

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

*Weather:* overcast in the morning, partly sunny in the afternoon.

**YVAN MULLER FIRST POLEMAN OF THE YEAR**

The SEAT León TDI cars will fill the five top spots of the grid for tomorrow's race 1 after Yvan Muller, Jordi Gené, Gabriele Tarquini, Tiago Monteiro and Rickard Rydell posted the five fastest laps in today's qualifying session.

For the first time the drivers faced the new qualifying format with the session split in two parts. At the end of the 20-minute Q1 ten drivers were qualified for the 10-minute Q2.

Q1 – The session was red-flagged after only five minutes, when Kristian Poulsen spun at the last turn, crashing his BMW head-on into the inside wall.

After the restart SEAT and BMW drivers posted their first fast times, with Y. Muller leading the field with a lap of 1:24.345.

Gabriele Tarquini, who was 11<sup>th</sup> in the final moments, saved himself with a lap of 1:24.537 that promoted him to second position, before he was demoted to third by Alain Menu's last gasp attempt at 1:24.537 (only 0.003 seconds faster).

The top-ten drivers were covered by 0.6 seconds, with Nicola Larini claiming the last position valid to go ahead to Q2.

Q2 – SEAT Sport's five men were the first to hit the track and Y. Muller set a new record at 1:24.196, a time good enough to eventually claim pole position.

Jörg Müller, Andy Priaulx, Augusto Farfus and Larini waited until the last minutes to make their only attempt; the German provisionally climbed to second with a lap of 1:24.637, but he was immediately demoted to sixth when the five-car SEAT train crossed the line placing Jordi Gené, Tarquini, Tiago Monteiro and Rickard Rydell in the order behind Y. Muller.

**FLASH NEWS**

**PRACTICE 1 – SEAT CARS DOMINATE**

The SEAT León TDI cars dominated the session, filling the top five spots. Y. Muller posted the fastest lap at 1:24.808, ousting Rydell (1:24.835) who placed second with Monteiro (1:24.963), Gené (1:25.037) and Tarquini (1:25.042) behind him.

Farfus and his BMW emerged as the best of the rest, setting the sixth fastest lap at 1:25.069.

The session was red-flagged with six minutes left when Ladygin's LADA crashed into the barrier at the last corner. Zanardi went off at the same corner, beaching his BMW in the gravel trap. Andy Priaulx completed only two laps due to a brake failure.

**PRACTICE 2 – MÜLLER BEATS MULLER**

J. Müller brought BMW on top, interrupting the SEAT domination. He clocked the fastest lap of 1:25.463 beating Y. Muller who had led with a time of 1:25.497.

Priaulx (1:25.567) and Farfus (1:25.610) were classified third and fourth respectively. However the Brazilian youngster ended the session prematurely when his car got stranded into the gravel trap at the last corner, with six minutes left.



Menu placed his Chevrolet Cruze in seventh position, less than six tenths off the pace. Félix Porteiro continued to impress and posted the 9<sup>th</sup> fastest lap, dominating the Independents' field.

#### **RALLYMEN VISIT WTCC PADDOCK**

The winner of the Rally Internacional de Curitiba, second round of the IRC, Chris Meeke, performed a show completing a few laps of the track in his rally car.

After the exhibition he was invited to visit his fellow WTCC countryman Robert Huff at Chevrolet. The invitation was extended to the second and third classified in the rally: Nicolas Vouilloz visited Yvan Muller (to whom he had given a ride on his rally car on Thursday) at SEAT Sport, while Alessandro Zanardi received Giandomenico Basso's visit at BMW Team Italy-Spain.

On Friday, former rally star Markku Alen had spent some time in the LADA Sport garage.

