

Twister-Racing
Formula SimRacing Malaysia Press Release



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Roy Kolbe wins FSR WC Malaysia event

Twister-Racing with solid season start in WC and WS

All the hard work has paid off, and Twister-Racing is back at the top: After its last victory in Shanghai 2005, Roy Kolbe secured the the top spot for himself and the team last Sunday in Formula SimRacing's first season race at Malaysia in the World Championship category. The 2004 World Champion flew to pole position in qualifying and demonstrated an impressive race-pace, his fastest lap being no less than half a second quicker than the ones of anyone else. His speed led broadcasting commentators to think Roy was on a four stopper, whereas the planned three-stop-strategy worked out perfectly. In fact, Roy never really had to push over the limit and eventually crossed the line in first position after the 56 laps race distance.

Twister-Racing had to replace second main driver Ernesto De Angelis on short notice due to massive hardware problems. It was test driver Joakim Bengtsson to jump into the cockpit of car number six, however the Swede was not able to show his really fast pace of the tests. Several unlucky situations with other competitors didn't make his life easier either, which made him ending up in tenth spot.

The World Series events started off with Phillip Estrada finishing 5th in the Amateur category in his very first online race thanks to a disciplined and couraged drive, whereas Peter Miller unfortunately wasn't able to finish the race.

The first podium of the weekend went to Emre Uysal, driving in the World Series Pro category and finishing on a solid third.

In the World Series' highest class, in Ace, it was Domagoj Malezic to do a superb job in a difficult qualifying and race, where the Croatian driver was hindered due to massive FPS problems. Nevertheless, the 17 year-old driver left no doubt of dominantly winning the race until his wheel hardware failed 11 laps from the end, putting him and the Twister-Racing car into the wall, ending his race.

Teammate Klaus Kaag wasn't more lucky either and had to abandon the race shortly after half-distance.

All in all though, it was a solid season start for Twister-Racing. Of course, Roy Kolbe's dominance in the world's highest formula car type simracing league weighed the most for the team this weekend, but also in the World Series Twister-Racing is looking strong and eager to transform its good pace into good results in the future.

Team Member comments:

Joel Roux (Team License Owner):

“As the first round of the season there have been obviously some glitches throughout the week-end, but with the broadcasting going on air just ahead of the race, it has brought some really positive feeling at last. Our win today in World Championship is the first since Shanghai 2005. It's a relieving reward for the hard work in the last 15 months. We have been left with almost nothing last year and so we started being very hungry here. Roy has been sensational, but his result is the reflect of the team effort, from each individual member. Joakim did the best he could today to replace Ernesto. I'm disappointed though he couldn't consolidate our performance enough for a championship lead. We're delighted to start the season in style and we will keep going with the momentum to do even better in the next races.”

Dennis Hirrle (Team Manager):

“I'm delighted about Twister-Racing's victory here at the first race in Malaysia. Roy was absolutely stunning, his driving was excellent, no mistakes, and everything went according to plan. Our strategy worked out perfectly as well. Joakim was a little unfortunate and he was not able to show his real pace today, nevertheless I would like to thank him for replacing Ernesto who's having huge hardware problems at the moment. Also, Phil and Emre did very solid jobs in Amateur and Pro respectively, and a silly hardware problem prevented Domagoj from winning the World Series Ace race in a dominant fashion. Nevertheless, this weekend was a reasonable start into the season. I want to say thanks to the whole team and to our sponsors NaturalPoint and HiMa.”

Roy Kolbe (FSR World Championship Driver):

"Fantastic first race for us! The car was simply perfect and my new hardware helped me a lot. The framerate is now similar like in practice alone, so I can drive similar laptimes in the actual race, too. I want to thank everyone in my team, because we really worked on each detail to make this result possible. Thank you!

In the race I had no major problem, just one critical situation in the last stint, where I nearly lost the car due to too cold rear tires. Driving slower is really more dangerous than to drive on the limit all the time. I was only worried about losing all my practise in T1, but Bruno started badly, so everything went well for me."

Joakim Bengtsson (FSR World Championship Reserve Driver):

“Unfortunately I couldn't go quick enough this time. I really don't know why, because in the race almost a full second was gone compared to my testing pace. I ended up in tenth. I had some nice fights though, with Marconi and Kiriakopoulos, and one not so nice with Binz. Basically his car was warping off the track and then just warped back in front of me. I had to leave a big safety margin when trying to pass and still had to stand on everything not to hit him on occasions when his car warped out just ahead of me. Hopefully Eny can solve his issues for next race, because I'm obviously not quick enough to drive WC this year. Could have been a freak race when everyone drove too many practise laps and they will slow down as season progresses. Hopefully that is the case.”

Domagoj Malezic (FSR World Series Ace Driver):

"Firstly, I would like to thank the whole Twister-Racing management for helping me to even start this race due to my hardware problems. In qualifying I was getting from 7 to 22 FPS in and managed a 1:29.2 time and I was happy just to finish qualifying. My race start was good and I managed to get away from Steve Kasimatis from Diamond very easily with such hard situation with low FPS. I was little bit surprised and I thought he is on 2 stop strategy. But he wasn't. I wasn't pushing at all, I just hoped to finish this race. But on lap 46 I knew something went wrong when my car just went into the wall. I realised my wheel software failed and that was it. Like you plug it off from your PC and you have no control over it and it saves your previous position of the wheel. I am not disappointed about my failure as we expected to retire before the race anyway. So we didn't have anything to lose. Thanks to Roy, Dennis, Joel, Joakim and all of that great Twister family for their time and we can surely hope for even greater moments during this season."

Klaus Kaag (FSR World Series Ace Driver):

"When the formation lap was beginning I realized I had a problem, so instead of starting from 13th I started from the pits. For the start itself it was not that bad for me. I didn't have problems with T1 incidents as many drivers had. My laptimes were very competitive from the back on the grid, and I was able to run the same laptimes as the top five except for Domagoj, but after an overtaking manouvre I had some serious damage on my FL suspension and my laptimes raised about two seconds per lap.

Then, when Domagoj came up to lap me I was just behind another driver. In T14 I lost downforce, and spun off the track. While accelerating I stalled my engine.

The positive thing is that I was able to do the same laptimes as the winner so we are definitely on the pace for the victories."

Phillip Estrada (FSR World Series Amateur Driver):

"I only was able to do the race because of all the help from the team. The guys helped me with my confidence, with my driving, putting me in a great car with a great setup, just so much more that I could keep going on and on.

Qualifying for my race was disorganized and ran late. There was much confusion about Parc Ferme, too.

No other problems though and I'm very happy to finish fifth in my first race. It was really a team effort though. For sure I would have never ever made it through the race if I didn't know the advice the team has been giving me."

Peter Miller (FSR World Series Amateur Driver):

"I started from 13th, at T1 I was already ninth. I got down to seventh before I was bumped at T1 and spun. Three laps later I spun at T11 and got stuck in the gravel, which meant the end of the race for me."