

14th of June, 2009

Daniel Aho takes first win and lead in NEC

Finnish Daniel Aho for Koiranen Bros had a fantastic race at his home track in Alastaro and took the first win in his Formula Renault 2.0 NEC career. By taking the 30 points for this victory, Aho cannot just celebrate his first triumph on the podium, but also takes the lead in the standings for the Northern European Cup with 101 points, leaving Antonio Felix Da Costa behind with 99.

The Finnish drivers already showed they feel at home by claiming the fastest times during the test days preceding the race weekend in Alastaro. Laine opened the fight for the best time on the Wednesday morning, whilst team member Heikkinen was the first driver to dive below the 1.11.00 on the three kilometer long track.

Sa Silva caused some moments of excitement during the test on Thursday afternoon, by losing his car at full speed, meeting an advertisement board and disappearing into the forest. Fortunately, he was not hurt and replacing the nose of the car could repair the damage.

After training for three days on a dry track, the teams were unpleasantly surprised to find a wet track for the qualification on Saturday morning. All cars left on rain tyres, during which South African Arnold Neveling had the time to beat (1.23.866). After 10 minutes, Daniel Aho was the first to switch to slicks, shortly after followed by the Motopark cars. It took a while until the decision for slicks would pay off, but when it did, the fastest lap times were improving fast. This resulted in a good result for Jimmy Eriksson and Bart Hylkema who positioned them selves on the first starting row, followed by SL Formula driver Arnold Neveling and Estonian Kevin Korjus for TT Racing.

On a dry but cloudy track, Jimmy Eriksson had a great start and was immediately building on a gap between him and Bart Hylkema. The two Motopark drivers were able to drive away from the rest and were never challenged by other competitors. A little further in the field Daniel Aho met the back of his team member Toomas Heikkinen, and after a short touch Heikkinen had to leave the race.

After the chequered flag, rookie Eriksson was able to celebrate his first victory, together with team member Bart Hylkema who was ecstatic on his first podium place. Arnold Neveling did a good job finishing third, doing very good business for the overall standings. Another remarkably good result was for Kevin Korjus on 4th position. Jesse Laine ended on an 8th, which delivered him the pole position for race number 2. Guest driver Henri Karjalainen, who also participates in FIA Formula 2, finished 7th and earned the second place on the starting grid for Sundays race.

The conditions for Sunday's race were worse compared to earlier that week, since the temperature dropped to 9 degrees Celsius. Although a continuous threat of rain, the track was dry enough to start on slicks. A clean start, with no incidents and a very good one for Daniel Aho, who shot from 4th to 2nd place right after the lights went off. Julian Eisenreich, who eliminated himself in the first race, started from the last position but did an amazing first lap and earned six places in the same round. In the first phase of the race, winner of Saturday's race Jimmy Eriksson made a mistake and spun. However, he was able to recover three places in the following three laps.

Jesse Laine did a good job and knew how to keep the first position until the 12th lap, when Daniel Aho was able to pass his team member and take the lead. Laine defended second position for the next 3 laps, but Brazilian Luis Derani for Motopark Academy was considerably faster and passed Finnish Laine in lap 15. Arnold Neveling finished 5th, securing the third position in the standings for the Northern European Cup.

Race 1 Rataa SM Alastaro (Race 5 for Northern European Cup)

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|----------------|------------------|
| 1. Eriksson | Motopark Academy |
| 2. Hylkema | Motopark Academy |
| 3. Neveling | SL Formula |
| 4. Korjus | TT Racing |
| 5. Aho | Koiranen Bros |
| 6. Derani | Motopark Academy |
| 7. Karjalainen | Red Step |
| 8. Laine | Koiranen Jesse |
| 9. Rammo | Scuderia Nordica |
| 10. Liiv | TT Racing |

Race 2 Rataa SM Alastaro (Race 6 for Northern European Cup)

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|----------------|------------------|
| 1. Aho | Koiranen Bros |
| 2. Derani | Motopark Academy |
| 3. Laine | Koiranen Bros |
| 4. Karjalainen | Red Step |
| 5. Neveling | SL Formula |
| 6. Korjus | TT Racing |
| 7. Hylkema | Motopark Academy |
| 8. Honkavuori | Koiranen Bros |
| 9. Liiv | TT Racing |
| 10. Heikkinen | Koiranen Bros |

Further information about the Northern European Cup Formula Renault 2.0 can be found on the official websites www.renault-sport.de and www.necup.com.

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