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SUPPLEMENT

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PREVIEW

# F3 big names compete for most coveted trophy

Renato Marques

WITH a full 28-car grid, all the big names of the F3 are set to fight for the Formula 3 Macau Grand Prix – FIA F3 Intercontinental Cup. The selection of race heroes is ready to hit the Guia circuit from tomorrow up until Sunday.

The top contenders from the FIA Formula 3 European Championship and All-Japan Formula 3 Championship will compete throughout three days before the most coveted 15 laps on Sunday.

Leading the entry list is, no doubt, the 2014 winner Felix Rosenqvist, who returns to

Macau as the newly crowned FIA F3 European Champion with the Italian-based SJM Theodore Racing by Prema Powerteam. The Swedish national will proudly carry the lead as he bids to even Edoardo Mortara, who is so far the only two-time winner of the Macau F3 Grand Prix over its 32 years of existence.

Rosenqvist will also hope to take another win for Theodore, the team set up by the late Teddy Yip and revived by his son Teddy Jr in 2013. But he will not be the only one carrying the hopes of the Mercedes-powered Theodore/Prema team. Britain's Jake Dennis and Canada's Lance Stroll will prove a very strong team on their first visit to

PREVIEW

# F3 big names compete for

Macau. Dennis is a multiple race winner in European F3 this season, while Stroll has shone in his rookie F3 season and represents the hopes of Ferrari through the Ferrari Driver Academy.

Leading the pack from Japan is the successful Toyota-powered TOM'S team, which has won the GP more times than any other team.

Kenta Yamashita and New Zealander Nick Cassidy are two key names to remember.

■ The top contenders from the FIA F3 European and All-Japan F3 championships will compete in Macau

Just a month ago, Cassidy collected the season winner trophy of the All-Japan F3 Championship in 2014, and there is little doubt that he wishes to replicate this success a second time. Yamashita lost the championship to Cassidy but he is still keen to show he can beat him in Macau.

Mitsunori Takahashi is the other All-Japan F3 title contender returning with B-Max Racing Team, which also uses



Antonio Giovinazzi

Aries Un

THE record-holding rider of the Macau Grand Prix, Michael Rutter, along with Canadian racer Dan Kruger will take to the Guia Circuit this weekend on BMW superbikes in colors inspired by athletes from the Macau Special Olympics.

During the "Penz13 BMW Motorrad by MGM China and Special Olympics Macau," an art program relating to the 62nd edition of the Macau Grand Prix, thirty members from the group comprising of mentally-challenged

sportsmen have created their own artwork of the motorcycle model.

Two out of the total of 80 paintings, created by 23-year-old golfers Sin Kei Cheong and Tam Chan Ki, were selected to be imposed onto the superbikes.

"It's going to elevate the sport because we're using a wide audience already from the Macau GP, and we're integrating it into the Special Olympics, I think it's really good for the exposure. It adds something new and fresh to the sport," said Kruger, who challenged himself for the second time on

## Rutter's bike decor inspired by Special



# most wanted trophy

Toyota engines. Yuhi Sekiguchi, who won the All-Japan title in 2011 and finished fourth in the same year's Macau GP, joins Takaboshi.

Rosenqvist's closest rivals in European F3 this year are Italian Antonio Giovinazzi and Monegasque Charles Leclerc, both of whom are on the Macau entry list to complicate Rosenqvist's challenge. The championship runner-up Giovinazzi leads

the hopes of British squad Jagonya Ayam with Carlin, with a competent candidate in the Volkswagen-engined team from the American Gustavo Menezes. The Carlin line-up features two young English Macau rookies: George Russell and Red Bull Junior Callum Iloft.

Leclerc, who won the European F3 rookie title in 2015, spearheads the challenge of the Dutch-based, Volkswa-

gen-powered Van Amersfoort Racing team and has already shown his race-winning form on street circuits this season. He is joined by his regular teammate, Italian Alessio Lorandi, as newcomers to Macau.

As usual, there are as many possibilities as there are serious title contenders, yet only one will come out on November 22 as the new King of Macau.



Nick Cassidy

## Olympics Macau

the 6.2km track.

However, participants in the four-day annual race this year are set to experience hot weather, which the pair believed would make the race "different." Rutter, who turned 43 this year, is confident in extending his winning streak to a ninth victory, saying that his age would not slow him down on the track despite him growing more concerned about it.

"The older you get the

more you think about it, but at the end of the day, like you said, there's the question of experience, for Macau GP, you've got to know where you're going 100%, there're lots of little secrets," said the British racer, who has been nicknamed 'the Blade'.

The challenging geographic features of the region's circuit are one of the reasons why top-rated racers' return year after year, a point on which both racers

agreed.

"It's got a bit of everything, it's got real fast corners, 160 mile corners to walking-pace corners, it's a good feeling when you get it right, when you get one lap right around it, it's a long lap, when you get it perfect, it's a big achievement," said Rutter.

"I think it's pretty much fair to say it's impossible to come here and go fast, I think it takes two or three years just before you can even get on an acceptable pace," said Kruger, who finished down the order last year.



Michael Rutter posing with a Special Olympics athlete

PREVIEW

# TCR season finale in its Macau debut

Renato Marques

**A**FTER a decade marked by the FIA World Touring Car Championship (WTCC), this year's race marks the debut of the TCR series on the Guia Circuit.

With the introduction of these cars, Macau will assist this year with an all-new generation of touring car racing, with the implementation of cost controls.

The result is a competition in which cars look similar to the ones found on the roads and races, and are highly competitive, leveling the competition and focusing on the drivers' skills more than in the cars' technical ability.

