



International onset

Euro Challenge guest drivers dominate Round 1, giving their German opponents a taste of higher competition level

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Organisers welcomed 134 drivers to the opening round at Wackersdorf. This meant an increase of 40 drivers compared to last year exceeding all expectations. And as the same track was to host the Rotax Euro Challenge three weeks later, several international guest drivers took this chance for preparation. RMC organiser Peter Kessler had positive remarks: "season start is always difficult. We have a new team, a new timetable, a new category and plenty of guest starters. Everything went according to plan. The positive feedback proves that we are still on the right path". Round 2 at Oschersleben saw the number of drivers reduced to nearly 110, but organizer Peter Kessler is optimistic: "This time we cannot count on guest starters from the Euro Challenge. Nevertheless we gained 25% of drivers compared to last season."

Mini Max

The Minimax category celebrated its debut at Wackersdorf, providing a new entry-class for younger drivers. Seven drivers were taken to the start in Round 1. Honours of the very first victory went to Larry Ten Voorde. The young Energy driver set pace in timed-practice and took the win in prefinal and final. Bluoss and Kuhn completed the podium. In Round 2 Ten Voord seemed to be once again the pacesetter, but everything turned out different. Taking pole-position in qualifying, the Energy driver struggled in prefinal, where he had to defend his position from Heinze. They were protagonists of a worth-seeing fight for the victory, which ended in Heinze's favour. The final showed a similar situation, with the difference that now five drivers fighting for the win. Heinze, Ten Voorde, von Wendt, Tunsch and Bluoss fought the whole race distance, swapping posi-

tions every lap all the way to the chequered flag, which saw Heinze prevailing on his rivals.

Junior Max

In Round 1 43 drivers filled the grid. Guest starter van den Brand and Dontje dominated the two pre-finals. In the final van den Brand proved to be on a roll, winning the opening round ahead of Dontje, Korjus and Liiv. In 5th Toni Greif celebrated best position for German drivers. In Round 2 the grid shrank to 33 drivers. Already fast but short of luck at Wackersdorf, Widdmann took pole-position. In prefinal he had an average start, dropping back a few positions. But within few laps he recovered and overtook the leaders Korn and Greif, taking his first season win. The final saw a dominant start-finish win by Dennis Widdmann, who crossed the finish line with over 4 seconds lead on Greif. Energy driver Dunkelmann completed the podium.



Left, Junior Max start. In Round 1, Dutch drivers dominate the class, taking the top four positions. The best German driver is Greif in 5th.

Opposite page, Thum (116) and Kroes (198) fight in DD2 Round 1. The German driver dominates practice and pre-final, but the Dutch driver takes the final win.

Below, from left, Rotax Max Round 2 winner Patrick Kreutz, Rotax Max Round 1 winner Bart van Os (in the middle), and MiniMax Round 2 winner Andre Heinze.



RESULTS

- Mini Max**
Round 1: 1) Ten Voorde (Energy); 2) Bluoss (MSkart); 3) Kuhn (Trulli); 4) von Wendt (Swiss Hutless); 5) Tunsch (Sodikart); 6) Koch (Mach1); 7) Hermann (CRG)
Round 2: 1) Heinze (Mach1); 2) Tunsch (Sodikart); 3) Bluoss (MSkart); 4) von Wendt (Swiss Hutless); 5) Ten Voorde (Energy); 6) Kuhn (Trulli); 7) Gorkow (CRG); 8) Hermann (CRG)
- Junior Max**
Round 1: 1) van den Brand (Intrepid); 2) Dontje (Energy); 3) Korjus (Zanardi); 4) Liv (Zanardi); 5) Greif (MSkart); 6) Korn (Energy); 7) Bouman (PCR); 8) Bäurle (VRK); 9) van der Burgt (Kombikart); 10) van Bergeijk (Kombikart)
Round 2: 1) Widdmann (Kosmic); 2) Greif (MSkart); 3) Dunkelmann (Energy); 4) Korn (Energy); 5) Splithoff (M-Tec); 6) Fleischmann (VRK); 7) Richard (Sodikart); 8) Hoppe (M-Tec); 9) Szczepanik (CRG); 10) Ramold (Intrepid)
- Rotax Max**
Round 1: 1) van Os (Intrepid); 2) Joossens (Kombikart); 3) Vos (Energy); 4) van Bergeijk (Kombikart); 5) van Klinken (Birel); 6) Haida (Birel); 7) Krapoth (Energy); 8) Voll (M-Tec); 9) Thum (M-Tec); 10) Krafft (Mach1)
Round 2: 1) Kreutz (Intrepid); 2) Möhring (VRK); 3) Meissner (Swiss Hutless); 4) Hamann (Kombikart); 5) Thum (M-Tec); 6) Responde (VRK); 7) Krapoth (Energy); 8) Silberling (Sodikart); 9) Bertl (Swiss Hutless); 10) Hippe (VRK)
- DD2**
Round 1: 1) Kroes (Haase); 2) Thum (M-Tec); 3) Heidorn (CRG); 4) Winzen (CRG); 5) Mohr (Birel); 6) Gretkiewicz (CRG); 7) Scheibinger (Birel); 8) Matis (Kombikart); 9) Banaszak (Kombikart); 10) Pantera (RM1)
Round 2: 1) Szczepanik (M-Tec); 2) Scheibinger (Birel); 3) Thum (M-Tec); 4) Heidorn (CRG); 5) Matis (Kombikart); 6) Gretkiewicz (CRG); 7) Landwehr (Mach1); 8) Mohr (Birel); 9) Degenhardt (VRK); 10) Burk (M-Tec)

