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Sunday, 08 March 2015

The performance of the weekend in the combined TC/TCA/TCB event at the The Nissan Grand Prix of Texas brought to you by Motul was by Johan Schwartz, who pulled the hat-trick in his No. 25 ZEROCancer/CASgroup/CustomDieCasts Tech Sport Racing Chevy Sonic, taking all three rounds of TCB and establishing a commanding lead in the championship. Vesko Kozarov, in the No. 3 Skullcandy Nissan Altima, won in TC, while Jason Wolfe, in his No. 36 Wolfe Trucking/Kinetic Motorsports Kia Forte Koup, claimed honors in TCA.

With the decision made to do a flying start due to the wet conditions that would last throughout, it was Kozarov going from his sixth spot on the grid to the lead on lap one and holding it until the end and taking the Cadillac Move of the Race for his tremendous start.

While Kozarov was making his move his Skullcandy/Nissan/Autism Society Nissan Altima teammate Jason Cherry in the No. 13 also made a great start going from eighth starting position to third. Sandwiched between the two was polesitter Andrew Aquilante in the No. 32 Calvert Dynamics/Phoenix Performance Ford Mustang V6.

By lap two Kozarov had checked out with an early lead of more than three seconds over the field with Aquilante holding a slim lead over Cherry who built a 1.5-second gap to Adam Poland, driving the No. 33 Edge Addicts/Texas Track Works/EASTEX Motor Sports Mazda MX5.

Behind this battle the group of Porsches – driven by John Weisberg in his No. 40 REDCOM Laboratories/Color Track/Red Line Boxster, Corey Fergus in the No. 00 USLED/Axis Roofing/AERO/RSS/Motul, Motorsports Promotions Cayman and

Cory Friedman in his No. 03 Mac Papers/Hastings Fiberglass Autometrics Motorsports Cayman – went three wide across the stripe only to have Weisberg drop out of the race on the following lap after contact with Ian Lacy in the No. 43 VP Racing Fuels Ford Mustang V6.

Meanwhile, the No. 14 of Nathan Stacy turned up the wick in his 3R Racing/Stacy Racing Volvo C30 turning in fast laps and moving up to pass yesterday's double winner Cody Ellsworth in the No. 04 Mac Papers/Hastings Fiberglass Autometrics Motorsports Cayman to take over seventh.

On lap five Friedman set a new fast lap getting by Aquilante to take over third who was followed by Fergus and Ellsworth. Over the next two laps Friedman was able to get by Cherry to take second, a position he would hold to the end.

At the halfway mark it was Kozarov with just under an eight-second lead over Friedman, followed by Cherry, Fergus, and Ellsworth.

Next to take up the charge was Ellsworth ,who got by Fergus to take over fourth on lap eight and then setting a fast lap to get by Cherry on lap nine to take over the third spot that he would hold to the end. On lap 11 Fergus was the next to take on the Altima of Cherry making a great fight for fourth with Fergus getting it done and Cherry having to settle for fifth on the day.

In the end it was Kozarov leading wire-to wire for the win followed by Friedman, Ellsworth, Fergus and Cherry.

In TCA it was Wolfe taking the lead over Tony Rivera in the No. 86 Eurotech, Brass Monkey Racing Scion FR-S, earning the StopTech Brake Late, Finish First award and Shea Holbrook in her No. 67 Lucas Oil/BUBBA Burger/Hendrick Honda Civic Si.

By lap five Wolfe had secured a 15-second lead over Rivera while Juan Carlos Casa Diego, driving the No. 5 NDP Motorsports Honda Civic Si made a move to get by Holbrook and eventually getting around Rivera for second place.

Three laps later it was Holbrook getting by Rivera in Turn 3 only to spin in the wet and tricky conditions dropping back to fifth behind Patrick Seguin from Ottawa, Ontario in his No. 49 Let's Hug it Out Brandon Peterson Racing Honda Civic Si now in fourth.

Holbrook later came under attack by Emilee Tominovich in her No. 72 Children's Tumor Foundation/Honda Performance Development/Racing4Research.org Compass360 Racing Honda Civic Si. Tominovich got by as the two drivers battled over the final lap, but Holbrook ultimately came out on top.

