

**ROUNDS 1 & 2 – CURITIBA, BRAZIL**  
**QUALIFYING REPORT**

*Weather:* sunny in the early morning, changed to overcast from the second practice

**MULLER BACK ON POLE ONE YEAR AFTER**

Former champion Yvan Muller will be on pole for Race 1 in Curitiba tomorrow, for the second year in succession. In a closely fought session the top seven cars ended within 0.2 seconds of each other. Chevrolet dominated the session with Alain Menu (1:23.829) and Rob Huff (1:23.833) being placed third and fourth. Only Jordi Gené in his SEAT León TDI managed to split the team mates by jumping to second with his lap of 1:23.757 in the dying seconds.

Q1- Rob Huff dominated Q1 smashing the circuit qualifying record of 1:24.196 with his early lap of 1:23.831. Despite being the first driver of the weekend to lap in under 1:24 he continued to push, beating his own time in the final minutes to sail through to Q2 with a time of 1:23.630.

His Chevrolet team mates Alain Menu (1:23.730) and Yvan Muller (1:23.923) also jumped up the order in the final minutes to make it a Chevrolet top three. Augusto Farfus (1:24.006) was the top BMW racer with Norbert Michelisz putting in a great lap in his SEAT León TDI, while in danger of dropping out the top ten, to post the fifth quickest time of 1:24.019.

Tiago Monteiro and Tom Coronel were left to fight for the final spot in Q2 and eventually, with a lap of 1:24.558, the Dutchman kicked his team-mate off by only four thousandths of a second.

Stefano D'Aste's time of 1:25.153 jumped him ahead of Darryl O'Young to lead the Independents', claiming the 13<sup>th</sup> position overall.

Q2- As the top ten drivers headed into the final 10-minute shoot out, Chevrolet was quick to assert their dominance with Muller, Menu and Huff topping the timesheet. As the chequered flag approached a nine-car slipstream of cars headed out on track with only Farfus remaining in the pits. Muller improved to secure his pole position while Gené's final lap of 1:23.757 claimed a front row start for SR-Sport.

A mistake from the consistently quick newcomer Michelisz meant he ran wide through the Curva da Vitoria hindering his own, Menu's and Priaulx's final run, although the Swiss managed to salvage third ahead of team mate Huff. Reigning champion Tarquini claimed fifth ahead of Priaulx and Farfus, a disappointing result after the BMW 320si's had been setting the pace for most of the weekend.

Danish racer Michel Nykjær posted the eighth quickest time and will start Race 1 tomorrow as the best of the rookies, while Coronel and Michelisz rounded out the top ten.

**FLASH NEWS**

**PRACTICE 1 – BMW STILL ON TOP**

The BMW Team RBM duo of Augusto Farfus (1:24.578) and Andy Priaulx (1:24.590) remained on top after setting the pace in yesterday's testing. SEAT, Chevrolet and BMW cars exchanged the top spots throughout the session, but eventually Farfus



posted the quickest time before the session was red flagged when Harry Vaulkhard crashed at the last corner.

Rob Huff (1:24.769) and Alain Menu (1:24.783) ended the session third and fourth with Norbert Michelisz impressing again, being the quickest of the SEAT cars in fifth overall. Darryl O'Young was the quickest of the Independents.

#### PRACTICE 2 – THE CHAMPION BACK AHEAD

Defending champion Gabriele Tarquini and his SR-Sport SEAT León TDI set the pace for the first time this weekend, posting a lap of 1:24.664 early in the session that was never beaten. BMW Team RBM's Augusto Farfus (1:24.713) and Andy Priaulx (1:24.798) have been consistently at the top of the time sheets and narrowly missed out on another opportunity to lead the field with Farfus just 0.049 seconds adrift of the Italian.

A close session saw the top eight covered by just half a second.

Franz Engstler (1:25.539) was the best of the Independents, ending up tenth quickest overall.

