

Racing Bulletin



EST. 1907

PERFORMANCE DRIVEN™

VW Polo Cup

Champion Young Drivers second and third in Volkswagen Cup

The Champion Young Driver team came tantalisingly close for the second season in succession to taking the overall honours in the Engen Volkswagen Cup, but had to settle for second and third after a rain-affected final round at Kyalami on Saturday.

Gennaro Bonafede finished the season in second place after driving his Champion spark plug-backed Polo to second place in race one and fourth in race two. Team-mate Devin Robertson was third overall after finishing 13th in race one and second in race two.

The title went to Matthew Hodges, who won the opening race on Saturday and was third in the season's final confrontation. He accumulated 185 points from five wins and nine podiums. Bonafede scored 172 points from three wins and nine podiums, while Robertson ended the nine-round season with 156 points from four wins and a championship-leading 10 podiums.

Bonafede and Robertson arrived at Kyalami for the season finale nine and 15 points respectively behind Hodges. They got the weekend off to a good start with first (Bonafede) and third (Robertson) in qualifying on Saturday morning and Bonafede was confident ahead of race one after he drew pole position in the lucky draw.



RAC-1809
19/10/2009
championracing@gmail.com

ALWAYS A CHAMPION

www.championracing.co.za

Racing Bulletin



EST. 1907

PERFORMANCE DRIVEN™

VW Polo Cup

Champion Young Drivers second and third in Volkswagen Cup

He led Hodges by a second as the field of 18 Polos started lap four of the eight-lap race, when his gear lever broke and he had to complete the second half of the race battling to change gear with a 6 cm stump. Hodges got past him with three laps to go and despite his best efforts Bonafede had to settle for second ahead of Kieren Quarmby.

Robertson was adjudged to have jumped the start and, although he crossed the finish line in fifth place his 30-second penalty relegated him to 13th and out of the points.

The 2008 rookie of the year made up for his mistake in a wet race two, finishing second from second on the grid behind polesitter Miguel Pasqualli. Bonafede, rookie of the year in 2007, started fourth on the grid and was third behind his team-mate at the end of the first lap. He slipped back to sixth on lap four, trying hard in the slippery conditions and made up two places before the chequered flag came out to signal the end of an exciting and closely-fought season.

Bonafede: "We did our best, but just came up short. The broken gear lever didn't help but, to be honest, the championship was always going to be difficult to win after our problems in the first round (where he only scored three points after a mysterious engine problem saw him miss qualifying and the opening race). A big thank-you to my team for two great seasons."

Robertson: "Congratulations to Matthew. He was more consistent (Hodges scored in every round with Robertson out of the points in four races and Bonafede in one) and deserved his win. We gave him a good run for his money, but three DNFs didn't help me. I'd like to thank the team for all their hard work, which allowed me to win four races and score the most podiums."

Ronnie Erasmus, motor sport manager of Federal-Mogul, manufacturers of Champion spark plugs: "It is disappointing to come so close and not win the championship, for the second year in a row. But we improved on last year's result and our two talented young drivers were always in contention. With seven wins and 19 podiums from a very closely contested 18 races, it was a good performance by the whole Champion team."

RAC-1809
19/10/2009
championracing@gmail.com

ALWAYS A CHAMPION

www.championracing.co.za