

ART Grand Prix and Leclerc close to clinching the WSK Euro title

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Last weekend, the WSK Euro Series hosted the Championship' third race out of 2012 at the La Conca International Circuit. For the Karting Division of ART Grand Prix the weekend proved intense and ended with a positive second-place finish by Charles Leclerc in the KF2 class. It has been a really valuable result for the Monegasque driver, who will be lining-up for the last round at the Spanish Zuera track with an huge 75-point advantage over his followers. A key step towards the first goal set by ART Grand Prix and Leclerc himself.

In the KF2 class, Ben Barnicoat proved to be in great shape at La Conca. The British racer, supported by the Racing Steps Foundation, was slowed down by an engine issue while dominating his qualifying race by a wide margin. As a result, Ben started from the back in the Final but the race's outcome proved really profitable. Like Leclerc, Barnicoat showed great pace and managed to recover up to a 6th-place finish. Thanks to his results, he kept his name into the top-10 also in the Championship standings.

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Regarding the KZ1 championship, the weekend has been conditioned by the weather, as the heat caused a lot of tire issues, including carcass collapses that literally led to some tire explosions. Ben Hanley suffered from this type of problem in two heat races, so the Factory Team was forced to go for some more conservative set-up solutions in an attempt to avoid reliability problems in the final. In the feature race, Hanley started in 12th but recovered all the way up to 4th. He's now standing in 4th place in points.



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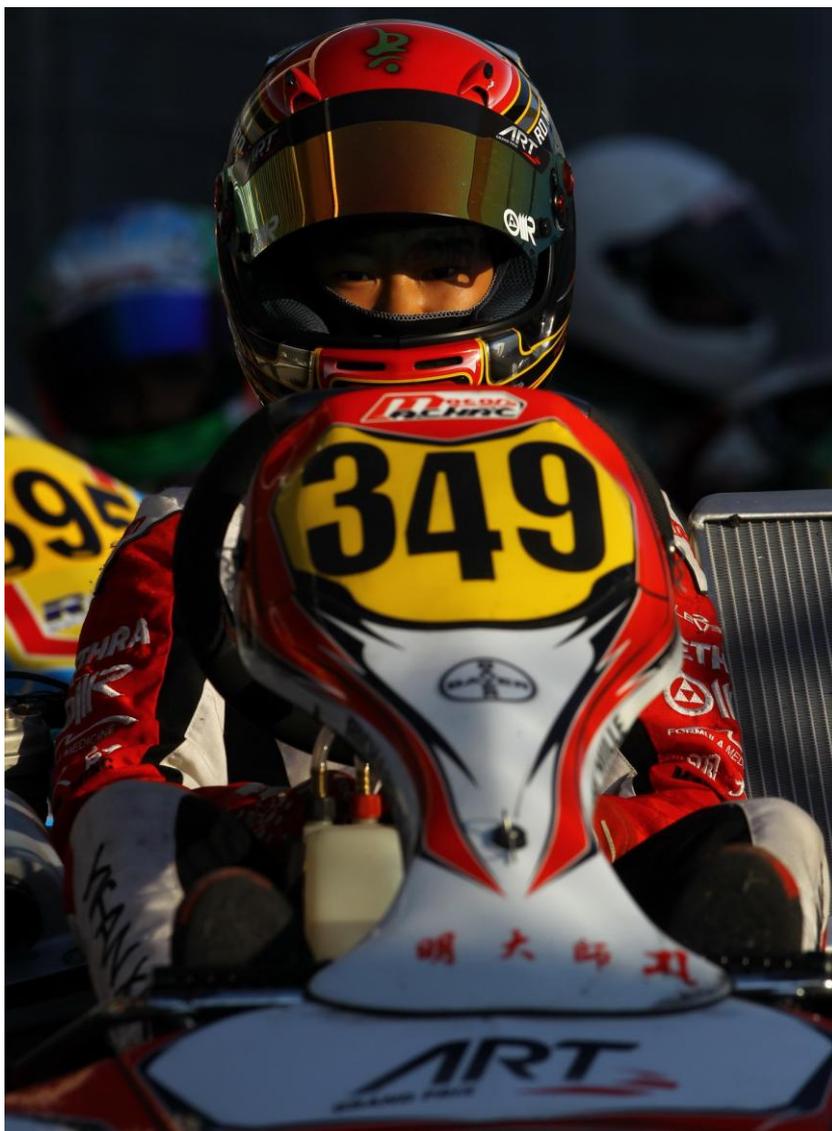
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The heat also played a big role in the KF3 class, resulting a key element in the Final. During the running of the qualification races, the rubber put on-track by the participants created a massive tire groove forcing the drivers to tame the huge grip of the Muro Leccese track with a "muscular" driving. The really young ART Grand Prix drivers suffered from that situation compared to the more experienced ones. Olli Peltola and Xia Yifan narrowly missed the access to the Final race but for them, as well as for Takuya Okada, Sérgio Sette Camara and Simo Laaksonen, the lessons learned were extremely important in terms of their professional growth.



The WSK Euro Series will be back on-track next time at the Zuera race course, close to Zaragoza, from August 2 to 5. The Spanish round will be the last of the 2012 schedule.

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