#### ENGINE CHANGE FOR BENNANI

The Wiechers-Sport team decided to change the engine on Mehdi Bennani's BMW 320si car. The change was authorized by the Stewards who did not impose the 10-grid position penalty to the Moroccan driver as per articles 73 a) and 74 b) 3) of the Sporting Regulations.

#### POULSEN AND ČOLAK SKIP BRAZIL

Kristian Poulsen and Marin Čolak have decided to skip the journey to America.

Both, the Dane and the Croatian drivers will join the championship from the third race meeting in Marrakech on May 3<sup>rd</sup>.

#### THEY SAID, THEY SAID...

Yvan MULLER – pole position: *“My colour has changed from last year but I'm always pleased to be on pole. It's a good way to start the season and good for building relations with my new team. I am happy for them as it shows all the hard work over the winter has paid off as the Chevrolets are placed first, third and fourth on the grid.”*

Jordi GENÉ – 2<sup>nd</sup> fastest: *“I'm very pleased as it has been a big effort from the team and great having the support of SEAT. The level of the championship is as high as ever so it's going to be difficult to stay on top.”*

Alain MENU – 3<sup>rd</sup> fastest: *“It was a shame to have my lap spoiled by Michelisz's mistake on the final corner as I was on the way to improve. But it's a good start for Chevrolet and we are pleased to be on the pace.”*

Stefano D'ASTE – fastest independent: *“If you had asked me two days ago if I would be here I would have said no as we've had lots of problems. BMW Motorsport have been a great help with some adjustments and the team and my engineer made some last minute set-up changes that worked well.”*

Michel NYKJÆR – fastest rookie: *“Coming here as a newcomer and also with it being my first time at the track I'm pleased to get through to Q2. I'm very happy and the team are pleased as well.”*

**2010 FIA World Touring Car Championship  
COMBINED QUALIFYING RESULT**

POS	NO	CLS	DRIVER	NAT	CAR	Q1	Q2
1	6		Yvan MULLER	FRA	Chevrolet Cruze	1:23.923	1:23.725
2	4		Jordi GENE	ESP	SEAT Leon TDI	1:24.157	1:23.757
3	8		Alain MENU	SUI	Chevrolet Cruze	1:23.730	1:23.829
4	7		Robert HUFF	GBR	Chevrolet Cruze	1:23.630	1:23.833
5	1		Gabriele TARQUINI	ITA	SEAT Leon TDI	1:24.125	1:23.834
6	11		Andy PRIAULX	GBR	BMW 320si	1:24.034	1:23.955
7	10		Augusto FARFUS	BRA	BMW 320si	1:24.006	1:23.981
8	17		Michel NYKJAER	DEN	SEAT Leon TDI	1:24.516	1:24.161
9	2		Tom CORONEL	NED	SEAT Leon TDI	1:24.558	1:24.325
10	5		Norbert MICHELISZ	HUN	SEAT Leon TDI	1:24.019	1:24.926
11	3		Tiago MONTEIRO	POR	SEAT Leon TDI	1:24.562	
12	18		Fredy BARTH	SUI	SEAT Leon TDI	1:24.983	
13	26	I	Stefano D'ASTE	ITA	BMW 320si	1:25.153	
14	20	I	Darryl O'YOUNG	HKG	Chevrolet Lacetti	1:25.328	
15	21	I	Mehdi BENNANI	MAR	BMW 320si	1:25.486	
16	15	I	Franz ENGSTLER	GER	BMW 320si	1:25.547	
17	25	I	Sergio HERNANDEZ	ESP	BMW 320si	1:25.826	
18	19	I	Harry VAULKHARD	GBR	Chevrolet Lacetti	1:25.841	
19	16	I	Andrei ROMANOV	RUS	BMW 320si	1:27.567	

QUALIFICATION MAXIMA 1:29.484

Curitiba  
Circuit Length = 3.6950 km.  
Start: 16:25 End: 16:35

Steward:	Steward:	Steward:	Issued at:
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