At the checker it was Wolfe taking the win followed by Casa Diego, Rivera, Seguin, and Holbrook.

In TCB ,the race was another battle between the No. 25 Chevy Sonic of Johan Schwartz and the No. 58 of Glenn Nixon, driving his Racing.ca/Nixon Prosports/LaptopScreen.com/Miniusa.com MINI Cooper, along with the No. 7 of Jason Fichter in the Surf Fire & Security Breathless Racing MINI Cooper.

Landing the Optima Best Start Award was Wei Lu driving the No. 59 Racing.ca/Nixon Prosports/LaptopScreen.com/Miniusa.com Racing MINI Cooper that went from ninth to first on the start ultimately finishing in fifth.

For the first seven laps it was Schwartz leading Nixon. On lap 8, Nixon made contact with Schwartz resulting in the No. 25 Sonic getting sideways. Schwartz made an amazing save to keep his car on track and resumed pursuit of Nixon. The contact resulted in a drive through penalty for the driver of the No. 58 Mini, which dropped him to third place where he would finish.

In the end it was Schwartz going three for three on the weekend, followed by Fichter and Nixon in third.

The VP Racing Fuels Hard Charger award went to the No. 55 driven by James Wilson in his Black Armor Helmets Mazda 2 for moving up 14 positions in the overall standings. The Invisible Glass Clean Pass of the Race Award was given to Friedman for his pass on the No. 13 Skullcandy Team Nissan Nissan Altima of Jason Cherry.

"The guys did the hard work; I did the easy work," said Kozarov. "It was wet. It really goes to Nissan, Skullcandy, they did a great job putting the team together and they did all the hard work and I had all the fun. I don't know if I excel in wet weather, but I enjoy it. Our platform is not exactly competitive enough in the dry as we saw over the weekend but the wet is the equalizer so it kind of took care of that."

"It feels great," said Wolfe. "I hope to win the championship again so it is good to get this first win out of the way. The conditions were super wet in the beginning but slowly drying so the line changed a little bit but kept her under control and brought her home for the win."

"Three wins in a row! Today was completely different, a tough race out there," said Schwartz. "It was warmer the last few days but today was the warmest I've been in the car because it was a lot of work to keep the car on the track. I got hit and knocked the tow out a little bit. I'm tickled, thank you to my sponsors and to Keith and Devin, they worked so hard on the car, obviously got it back in the winners circle again, so thanks to them."

Catch all the TC/TCA/TCB action from the Nissan Grand Prix of Texas brought to you by Motul on CBS Sports Network, Wednesday, March 18 at 9 pm. EST.

TC/TCA/TCB drivers will race next at the Canadian Grand Prix Presented by Audi May 15-17 at the Canadian Tire Motorsport Park.

AUSTIN, TX - Results from Sunday's 15 lap 51 mile Pirelli World Challenge Championship TC/TCA/TCB Round 3 race, part of the Nissan Grand Prix of Texas brought to you by Motul at Circuit of the Americas, with finishing position, class, starting position in parentheses, driver, hometown, car, laps and reason out (if any).

