

10/03/2002

Ong sounds early warning with win

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DAVID Ong sounded an early warning in the opening round of the 2002 Rotax Max125 Challenge Championship after winning Heat One at the Speedzone Elite circuit in USJ Subang Jaya yesterday.

Winner of the Selangor Kart Club (KKS) 125cc Championship last year, Ong timed 11:05.55 minutes with an average speed of 85.2kph in the 15 lap race, beating newcomer Mohamed Amir to the finishing line by 0.49 seconds.

Mikko Petter Nassi from Finland checked in third, followed by 2000 champion Raja Razman Idris, defending champion Ferhan Fauzy and Martin Druhan in fourth, fifth and sixth places respectively.

But with Heat Two, the pre-Final and Final today, 32-year-old Ong would have a busy day trying to keep the favourites at bay.

"As usual, Razman and Ferhan will be the main guys to watch out for tomorrow (today)," said Ong, "but I'm not too worried about Amir, because he is still quite new."

Ong, who works as a manager of an investment holdings company, also topped the fastest time list when emerged as among four karters to dip below the 44-second mark.

Ong registered 43.601 seconds around the 1.05km track on his 12th lap, followed by Amir (43.756s) and Mahathir Bob Ngaau (43.897s).

Though in 10th position, seasoned karter Ng Wai Leong, who claimed his first race in two years in Round One of the KBS-AAM-TRV Kart Prix 100cc Open in Shah Alam last weekend, had posted 43.852s.

In the brand new Junior Max category, Devin Cunningham from Canada, who won the Junior Intercontinental Category of the 2001 Asean Kart Festival, emerged as the early favourite to win today's inaugural 20-lap race.

With a best lap time of 44.861 seconds, Cunningham ended the 12-lap heats 0.34 ahead of Azry Mohamed Nor, followed by Melvin Moh and Mohamed Rohairijaz in third and fourth places respectively.

Rohairijaz, despite clocking the second fastest lap of the day, was issued a 15-second penalty for jump starting the race.

Results (Heat One) - Cadet (8 laps): 1 Jazeman Firhan Jaafar 6:19.22 mins, 2 Mohamed Adrien 6:20.84, 3 Nik Irfan Izani 6:21.73, 4 Calvin Wong 6:23.66, 5 Mikhail The 6:29.24, 6 Mirzuan Razak 6:46.50.

Yamaha 100cc (12 laps): Mohamed Rismeth Emir 9:30.01, 2 Syafiq Ali 9:39.43, 3 Mohamed Adam 9:52.59, 4 Jason Wong 10:04.49, 5 Rychey Syah Putra (12 laps).

J-Max (12 laps): 1 Devin Cunningham (Can) 9:06.07, 2 Azry Mohamed Nor 9:09.02, 3 Melvin Moh 9:14.61, 4 Mohamed Rohairijaz 9:20.73, 5 Mohamed Shafiq 9:35.21.

Rotax Max (15 laps): 1 David Ong 11:05.55, 2 Mohamed Amir 11:06.03, 3 Mikko Petteri Nassi (Fin) 11:10.55, 4 Raja Razman Idris 11:11.20, 5 Ferhan Fauzy 11:11.80, 6 Martin Druhan 11:15.85.

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