



Donison, Chirag, Shahan, grab pole in penultimate round of 13th JK Tyre FMSCI National Rotax Max Championship

Kolhapur: Senior Max racer Ricky Donison and Micro Max star Shahan Ali grabbed pole positions for Sunday's pre-finals in the fourth and penultimate round of the 13th JK Tyre FMSCI National Rotax Max Championship here at the Mohite Racing Academy on Saturday.

The Junior Max category saw championship leader Manav Sharma suffer a major setback, unable to start in either of the two heats with a kart problem. That allowed Chirag Ghorpade of Bangalore take pole position for Sunday, winning both his heats on Saturday.

Donison of BPC Racing, the championship leader with 252 points, was in a league of his own, winning both his heats on an action-packed day.

The Bangalore lad was in fine form right through the day, doing the fastest lap of the day in the qualifying round. He needed just 51.750 seconds to underline his form and mental fortitude to jump into. He built a huge lead in the first heat in the second lap itself and went on to win the race with an impressive timing of 13:08.349 minutes.

In the second Heat too, he jumped ahead of the pack quickly and won it in 12:56.490 minutes. Local lad Dhruv Mohite (Mohite's Racing; third with 243 points) gave his fans a lot to cheer by claiming P2, by finishing second in the first heat and third in the second heat. His effort was even more commendable as he started in the fifth position in H1 and clawed his way up steadily, taking down three determined racers in his wake. He clocked a remarkable 52.553 seconds in the tenth lap and finished the race in 13:17.138 minutes to show his familiarity with the track where he has been racing since he was a kid.

The second heat, however, saw Nayan Chatterjee of Mumbai (Meco; fifth with 229 points) outwitting Dhruv and claiming the second place. That was enough to give him P3 for Sunday. Vishnu Prasad of Chennai (Meco) took P4 while another Kolhapur racer, Krishnaraaj Mahadik taking the sixth place in the grid.

In the Junior Max category, Chirag of BPC Racing proved to be the surprise package of the day. Currently trailing at fifth place in the championship race with 231 points, he grabbed the pole position for the first heat, doing a the fastest lap in the qualifying round. That was enough to put him ahead of the pack in, both, Heat 1 and Heat 2.

His Bangalore city mate Yash Aradhya of Meco Racing finished second in the two heats to take P2. Jonathan Kuriakose of Mumbai finished third in Heat 1 and fourth in Heat 2 to take P3. Twelve-year-old Shahan Ali won both his heats in the Micro Max rather comfortably, and might well pocket the championship in the penultimate race itself. He is comfortably ahead with 262 points and two wins on Sunday might be enough to put him beyond reach.



Kunal Vinod of Bangalore will start at P2 while Pune's Aadityansh of Rayo Racing will start at P3, after showing speed and consistency on Saturday.

Shahan of Mecco Racing looked relaxed in the paddock and sure of himself behind the wheel. He stormed into the lead in the qualifying round with a nippy lap of 57.479, and was virtually uncatchable all through the day. In Heat 1, he needed just 9:38.065 minutes to finish the 10 laps while he took 9:38.366 mins in the second to underline his class and pedigree.

Pune's Aadityansh of Rayo Racing, who pulled off a surprise in the qualifying by finishing second held on to his position to take the second position. He however faded away in Heat 2, finishing sixth. Kunal Vinod of Bangalore, representing Birel Art, made a desperate charge after squandering his P3 in Heat 1, to finish a commendable second in Heat 2. That will see him start in Pole position on Sunday for the pre-finals.

Ruhaan Alva who is currently second in the championship race will have to fight hard to reclaim his position after finishing seventh and fifth in the two heats.

Race Results:

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MICRO MAX

Heat 1

1. Shahan Ali Mohsin, Agra (9:38.065); 2. Aadityansh K, Pune (9:47.562); 3. Kunal Vinod, Bangalore (9:47.753)

Heat 2

1. Shahan Ali Mohsin, Agra (9:38.366); 2. Kunal Vinod, Bangalore (9:47.586); 3. Arjun R, Bangalore (9:47.691)

JUNIOR MAX

Heat 1

1. Chirag Ghorpade, Bangalore (13:14.787); 2. Yash Aradhya, Bangalore (13:22.751); 3. Jonathan Kuriakose, Mumbai (13:31.690)

Heat 2

1. Chirag Ghorpade, Bangalore (13:07.783); 2. Yash Aradhya, Bangalore (13:09.935); 3. Jonathan Kuriakose, Mumbai (13:13.974)

SENIOR MAX

Heat 1

1. Ricky Donison, Bangalore (13:08.349); 2. Dhruv Mohite, Kolhapur (13:17.138); 3. Vishnu Prasad, Chennai (13:18.000)

Heat 2

1. Ricky Donison (12:56.490); 2. Nayan Chatterjee, Mumbai (13:10.094); 3. Dhruv Mohite (13:10.165)

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About JK Tyre Motorsport:

JK Tyre has always been closely associated with the world of sports. Almost three decades back the company laid down a long term and sustained approach to promote Motorsport. Participating

in this form of the sport has helped the company in continuously updating its products to meet the challenges of grueling Indian conditions. The sport at that time in India was perceived for elite but JK Tyre took upon itself to package and redesign the sport to suit the masses. The company not only made the sport affordable but also equivalent to International operating standards. JK Tyre's foray into Motorsport was a well thought out strategic decision to not only use and develop this virgin branding platform but also to realize the dreams of making India a force in the field of motor sport.

In 2011, the company acquired the Formula BMW Series and rechristened it as the JK Racing Asia Series (JKRAS). With this acquisition, JK Tyre created history in Indian Motorsport by becoming the first Indian company to acquire an FIA accredited series. By taking over the series, JK Tyre promises to utilize it as a platform to encourage and support the world's best racing drivers and promote India as one of Asia's motorsport capitals. Thus, JK Tyre has conquered two steps in the motorsport program where the new racing aspirants first establish themselves in

India, then graduate to Asian level i.e. to Formula BMW, which is now JKRAS and then they move to higher levels of racing. JK Tyre now stands closer to achieving its mission of bringing world-class motorsport to the Indian masses.

The Racing and Karting programme by JK Tyre has been the breeding ground for the country's motorsport talents like NarainKarthikeyan, Armaan Ebrahim, Karun Chandhok, Aditya Patel and other emerging talent.

Another pioneering initiative was the launch of the Truck Racing Championship in India in partnership with Tata Motors. The company developed & designed „JetRacing“-the new



generation truck racing tyres especially for this application. With this, JK Tyre became the first tyre company to produce truck racing tyres in India. The combination of the Prima trucks fitted with Jet Racing received an overwhelming response from participants and has definitely brought in a revolution in the Indian racing scenario.



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