



ROUNDS 5 & 6 – FRANCIACORTA, ITALY QUALIFYING REPORT

THOMPSON CLAIMS POLE IN CLOSE QUALIFYING

James Thompson completed a clean sweep in the first two days of the FIA European Touring Car Cup's final meeting. The Briton, who had been fastest in the four earlier test and practice sessions claimed pole position at Franciacorta during this afternoon's qualifying.

Thompson and his Hartmann Racing Honda Accord car set a provisional fastest lap of 1:15.892 on their first run, five minutes into the session. Less than ten minutes later they encored, bettering the fastest time with a 1:15.512. It was not a useless effort, because his closest rivals Michel Nykjær and Tomas Engström were going faster and faster lap after lap. At the wheel of his SUNRED SEAT León TDI Nykjær managed to improve four times, going down from 1:16.908 to 1:15.642, which was enough to secure a front-row starting position, only one tenth off the pole.

Engström in his Honda Accord never gave up and improved his time by half-a-second, claiming the third spot on the grid. The Swede's first attempt was a 1:16.598 and his last a 1:16.152.

Thompson's team-mate Wolfgang Tremel secured the fourth starting position, while the Turkish duo of Ibrahim Okyay and Aytaç Biter will share the fourth row.

Serbian racer Vojislav Lekić topped the Super Production with a lap of 1:21.541 in his Honda Civic. His Italian rival Fabio Fabiani spun in the late stages while trying to recover.

The Ford Fiesta of Carsten Seifert set the fastest lap in the Super 1600 class (1:22.390), beating German countrymen Charlie Geipel and Jens Löhnig.

STEWARDS AMEND S1600 CAR WEIGHTS

Following a report from the FIA Technical Delegate, the Stewards of the meeting decided to significantly reduce the success ballast for the Super 1600 cars.

The ballast imposed by art. 82 a) of the Sporting Regulations was reduced from 1 to 0.5 kilos per point scored in the Drivers' classification.

The ballast imposed by art. 82 b) according to the results obtained in the previous event was also cut by half and the new scale is the following: 15 kg to the first, 12.5 to the second, 10 to the third, etc.

This meant that Carsten Seifert's and Jens Löhnig's Ford Fiesta cars are now laden by 32 and 25 extra kilos respectively.

RIKLI'S QUALIFYING TIMES DISALLOWED

Swiss racer Peter Rikli had all his qualifying times disallowed by the Stewards as his Honda Civic car failed to comply with the ride height.

Rikli who had qualified seventh, will be therefore demoted to the back of the grid for tomorrow's Race 1 alongside his team-mate Jörg Schori who did not match with the qualification maxima.

SUNDAY'S RACES LIVE ON EUROSPORT

Franciaorta's two 20-lap races will be broadcast live tomorrow on Eurosport International.

Race 1 at 12:00 and Race 2 at 13:20.

DRIVERS' QUALIFYING QUOTES

James THOMPSON (Honda Accord) – Pole position in Super 2000

"It was closer and closer since yesterday's first test session. Today I had to push to the limit to maintain the lead and I'm sure that tomorrow we will have a couple of tough races. So far I'm very pleased. I had my car back after it was repaired following the crash I had in the Scandinavian Cup, and it handled perfectly. The team did a very good job."

Michel NYKJÆR (SEAT León TDI) – 2nd in Super 2000

"I used all my tyres to try and steal pole position from James. In any case they told me that tomorrow it will rain, so I did not need new slick tyres for the races. I was close to the pole, but a front row position is also good and tomorrow I will be aiming to claim a double victory like in Austria."

Tomas ENGSTRÖM (Honda Accord) – 3rd in Super 2000

"You are never completely happy when you are not on pole position. However, considering that we had a few technical problems, it was a good result. But we need to improve a little bit further for the races."

Vojislav LEKIĆ (Honda Civic) – Pole position in Super Production

"I am very happy with my pace. The car was perfect and it was relatively easy to set this lap time. This is a very technical track and I like it. But tomorrow I have to beat Fabiani to secure the title."

Carsten SEIFERT (Ford Fiesta ST) – Pole position Super 1600

"The team did a good job. It was exciting to fight against my fellow countrymen Geipel and Löhnig, and this was also the best way to start defending my 2009 title."