Rotax Max

In Round 1 the senior class filled the biggest grid with 58 drivers. Although former ICA driver Sascha Haida set fastest time in qualifying, the pre-finals went to Euro Challenge drivers Joossens and van Os. The early phase of the final seemed an open affair, in which ten drivers could take their chances. In the lead, Joossens got under pressure from Kreutz, but the German driver went off track half way through the race. So the lead turned into a Dutch affair, with Joossens, van Os, Vos, Bergeijk and van Klinken. In the end van Os managed to overtake Joossens, taking the win ahead of his fellow-countrymen. Round 2 saw 46 drivers on starting grid. All attention was on Kreutz. The Intrepid driver was fastest in timed practice and dominated the first pre-final, while Möhring took the second. But in final Meissner, coming from third row, had a brilliant start and jumped to the lead. Not for long though. After a few laps Kreutz found a way past, soon followed by Möhring. And positions remained unchanged up to the finish.

Rotax DD2

The gearbox category saw 21 drivers taking the start in Round 1. Thum was the pace setter in timed practice. Starting from pole-position he took the pre-final ahead of Kroes and Winzen. The final seemed to go in Thum's favour, but half way through the race Kroes overtook him finally taking the win with over 5 seconds lead on Thum. Heidorn completed the podium. In Round 2, Polish guest driver Szczepanik marked fastest time in qualifying, took pre-final and final too. Championship leader Thum took 3rd, behind Scheibinger. The final was clouded by a major accident, which saw Philipp Roebers and Marco Pantera involved. The latter was taken to hospital, and later released with fractures, a concussion and bruises. RMC organiser Peter Kessler could not hide his discontent: "DD2 drivers are known for exemplary sportsmanship, but not this time. Besides the sporting penalties, which have already been imposed, we will take further action should such unpleasant situation happen again."



Debut at Liedolsheim

It's the first time that the German Rotax Max Challenge has been hosted at Liedolsheim. After an official test day held in April on this same track, everyone couldn't wait for the race weekend.

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MiniMax

Ten Voorde took his third pole in the series, stopping 53.340". Lap-time were very close and promised a balanced pre-final. Ten Voorde, fastest at the green lights, could not get away and had to defend his position against Bluoss. The latter managed to overtake and edged Ten Voorde out in finish. Heinze took third in front of Tunsch and Kuhn. In the final, Bluoss stormed off to lead as Ten

Voorde dropped places. During the race, the leader even went off the track and rejoined from rear. At the flag, he could do no better than sixth. Bluoss drove a steady race keeping Heinze and Kuhn behind, a performance that rewarded him with his first MiniMAX win

JuniorMax

Pole sitter, Korn, left no doubts in the prefinal; he drove a solid start-finish vic-

tory and not at all impressed by the action behind him, where Dunkelmann dropped to last grid. Schöffler stepped into second and stayed there to the flag. Fight for third was hard, seven drivers were involved; Khanan dominated earlier on, but it was Sodi driver, Richard who affirmed himself in the end. Again the Final saw Korn off to a good start. But, it was soon clear that Energy driver wouldn't be the one to set the pace. On



