixth victory in the long-running CTM Macau Touring Car Cup, winning the 2016 edition of the race in a Peugeot RCZ ahead of Macao driver Filipe C. De Souza in a Chevrolet Cruze and fellow Hong Kong driver Alexander Fung Kar Chue, also in a Peugeot RCZ. Poon, who started from pole, held the lead at the start of the 12-lap race, with De Souza and Samson Fung Man Wai of Hong Kong in a Peugeot RCZ behind him. On Lap 3, Fung spun and hit the barrier at Mandarin, bringing out the Safety Car. When racing resumed two laps later, Poon continued to lead the race, with De Souza and Celio Alves Dias of Macao in a Mini Cooper S behind him. It was on Lap 9 that Alexander Fung Kar Chue, who had been running in fourth, got past Alves Dias to take the final podium position.

ROAD SPORT CHALLENGE

Macau drivers take top three

Macau's Lo Kai Fung in a Mitsubishi EVO7 won Saturday's Suncity Group Macau Road Sport Challenge, ahead of fellow Macau drivers Wong Wan Long in a Mitsubishi EVO 10 and Ng Kin Veng in a Mitsubishi EVO 9. At the start, Leong Ian Veng in a Mitsubishi EVO 9 led the race from pole position, with Lo and Wong behind him. On Lap 4, Wong was overtaken by Mitsuhiro Kinoshita in a Nissan GTR R34, but a lap later Wong reclaimed the place. On Lap 6, Lo took the lead from Leong, who later dropped down the order. In the latter stages of the 10-lap race, the Safety Car was called out, before an incident at San Francisco ended the race, with a triumphant Lo taking the victors' laurels.

CHINESE RACING CUP

Zhu takes pole start to victory

Chinese driver David Zhu completed a perfect Macau outing by winning the third edition of the Suncity Group Chinese Racing Cup. Zhu, who started from pole, finished ahead of Chang Chien Shang of Chinese Taipei and Chinese driver Jason Zhang Zhi Qiang. Zhang took the lead from Zhu on the opening laps of the race. However, the pair continued to battle for the position, and Zhu was able to re-take the lead on Lap 5 at San Francisco. Not long afterwards, Chang also got by Zhang. On Lap 7, the Safety Car was called out for a second time. Racing resumed for one final lap, and while Chang looked for an opportunity to get past, Zhu held on for the win.