2010 FIA EUROPEAN TOURING CAR CUP QUALIFYING RESULT

POS	NO	CL	DRIVER	NAT	CAR	TIME	LAPS	GAP	KPH
1	1	S20	James THOMPSON	GBR	Honda Accord Euro R	1:15.512	6		120.09
2	21	S20	Michel NYKJAER	DEN	SEAT Leon 2.0 TDI	1:15.642	13	0.130	119.88
3	2	S20	Tomas ENGSTROM	SWE	Honda Accord Euro R	1:16.152	14	0.640	119.08
4	4	S20	Wolfgang TREML	AUT	Honda Accord Euro R	1:17.060	8	1.548	117.68
5	13	S20	Ibrahim OKYAY	TUR	BMW 320si	1:17.260	16	1.748	117.37
6	10	S20	Aytac BITER	TUR	BMW 320si	1:17.434	17	1.922	117.11
7	29	S20	Massimo ZANIN	ITA	BMW 320i E46	1:18.583	21	3.071	115.39
8	30	S20	Mariano BELLIN	ITA	BMW 320i E46	1:19.209	19	3.697	114.48
QUALIFICATION MAXIMA						1:20.797			
20	S20	Jorg SCHORI	SUI	Honda Accord Euro R	1:21.154	4	5.642	111.74	
54	SP	Vojislav LEKIC	SRB	Honda Civic Type-R	1:21.541	16	6.029	111.21	
71	S16	Carsten SEIFERT	GER	Ford Fiesta ST	1:22.390	14	6.878	110.06	
76	S16	Charlie GEIPEL	GER	Ford Fiesta 1.6 16V	1:23.089	13	7.577	109.14	
72	S16	Jens LOHNIG	GER	Ford Fiesta 1.6 16V	1:23.184	17	7.672	109.01	
52	SP	Fabio FABIANI	ITA	BMW 320i E46	1:23.439	17	7.927	108.68	
74	S16	Sergey KRYLOV	RUS	Ford Fiesta ST	1:25.076	18	9.564	106.59	
75	S16	Zeljko MARKOVIC	HRV	Citroen C2 VTS	1:31.137	14	15.625	99.50	

Car 19, All times disallowed, Stewards decision 3 refers.
Weather/Track: Cloud/Dry

Franciacorta
Circuit Length = 2.5190 km.
Start: 14:20 End: 14:50

Steward:	Steward:	Steward:
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2010 FIA EUROPEAN TOURING CAR CUP QUALIFYING RESULT - S2000

POS	NO	CL	DRIVER	NAT	CAR	TIME	LAPS	GAP	KPH
1	1	S20	James THOMPSON	GBR	Honda Accord Euro R	1:15.512	6		120.09
2	21	S20	Michel NYKJAER	DEN	SEAT Leon 2.0 TDI	1:15.642	13	0.130	119.88
3	2	S20	Tomas ENGSTROM	SWE	Honda Accord Euro R	1:16.152	14	0.640	119.08
4	4	S20	Wolfgang TREML	AUT	Honda Accord Euro R	1:17.060	8	1.548	117.68
5	13	S20	Ibrahim OKYAY	TUR	BMW 320si	1:17.260	16	1.748	117.37
6	10	S20	Aytac BITER	TUR	BMW 320si	1:17.434	17	1.922	117.11
7	29	S20	Massimo ZANIN	ITA	BMW 320i E46	1:18.583	21	3.071	115.39
8	30	S20	Mariano BELLIN	ITA	BMW 320i E46	1:19.209	19	3.697	114.48
QUALIFICATION MAXIMA						1:20.797			
20	S20	Jorg SCHORI	SUI	Honda Accord Euro R		1:21.154	4	5.642	111.74

Car 19, All times disallowed, Stewards decision 3 refers.
Weather/Track: Cloud/Dry

Franciacorta
Circuit Length = 2.5190 km.
Start: 14:20 End: 14:50

Steward:	Steward:	Steward:
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2010 FIA EUROPEAN TOURING CAR CUP QUALIFYING RESULT - SUPER PRODUCTION

POS	NO	CL	DRIVER	NAT	CAR	TIME	LAPS	GAP	KPH
54	SP		Vojislav LEKIC	SRB	Honda Civic Type-R	1:21.541	16		111.21
52	SP		Fabio FABIANI	ITA	BMW 320i E46	1:23.439	17	1.898	108.68

Weather/Track: Cloud/Dry

Franciaorta
Circuit Length = 2.5190 km.
Start: 14:20 End: 14:50

Steward:	Steward:	Steward:
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2010 FIA EUROPEAN TOURING CAR CUP QUALIFYING RESULT - S1600

POS	NO	CL	DRIVER	NAT	CAR	TIME	LAPS	GAP	KPH
71	S16		Carsten SEIFERT	GER	Ford Fiesta ST	1:22.390	14		110.06
76	S16		Charlie GEIPEL	GER	Ford Fiesta 1.6 16V	1:23.089	13	0.699	109.14
72	S16		Jens LOHNIG	GER	Ford Fiesta 1.6 16V	1:23.184	17	0.794	109.01
74	S16		Sergey KRYLOV	RUS	Ford Fiesta ST	1:25.076	18	2.686	106.59
75	S16		Zeljko MARKOVIC	HRV	Citroen C2 VTS	1:31.137	14	8.747	99.50

Weather/Track: Cloud/Dry

Franciaorta
Circuit Length = 2.5190 km.
Start: 14:20 End: 14:50

Steward:	Steward:	Steward:
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