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

Yvan MULLER

*"Of course I'm very happy for the way the season has started. Pole position is always good, but we have to see tomorrow what happens in the races. I found the new qualifying system very exciting. After my first lap in Q2 I said myself: wow! This could be good for the pole. But I was not sure until the end."*

Jordi GENÉ

*"The new qualifying system has changed everything. You don't have time to work on the set up now. You have to go and try to find a clear lap straight away and twice: first in Q1 and then in Q2. It is much more stressing than it was before."*

Gabriele TARQUINI

*"Q1 was thrilling for me, because I had to do my best to make the top ten on the last attempt. It worked, because we have practiced a lot to fine-tune the team work in qualifying. We run altogether in a close group. It is risky, but if we don't make mistakes, like today, it pays off."*

Félix PORTEIRO

*"I'm really happy. Today I was consistently among the top-ten, or close to them. Which is a good result when we consider that I had no drive two weeks ago and that I only tested for three laps before coming here. Tomorrow I will be aiming for the eighth position in Race 1, which means pole position in Race 2. I think is possible..."*

**2009 FIA World Touring Car Championship  
QUALIFYING - COMBINED CLASSIFICATION**

POS	NO	CLS	DRIVER	NAT	CAR	Q1	Q2
1	1		Yvan MULLER SEAT Sport	FRA	SEAT Leon TDI	1:24.345	1:24.196
2	4		Jordi GENE SEAT Sport	ESP	SEAT Leon TDI	1:24.796	1:24.315
3	2		Gabriele TARQUINI SEAT Sport	ITA	SEAT Leon TDI	1:24.537	1:24.355
4	5		Tiago MONTEIRO SEAT Sport	POR	SEAT Leon TDI	1:24.554	1:24.472
5	3		Rickard RYDELL SEAT Sport	SWE	SEAT Leon TDI	1:24.845	1:24.486
6	7		Jorg MULLER BMW Team Germany	GER	BMW 320si	1:24.706	1:24.637
7	8		Augusto FARFUS BMW Team Germany	BRA	BMW 320si	1:24.772	1:24.749
8	12		Alain MENU Chevrolet	SUI	Chevrolet Cruze	1:24.534	1:24.831
9	14		Nicola LARINI Chevrolet	ITA	Chevrolet Cruze	1:25.010	1:24.831
10	6		Andy PRIAULX BMW Team UK	GBR	BMW 320si	1:24.772	1:24.933
11	10		Sergio HERNANDEZ BMW Team Italy-Spai	ESP	BMW 320si	1:25.046	
12	23	I	Felix PORTEIRO Scuderia Proteam	ESP	BMW 320si	1:25.377	
13	11		Robert HUFF Chevrolet	GBR	Chevrolet Cruze	1:25.456	
14	9		Alessandro ZANARDI BMW Team Italy-Spai	ITA	BMW 320si	1:25.488	
15	25	I	Franz ENGSTLER Liqui Moly Team	GER	BMW 320si	1:26.018	
16	22	I	Tom BOARDMAN SUNRED Engineering	GBR	SEAT Leon	1:26.026	
17	27	I	Stefano D'ASTE Wiechers-Sport	ITA	BMW 320si	1:26.076	
18	21	I	Tom CORONEL SUNRED Engineering	NED	SEAT Leon	1:26.220	

Curitiba

Subject to technical scrutineering.

Circuit Length = 3.6950 km.

Weather/Track: Cloudy 25°/Dry 30°

Start: 16:00 End: 16:43

Race Director:	Steward:	Timekeeper:	Issued at:
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**2009 FIA World Touring Car Championship  
 QUALIFYING - COMBINED CLASSIFICATION Continued.**

POS	NO	CLS	DRIVER	NAT	CAR	Q1	Q2
19	28	I	Marin COLAK Colak Racing Team	CRO	SEAT Leon	1:26.281	
20	18		Jaap van LAGEN LADA Sport	NED	LADA 110	1:26.753	
21	24	I	George TANEV Scuderia Proteam	BUL	BMW 320si	1:26.940	
22	26	I	Kristian POULSEN Liqui Moly Team	DEN	BMW 320si	1:27.578	
23	19		Kirill LADYGIN LADA Sport	RUS	LADA 110	1:27.585	
24	20		Viktor SHAPOVALOV LADA Sport	RUS	LADA 110	1:28.035	
QUALIFICATION MAXIMA						1:30.249	

Subject to technical scrutineering.

Weather/Track: Cloudy 25°/Dry 30°

Curitiba

Circuit Length = 3.6950 km.

Start: 16:00 End: 16:43

Race Director:	Steward:	Timekeeper:	Issued at:
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