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Recurring injury comes back to haunt Razman

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MALAYSIA'S campaign in the Rotax World Finals starting at the Morac International Karting Circuit in Langkawi on Friday has suffered a setback as second driver Raja Razman Idris (pic) is forced to nurse an injury.

Having tested at the 1.3km track all of last week to get the best set-up for his kart, Razman, who led Malaysia in the inaugural Finals in Puerto Rico last year, will now need to take it easy until competition day.

"The muscles on my ribs are very sore because of too much strain and the doctor has advised me to stay out of the kart as long as possible," said Razman in Langkawi yesterday.

"It's a recurring injury which comes back whenever I push too hard or undergo intensive training.

"I tried driving for a few laps today (yesterday) but it's still sore.

"So maybe it's best that I rest as much as possible to recover fully for the meet."

Razman, 30, is among five karters representing Malaysia in the annual event which has attracted more than 70 international entries from about 30 countries.

Twenty-five-year-old Ferhan Fauzy, who topped the 2001 Malaysian Max Challenge standings, will head the local cast which also include Rodney Magness, Mahathir Bob Ngaau and Australian expatriate Martin Druhan.

"I think Malaysian karters have quite a good chance to make it to the second round as we are used to the hot climate," said Razman.

"It's been dry in Langkawi for more than two weeks now and from how our karters are preparing, Ferhan should emerge as the local favourite having clocked the fastest time during the tests.

"Furthermore, we should be much better off than last year, where we were basically blind when we landed in Puerto Rico."

Aside from Malaysia, the field will be made up of karters from Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Belgium, Canada, Colombia, Cyprus, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Indonesia, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Holland, New Zealand, Norway, Philippines, Portugal, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Britain and the United States.

As the series is based on the standard Rotax FR125 engine, which can be fitted to any 100cc homologated chassis, the competition will be fairly balanced.

There will be strictly no modifications allowed on the engines, which will be distributed to karters fresh from the box.

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