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RESULTS

MiniMax: 1) Bluoss (MSkart); 2) Heinze (Mach1); 3) Kuhn (Trulli); 4) Tunsch (Sodikart); 5) von Wendt (Hutless); 6) Ten Voorde (Energy); 7) Hermann (CRG)

JuniorMax: 1) Schöffler (MSkart); 2) Khanan (Kombikart); 3) Richard (Sodikart); 4) Greif (MSkart); 5) Korn (Energy); 6) Widdmann (Kosmic); 7) Fleischmann (VRK); 8) Severin (VRK); 9) Lindner (VRK); 10) Stübinger (VRK)

Max: 1) Knogler (Kosmic); 2) Haida (Birel); 3) Möhring (VRK); 4) Holzhäuser (Kombikart); 5) Krafft (Mach1); 6) Responde (VRK); 7) Thum (M-Tec); 8) Voll (M-Tec); 9) Engelhard (VRK); 10) Cordes (Swiss Hutless)

Max-DD2: 1) Landwehr (Mach1); 2) Scheibinger (Birel); 3) Mohr (Birel); 4) Gretkiewicz (CRG); 5) Heidorn (CRG); 6) Rihber (Energy); 7) Müller (M-Tec); 8) Mohr (Sodikart); 9) Müller (M-Tec); 10) Yildiz (M-Tec)



lap two, Khanan overtook and Schöffler followed suit one lap later. "The race was very tough over the first laps. I got caught in a pile of ten drivers and once you're there it's hard to find a way out", said Korn, who was fifth. Khanan, leader, was unable to keep up the pace and had to give in when Schöffler attacked. Schöffler pulled away from the pack and pulled away, this took him to his first RMC win ever. Khanan and Pogoda struggled hard for podium. The latter went off the track as he approached the finishing line with a broken rear bumper. Richard followed behind Schöffler and Khanan taking the last podium place with Championship leader, Toni Greif, fourth.

Max

First headline was to come on Sunday morning: Championship leader Patrick Kreutz withdrew from the race due to an eye irritation leaving more chances for his rivals to reduce their championship point

gap. In qualifiers Haida stopped fastest time, 47.305", ahead of Holzhäuser. Michaela Engelhard was the fastest lady on grid, clocking eighth fastest.

In prefinal Krapoth took a clear start-finish win in group 1 ahead of Haida and Möhring, who raced undisturbed. Knogler dominated the second group, despite having to defend his lead against Holzhäuser who took second. Krafft and Engelhard confirmed their qualifying performance finishing third and fourth. During the final, Knogler set the pace and pulled away from the pack in no time. Krapoth caught up on lap seven and took over the lead. Luck wasn't with him: after few laps Krapoth ended his race due to technical problems. Knogler led again but soon had Haida tracking him down. The Birel driver did his best to give Knogler a hard time, attacking non-stop and even led but it only lasted until Kogler managed a successful counter-attack. With some very close driving, each com-

pleted with 0.104 seconds that decided victory in Knoglers' favour. Möhring was third after keeping Holzhäuser, Krafft and Responde at bay.

Max DD2

Oschersleben winner, and guest starter Szczepanik dominated qualifiers with 46.958". But technical problems during the formation lap only just managed to give him his starting grid, but later he was forced to retire. Thum was left to defend team colours until Matis overtook to lead on lap 3. Kombi driver pulled away quickly to win. Thum defended his second place against Landwehr and Scheibinger. During final formation lap, Matis parked his kart on the grass with clutch problems, Thum seized his chance to take the lead, then on lap six a loose brake pad sent him off track with blocked wheels. Now Landwehr had a clear run to finish and kept the lead to the end with Scheibinger and teammate Mohr completing podium.

Top, Bastian Krapoth (249) while leading in Max final before technical problems had the better of him.

Mach1 driver Marc Landwehr (114) finds the win in Max DD2.

Benedikt Bluoss (13) takes 1st in MiniMax on MSKart ahead of Mach1 driver Heinze.

Opposite page, Junior Max starts with Thomas Schöffler (319) in the lead. The MSKart driver takes his first ever win in the series.