

Busch won at Fontana



NASCAR NATIONWIDE

Kyle Busch claimed Joe Gibbs Racing's ninth-straight Fontana Nationwide win after reducing the lead of Penske's Sam Hornish Jr to nothing at the fourth caution. Regan Smith (JR Chevy) fought back from a lap down to finish third and now trails Hornish by 28 points in the championship.

EUROPEAN TOURING CAR

Czech Petr Fulin leads the championship after taking a wet class win, a second place and bonus points for pole at Monza. The Krenek BMW driver was beaten in the opener by the Honda Civic of Peter Rikli. Jordi Oriola and Nikolay Karamyshev won in their SEAT Leons as the ex-Eurocopa cars dominated the Super 2000 machines in the rain. Clio Cup UK graduate Nicolas Hamilton twice finished sixth in the one-make class for the SEATs.

CARRERA CUP ASIA

Former Porsche factory junior driver Martin Ragginger held off a determined effort from champion Alexandre Imperatori to win the Malaysian Grand Prix support event at Sepang by just 0.3s, with Earl Bamber third. Ex-GP2 racers Fairuz Fauzy and Ho-Pin Tung drove guest cars.

PRO MAZDA

A broken gear lever in qualifying limited Matthew Brabham to eighth on the St Petersburg grid, but the Andretti Autosport driver still won twice to increase his series lead. Juncos Racing's Diego Ferreira and Brabham's Andretti team-mate Shelby Blackstock had a second and a third each.

US F2000

Scott Hargrove won twice in St Petersburg for Cape Motorsports/Wayne Taylor Racing to increase his series lead as Wyatt Gooden took a pair of second places. Brits James Fletcher and Michael Epps took best results of eighth and 15th respectively.

MIDDLE-EAST RALLY

Nasser Al-Attiyah dominated the Kuwait Rally to take his 47th Middle-East Rally Championship win by 1m13.9s in his Autotek Ford Fiesta RRC. Regular series rival Khalid Al-Qassimi (Citroen DS3 RRC) and recent WRC2 event winner Abdulaziz Al-Kuwari (Ford) completed the podium.



Al-Attiyah on top again



Campana was delighted to win at Monza

AUTO GP SERIES MONZA (I), MARCH 23-24, RD 1/8

Bells ring out for Campana

THE LIFELINE OF AN OFFER TO RACE for globe-trotting restaurateur Giuseppe Cipriani salvaged former Italian Formula 3 champion Sergio Campana's wavering hopes of competing in this year's Auto GP series. The call arrived just two days before Monza's season opener...

Budget-strapped Campana greatly improved the prospect of extending his one-round deal by rewarding Cipriani with a debut victory for his new team, Ibiza Racing.

Euronova's exciting Formula 3 recruit Kimiya Sato took an impressive second place in race one, but the Japanese driver's reaction to the result was difficult to gauge through a sometimes formal demeanour.

"There's no problem," said team boss Vincenzo Sospiri. "But Kimiya really feels he has the ability to win, despite it being his first time here."

Sato realised his target in race two on Sunday. Unfazed by foul weather, the Japanese driver's enhanced commitment when running in thick spray produced a 20-second margin of victory and an early championship lead. Like Campana, Formula 2 champion Luciano Bacheta had also secured a late deal, and without the benefit of even a shakedown he produced a fine drive to finish second.

Former HRT grand prix driver Narain Karthikeyan partnered the Brit at Zele Racing. Zero mileage before practice and a tyre delamination in qualifying contributed to a modest 12th spot on the grid.

Pole, by a healthy margin, went to

Italian F3 champion Riccardo Agostini, but the Manor MP driver's qualifying form failed to translate into similarly dominant race pace. An entertaining three-car fight rapidly formed as he fought to hold off Campana and Sato.

The trio arrived at the first chicane on lap two in tight formation. Defending on the inside, Agostini cut the chicane and allowed Campana a clear path into the lead.

Campana's only drama came when lapping Meindert van Buuren at mid-distance. The Dutchman was not blue-flagged and attempted to stave off the leader. An unfortunate spin when wheel-to-wheel with Campana at the first chicane provided a scare, but no lasting damage.

Karthikeyan received a setback of being tagged into a spin on the opening lap, but a comeback charge netted a worthy fifth. Brake issues ruled the Indian out of action prematurely on Sunday.

Third-placed qualifier Vittorio Ghirelli, whose car went into safety mode at the lights, remarkably fought back to recapture third on the road. But a 2s penalty for cutting a chicane demoted the Super Nova man a spot.

Sunday's near-washout provided Ghirelli's opportunity to seal a podium position for keeps. Illustrating the difficulty of the conditions, the Italian narrowly avoided a collision with Bacheta on the cooldown lap after he failed to see the chequered flag.

● Peter Mills

RESULTS

Race 1 Sergio Campana, 14 laps in 23m40.402s; 2 Kimiya Sato, +7.575s; 3 Robert Visoiu; 4 Vittorio Ghirelli; 5 Narain Karthikeyan; 6 Antonio Spavone. **Race 2 1 Sato**, 14 laps in 32m25.073s; 2 Luciano Bacheta, +20.020s; 3 Ghirelli; 4 Campana; 5 Riccardo Agostini; 6 Visoiu. **Points 1** Sato, 39; 2 Campana, 36; 3 Ghirelli, 24; 4 Visoiu, 21; 5 Bacheta, 19; 6 Agostini, 15.



Sato won in awful conditions