FACE TO FACE - ARTHUR CARBONNEL

VENI, VIDI, VICI

The French just arrived in CRG dominates in KZ2 at Le Mans

Text M. Boscariol - Photo Motorsportpictures

Home driver Arthur Carbonnel has been strong since Saturday, managing to start from pole position in the Super Heats on Sunday morning. After a third position in the Super Heat A, the KZ2 final saw an excellent starting point from Arthur Carbonnel who immediately ran away and kept the first position until the chequered flag, distancing Cristian Bertuca with four seconds.

Arthur, did you expect such a result?
Being at home, I was hoping for a result. I trained a lot on the circuit as soon as I had the opportunity, and I did a lot of races on this circuit when I was competing in France. All this allowed me to arrive at the race with a good base and a very good knowledge of the circuit, which made me more confident.

Tell us about that tight racing weekend (you were 126 drivers)
Friday was the last practice, we had worked a lot on the chassis, we just had a few adjustments to make before the qualifying. The latter went very well, on the track I was ideally placed, which allowed me to sign the 6th time overall, synonymous with the front row in the qualifying heats. The weekend then started very well for me, because when you start in front in the heats, it is easier to position yourself for the final phases, because in the majority of cases you avoid snagging problems, etc…So I was able to approach the heats calmly, I minimized the risks, aiming to be as regular as possible and not to make any mistakes. Thanks to this, we found ourselves on Saturday evening at the head of the race, with a few points in advance which allowed us to ensure the places in the super-heat. Then here we are at the most important moment of the weekend, the final: getting a good start was for me the key to the race, we knew we had the speed, whether it was dry or wet, we demonstrated over the weekend by putting in solid races. As I hoped, I had a very good start in the Final, which allowed me to create a gap in the first laps. I had a very good feeling over the laps, I was very focused so as not to make any mistakes, which allowed me to take off and finish the race without taking any more risks. When I crossed the line, it was magical, a moment impossible to explain, the pressure and the adrenaline disappeared completely and when I arrived at the pits, I could see the whole team and my family overjoyed, is a moment that will remain etched in my memory.

How did you feel about the material offered by your CRG team? And your engines?
Arrived recently in the team, I realized only one race before this one. So I quickly got used to the chassis, I'm very comfortable in it, the base is excellent. I was able to test a lot of things in order to understand how the chassis behaved. At the same time, I could count on my mechanic who did his best as well as my teammates who helped me understand how it worked. The other mechanics of the team also offered me their opinions on certain situations. I think that's also the reason for this success, the sharing within the team, we were able to progress together throughout the weekend, which allowed the team to also achieve a great performance in KZ. As far as my engine specialist Galiffa is concerned, I have been working with them for 3 years, he has done an incredible job during the races, they seek perfection in each race. My engine in the final was absolutely perfect. We discuss a lot in order to make the best decisions possible, and it is once again this human side that stands out and which allows me to make the difference.

Arthur, in your opinion, why have you been faster in KZ2 than those in KZ?
During the week the track has changed enormously, the grip of the track has evolved a lot. First of all the track was very different for me between the morning and the afternoon, then we were entitled to a lot of change with the arrival of the rain which turned the weekend upside down. So I think our conditions – the condition we found on track - were perhaps more optimal during our final.

How do you think your career will change after this World Cup victory?
First of all I hope it will facilitate the arrival of new sponsors because without them I couldn't ride at this level. Then I hope to be able to drive in KZ Top class which has been a dream for me since I was little and I think this title can work in my favour.