

RMCGF DAY 7

FINAL'S DAY



Conde, Brazil, December 1, 2018 – Welcome to Finals Day of the 19th Edition of the Rotax MAX Challenge Grand Finals 2018 at the Circuit International Paladino.

Saturday saw the drivers and teams arrive to light winds but satin sun and temperatures of 32 at its highest. You could feel the atmosphere had changed to both excitement but also apprehension to what would be a crucial days racing. Only half of the competitors in four of the classes (Junior, Senior, DD2 and DD2Masters) would be competing today but everyone still turned up to experience the atmosphere of Finals Day.

After a warm-up session on track for all of the qualified drivers, the famous Grand Finals Drivers photo and Drivers Parade took place. To add to the Brazilian atmosphere of the parade there was a spectacular show by the Olho Do Tempo School band that saw local children play drums and perform for the spectators watching from the balconies over the start and finish straight of the track. The drivers were then led out by nation following the Marshall Band for the Military Police from the State of Paraiba playing the Brazilian National Anthem which created a buzz and ambience for the drivers and spectators before the pressure of the Finals to come. Each driver that took part at the Grand Finals would receive a medal handed out by Stefan Gruber, Helmut Voglsam, Peter Oelsinger and Arnaldo Frias from BRP-Rotax.

125 Micro MAX

Final Grid - Harry Hannam (UAE), Douwe Dedecker (BEL), Maksymilian Obst (POL)

Provisional Results - The first final of the day would see the youngest (8-11yrs) drivers battle 12 laps of the Paladino circuit for victory. Harry Hannam lead the field around when Douwe Dedecker had a bad start and dropped back the order. Hannam then got shuffled out wide at turn 4 back to 7th as Mitchell Van Dijk took the lead on Lap 3. By Lap 5 the Belgium Dedecker, who had pace all through the heats, took over the mantle followed by Van Dijk and Brent Crews These three drivers were able to create a clear gap at the front as they pulled away from the rest of the pack, with Van Dijk dropping a few kart lengths back. It was on Lap 7 that the American Brent Crews decided he would take a turn at the lead but it wasn't for long as over the next few laps he switched positions with the Belgium multiple times. These battles allowed Van Dijk to catch back up to contention and as Crews defended on the last lap it slowed Dedecker down and allowed Van Dijk the chance to make a move for 2nd. This in turn allowed Crews to pull out just enough to be unchallenged to the flag as the driver from Denver, Colorado to take the title of Grand Finals Micro MAX Champion 2018. Douwe Dedecker didn't give up the fight for 2nd and returned the favour on Van Dijk at the last corner for them to come home 2nd and 3rd. Pole man Harry Hannam had a good race to fight his way back up to 5th position.

1st - Brent Crews (USA), 2nd - Douwe Dedecker (BEL), 3rd - Mitchell Van Dijk (NED)

125 Mini MAX

Final Grid - Evan Giltaire (FRA), Dani Van Ruiten (NED), Farin Megäre (GER)

Provisional Results - Next it was turn for the 11-13 year old drivers to take to the track and show the World what they can do. The French Polesitter Evan Giltaire lead Farin Megger who started right behind him into the first corner and they already started to break away by the end of the first lap as the pack behind them were fighting, at times 4 karts wide. Van Ruiten in 3rd started to get his head down and gave chase to the leaders towing Augustin Bernier along with him. On Lap 8 Farrin Megger took the lead when it looked like the race leader Giltaire was suffering from a mechanical issue. Dani Van Ruiten gave chase to the leader and was making ground but ran out of laps as Germany took their first ever Grand Finals victory with Farin Megger with Van Ruiten taking 2nd and Augustin Bernier in a somewhat lonely 3rd. The race leader for many laps and pole man, Giltaire eventually finished in 11th position.