This year looks promising with a top lineup of drivers, racing for the best teams in this series.

Rob Huff, one of the legends of the WTCC in Macau having won the GP on seven occasions, will be back, this time at the wheel of one of West-Coast Racing's Hondas. He is determined to win, with the relevant



Stefano Comini



Jordi Gené

experience and the skills under his belt.

Jordi Gené, the former F3 runner-up back in 1991, will make his return, driving a SEAT León from Team LUKOIL Craft-Bamboo Racing. Gené is currently third in the championship's standing and has a serious chance of

winning in Macau.

Spaniard Pepe Oriola is another of the SEAT León Team LUKOIL Craft-Bamboo Racing drivers and one of the favorites to take out the final. Oriola currently occupies the second position of the championship, 2 points away from the leader, Stefano Comini.

Almost equal with Oriola, Comini has a very slim lead. Winning is the only way to make him reach for the crown.

Representing Macau will be Rodolfo Ávila, who was the first winner of the TCR Asia Series a couple of months ago in Sepang, Malaysia. The local driver has the goal of winning

in the Asia series.

Henry Ho, a common presence in WTCC races in Macau is the other Macau representative in the TCR field. After a season racing in China's CTCC, he will be taking the wheel of a Civic TCR and considers his experience on the circuit as an advantage over the newcomers.

## NOVEMBER 19 - 22

### 19th of November (Thursday)

- 06:00 Circuit Closed
- 06:30 - 07:00 Circuit Inspection
- 07:30 - 08:30 Suncity Group Macau Motorcycle Grand Prix - 49th Edition - Practice
- 08:50 - 09:20 Suncity Lotus Celebrity Cup Race - Practice
- 09:35 - 10:15 Suncity Group Formula 3 Macau Grand Prix - FIA F3 Intercontinental Cup - Practice
- 10:30 - 11:10 Macau Road Sport Challenge - Practice
- 11:25 - 11:55 Suncity Group Macau Guia Race 2.0T - Practice
- 12:30 - 13:00 SJM Macau GT Cup - FIA GT World Cup - Practice
- 13:20 - 14:00 CTM Macau Touring Car Cup - Practice
- 14:20 - 15:00 Suncity Group Formula 3 Macau Grand Prix - FIA F3 Intercontinental Cup - Qualifying
- 15:45 - 16:30 Suncity Group Macau Motorcycle Grand Prix - 49th Edition - Qualifying
- 16:40 - 17:10 Chinese Racing Cup - Practice
- 18:40 - 18:40 Circuit Opened

### 20th of November (Friday)

- 06:00 Circuit Closed
- 06:30 - 07:00 Circuit Inspection
- 07:30 - 08:15 Suncity Group Macau Motorcycle Grand Prix - 49th Edition - Qualifying
- 08:40 - 09:10 Suncity Lotus Celebrity Cup Race - Qualifying
- 09:35 - 10:15 Suncity Group Formula 3 Macau Grand Prix - FIA F3 Intercontinental Cup - Practice
- 10:40 - 11:10 SJM Macau GT Cup - FIA GT World Cup - Practice
- 11:35 - 12:05 Macau Road Sport Challenge - Qualifying
- 12:30 - 13:00 Suncity Group Macau Guia Race 2.0T - Practice
- 13:55 - 14:25 CTM Macau Touring Car Cup - Qualifying
- 14:55 - 15:25 SJM Macau GT Cup - FIA GT World Cup - Qualifying
- 15:55 - 16:35 Suncity Group Formula 3 Macau Grand Prix - FIA F3 Intercontinental Cup - Qualifying
- 16:45 - 17:15 Chinese Racing Cup - Qualifying
- 18:45 - 18:45 Circuit Opened

### 21st of November (Saturday)

- 06:00 Circuit Closed
- 06:30 - 07:00 Circuit Inspection
- 07:30 - 08:10 Suncity Group Macau Guia Race 2.0T - Qualifying
- 08:40 - 09:40 Macau Road Sport Challenge - 10 laps
- 10:10 - 11:10 Suncity Lotus Celebrity Cup Race - 10 laps
- 11:25 - 11:45 Suncity Group Macau Motorcycle Grand Prix - 49th Edition - Warm Up
- 12:15 - 13:15 SJM Macau GT Cup - FIA GT World Cup - Qualification Race - 12 laps
- 13:45 - 14:45 Suncity Group Formula 3 Macau Grand Prix - FIA F3 Intercontinental Cup - Qualification Race - 10 laps
- 15:05 - 16:05 Suncity Group Macau Motorcycle Grand Prix - 49th Edition - 12 laps
- 16:35 - 17:15 Chinese Racing Cup - 8 laps
- 18:45 - 18:45 Circuit Opened

### 22nd of November (Sunday)

- 06:00 Circuit Closed
- 06:30 - 07:00 Circuit Inspection
- 07:00 - 07:30 Safety and Rescue Cars - Testing laps
- 08:30 - 09:30 CTM Macau Touring Car Cup - 12 laps
- 10:00 - 12:00 Suncity Group Macau Guia Race 2.0T - 2 Races of 10 laps each with 15 minutes break between Races
- 12:55 - 14:15 SJM Macau GT Cup - FIA GT World Cup - 18 laps
- 14:20 - 14:40 Special Event
- 15:10 - 15:25 Lion Dance
- 15:30 - 16:30 Suncity Group Formula 3 Macau Grand Prix - FIA F3 Intercontinental Cup - 15 laps
- 18:30 - 18:30 Circuit Opened