1. TC, (6), Vesco Kozarov, Salt Lake City, Utah, Nissan Altima, 15.
2. TC, (7), Cory Friedman, Charleston, S.C., Porsche Cayman, 15, -5.359.
3. TC, (5), Cody Ellsworth, Jupiter, FL, Porsche Cayman, 15, -5.616.
4. TC, (2), Corey Fergus(R), Columbus, Ohio, Porsche Cayman, 15, -11.681.
5. TC, (8), Jason Cherry, Gambrills, Md., Nissan Altima, 15, -12.567.
6. TC, (9), Nathan Stacy, Owesso, Okla., Volvo C30, 15, -14.334.
7. TC, (3), Ernie Francis_Jr, Dania, Fla., MAZDA MX-5, 15, -20.447.
8. TC, (1), Andrew Aquilante, Chester Springs, Pa., Ford Mustang V6, 15, -21.362.
9. TC, (4), Adam Poland, Mt. Vernon, Texas, Mazda MX-5, 15, -27.198.
10. TC, (15), Alex Welch, Englewood, Colo., Volkswagon Jetta GLI, 15, -1:11.885.
11. TC, (14), Paul Street(R), Anniston, Ala., Honda Accord, 15, -1:35.751.
12. TC, (11), Austin Snader, Sealy, Texas, Mazda MX-5, 15, -1:56.387.
13. TC, (13), Jeff Altenburg, Ellicott City, Md., Volkswagon Jetta GLI, 0.
14. TC, (17), Randy Hale, Haddam, Conn., Mazda MX-5, 0.
15. TC, (18), Michael Pettiford, Louisville, Colo., Pontiac Solstice GXP, 0.
16. TC, (16), Dinah Weisberg(R), Webster, N.Y., Mazda MX-5, 5, -10 laps.
17. TC, (12), John Weisberg, Webster, N.Y., Porsche Cayman, 4, -11 laps.
18. TC, (10), Ian Lacy, Salt Lake City, Utah, Ford Mustang V6, 4, -11 laps.
19. TCA, (21), Jason Wolfe(R), Mt. Vernon, Ohio, Kia Forte Koup, 15.
20. TCA, (24), Juan Carlos Casa Diego, Honda Civic, 15, -22.882.
21. TCA, (19), Tony Rivera, Vista, Calif., Scion FRS Coupe, 15, -25.484.
22. TCA, (25), Patrick Seguin, Ottawa, Ontario, Honda Civic Si, 15, -33.047.

23. TCA, (22), Shea Holbrook, Orlando, FL, Honda Civic Si, 14, -36.824.
24. TCA, (27), Emily Tominovich, Clarksville, MD, Honda Civic Si, 14, -37.586.
25. TCA, (20), Paul Holton, Honda Civic Si, 14, -48.653.
26. TCA, (28), Robby Foley(R), Randolph, N.J., Mazda RX-8, 14, -1:02.579.
27. TCA, (26), Kris Wright(R), Pittsburgh, Pa., Kia Forte Koup, 14, -1:18.336.
28. TCA, (29), Samantha Tan(R), Gormley, Ontario, Kia Forte Koup, 0.
29. TCA, (23), Kevin Anderson, Huntington Station, N.Y., Mazda RX8, 2, -13 laps.
30. TCB, (30), Johan Schwartz, Huntersville, S.C., Chevy Sonic, 14.
31. TCB, (32), Jason Fichter, Jupiter, Fla., MINI Cooper, 14, -13.133.
32. TCB, (31), Glenn Nixon, Mission, British Columbia, MINI Cooper, 14, -15.794.
33. TCB, (40), James Wilson, Kyle, Texas, Mazda 2, 14, -33.105.
34. TCB, (33), Van Svenson(R), Hyde Park, N.Y., Chevrolet Sonic, 14, -35.365.
35. TCB, (38), Wei Lu(R), Richmond, British Columbia, MINI Cooper, 14, -37.120.
36. TCB, (36), Chris Holter, Rochester, Minn., Mazda 2, 14, -53.033.
37. TCB, (34), PJ Groenke, Toronto, Canada, MINI Cooper, 14, -56.832.
38. TCB, (35), Andrei Kisel, N. Vancouver, British Columbia, MINI Cooper, 14, -1:05.042.
39. TCB, (39), Jeremy Rohan(R), Sugar Land, Texas, Ford Fiesta, 13, -1:00.197.
40. TCB, (41), Tom Noble, Medina, Minn., MINI Cooper, 13, -1:11.891.
41. TCB, (43), Marc Sherrin(R), Lucas, Texas, Ford Fiesta, 13, -1:20.204.
42. TCB, (42), Timothy Mincey_Sr(R), Port St Lucie, Fla., Honda Fit, 13, -1:54.055.
43. TCB, (37), Jay Salinsky, Tampa, FL, Honda Fit, 12, -2 lap.
44. TCB, (44), Steve Taake, Houston, Texas, Mazda 2, 0.

Time of race: 40 minutes, 53.801 seconds.

Average speed: 74.822 mph

Margin of victory: 5.359 Seconds

Lap leaders: Laps 1-15, #3 Vesco Kozarov

Fastest race lap: #03 Cory Friedman, 2:41.397 (75.837 mph)

Fastest qualifier: #32 Andrew Aquilante, 2:26.356 (83.631 mph)