1st - Farin Megger (GER), 2nd - Dani Van Ruiten (NED), 3rd - Augustin Bernier (FRA)

125 Junior MAX

Final Grid - Robert De Haan (NED), Jaiden Pope (AUS), Noel Leon (MEX)

Provisional Results - The Juniors promised a big battle between the front row drivers when Pole position had to be decided by fastest lap time in the Pre-Finals after a tie on points after all of the racing. This gave Robert De Haan who was competing in his 3rd straight Grand Finals the advantage of the inside line which turned out to be vital as Jaiden Pope was muscled out and dropped back to 6th and into the clutched of the fighting pack. The UK's Lewis Gilbert lead that chasing pack for a few laps whilst changing places constantly with Mike Van Vugt, Thomas Nepveu and Luca Mars. By Lap 6 Pope had managed to make his way through that packing started to chase down the leader. He got close, probably within a kart and a half, but just not close enough to make a move so it was The Netherlands that took the win with Robert De Haan, Jaiden Pope in 2nd and the other Netherlands driver and European Champion Mike Van Vugt in 3rd. Over the line you saw the contrast between the pure jubilation and celebration of De Haan versus the head down and disappointment of being so close yet so far for Pope.

1st - Robert De Haan (NED), 2nd - Jaiden Pope (AUS), 3rd - Mike Van Vugt (NED)

125 MAX

Final Grid - Hannes Morin (SWE), Petr Bezel (CZE), Mario Novak (AUT)

Provisional Results - Hannes Morin had been the one to beat all week but unlike his heats he didn't get a gap on the first lap was challenged and swapped places for the lead more than once until he was successfully passed by Petr Bezel on lap 2. The great performance showed by the Jordanian driver Manaf Hijjawi ended abruptly at the end of Lap 1 when he fired into the tyre barrier backwards. Normality resumed when Morin re-took the lead with a great move on Lap 5 and led the way until Lap 13. Behind this action the following pack of 10 karts or more at times battled it out sometimes rubbing wheels and trying to drive 4 wide. When Senna Van Walstijn made his way to the lead on Lap 14 from his starting position of 7th, this battling behind him

meant he was instantly able to pull away and crossed the line over 3 seconds ahead of the rest. The battle behind was eventually won by Great Britain's Mark Kimber and Mario Novak from Austria for 3rd. The biggest mover of the race was New Zealand's Zac Stichtbury who moved up 21 spots to finish in 15th position and the only female qualifier for today's finals, Hannah Greenmeier finished in 24th.

1st - Senna Van Walstijn (NED), 2nd - Mark Kimber (GBR), 3rd - Mario Novak (AUS)

125 MAX DD2 Masters

Final Grid - Cristiano Morgado (SA), Fraser Hart (NZ), Michael Stephen (SA)

Provisional Results - The DD2 Masters category packed a massive punch in terms of experience and also Champions. The most decorated of them all was the pole man Cristiano Morgado had a dream start when his countryman Michael Stephen slotted in behind him at the start and although he pushed hard the first few laps to stick with him was unable too. It was Lap 4 when the New Zealander Fraser Hart made his move on the 2nd placed South African and tried to give chase himself. Behind these the fast Finnish driver, Antti Ollikainen was putting in fast laps but struggled to get past the two in front quick enough to stop Morgado getting away. He did make the moves and at the half way mark of the race he gave chase for the lead but was never quite fast enough to close the gap. Setting the fastest lap time (51.784) of not only the race but beating his previous event record was the other Kiwi Matthew Hamilton who again struggled to pass the slower karts in front of him without losing too much ground on the Top 3. In the end it was the Cristiano Morgado that made Grand Final history yet again by winning his 5th Grand Final. This win made sweeter by the fact that Cristiano two years ago suffered a bad neck injury that made him think he may never race again.

1st - Cristiano Morgado (SA), 2nd - Antti Ollikainen (FIN), 3rd - Fraser Hart (NZ)

125 MAX DD2

Warm - Up - Arnold Neveling - 51.543

Final Grid - Xen De Ruwe (SOL), Daniel Formal (COS), Taylor Greenfield (USA)

Provisional Results - The final race of the week and the 2018 Rotax MAX Grand Finals saw the DD2 class take to the track and also promised a epic battle between the two drivers who had won the most races so far this week, Xen De Ruwe and Daniel Formal. Yet again the spectators witnessed a drama filled final and neither of the two protagonists was to celebrate the win. It started well for the ex-Belgium driver now racing for Solvenia, De Ruwe as he led the pack into the first corner with Formal close being determined not to let him pull out a lead. Italian Claudio Pagalirani hadn't read the script though and made his move on Formal on Lap 1 to take 2nd. He maybe was a little too determined to not let the leader get away and on the very next lap made a move for the lead that resulted in him climbing over the back of De Ruwe and breaking the karts rear bumper. Pagliarani dropped right to the back of the field instantly but De Ruwe unaware of his damage continued and starting to chase Formal down who had grabbed the lead as a result. Ryan Wood started well and got up to 3rd in the pack behind but was unable to keep this position as Taylor Green field and Arnold Neveling both passed the Australian team member. Whilst all of this action was happening the Frenchman Paolo Besancenez was picking the karts off one by one from his starting position of P10. Xen De Ruwe was determined to take back the lead but just as he had caught up to the back of Formal his rear bumper completely fell apart and the Officials had no choice but to give him the mechanical flag. Distraught he pulled into the pits leaving the charging Besacenez to eventually make a move for the lead on Lap 18 of 20. Formal was able to hold 2nd ahead of the American Taylor Greenfield in 3rd that won the battle of the chasing pack.

1st - Paolo Besancenez (FRA), 2nd - Daniel Formal (COS), 3rd - Taylor Greenfield (USA)

DEKM RGF 2018

Final Grid - Roberto Da Silveira (BRA), Lukas Horstmann (GER), Juan Jose Diaz Rodriguez (COL)

Provisional Results - The first ever Grand Final with the Rotax Thunder karts took place here at Paladino and it didn't disappoint. It was a lights to flag victory for the driver that had qualified through the ECK FIA-Americas cup held earlier in the week. The newly crowned German Champion had to start from P4 but made his moves up to 2nd position with fellow German Lukas Horstmann just 0.2 tenths behind to complete the podium.

1st - Roberto Da Silveira (BRA), 2nd - Philipp Britz (GER), 3rd - Lukas Horstmann (GER)

NATIONS CUP 2018

1st - Team Brazil

2nd - Team Australia

3rd - Team Poland

Now that the ups and downs of the racing is over for all of the drivers it is time to celebrate not only the winners but all that fought so hard to become the best. The trophies were given out at the Trophy Ceremony on the Podium here at the track but there will be more celebration later at the Drivers Party held at the Convention Centre where there will be one final competition to crown the Mojo Tyre Changing Champion and to announce the winners of the Team Contest.

For more information about the Rotax MAX Challenge, please visit [our website](#).

The Rotax MAX Challenge (RMC) is a professional kart racing series established, owned and organized by BRP and its Rotax kart engine distributors. Approved by and in compliance with CIK / FIA, the RMC is a "one-make-engine" formula: only Rotax kart engines that are checked and sealed (for equal performance) will be used. The success in the competition is mainly up to the skills of the driver.

About BRP-Rotax

BRP-Rotax GmbH & Co KG, a subsidiary of BRP Inc., located in Gunskirchen, Austria is a leader in the development and production of innovative 4- and 2-stroke high performance Rotax engines for BRP products such as Ski-Doo and Lynx snowmobiles, Sea-Doo watercraft, Can-Am all-terrain, side-by-side vehicles and Can-Am Spyder lineup as well for motorcycles, karts, ultra-light and light aircraft. In the last 50 years, the company has developed more than 350 engine models for recreational vehicles and produced over 7 million engines.

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About BRP

We are a global leader in the world of powersports vehicles, propulsion systems and boats built on over 75 years of ingenuity and intensive consumer focus. Our portfolio of industry-leading and distinctive products includes Ski-Doo and Lynx snowmobiles, Sea-Doo watercraft, Can-Am on- and off-road vehicles, Alumacraft and Manitou boats, Evinrude and Rotax marine propulsion systems as well as Rotax engines for karts, motorcycles and recreational aircraft. We support our lines of product with a dedicated parts, accessories and clothing business to fully enhance your riding experience. With annual sales of CA\$4.5 billion from over 100 countries, our global workforce is made up of around 10,350 driven, resourceful people.

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