

27/06/2004

Young Indon driver impresses

By Jagjeet Singh

FORMULA BMW has become the new reference point in the search for talented young drivers in Asia.

In its first year, 2003, the series established itself as the leading event in the region for the development and promotion of driving talent.

BMW awarded the 2003 champion with a Formula 1 test with the Williams-BMW team.

Also involved in this championship is the reputable Minardi Team Asia. The aim of Minardi team Asia is to train talented young drivers from the continent to help them prepare for the challenges of international motor racing.

During the Bahrain F1 weekend, Minardi Team Asia drivers qualified on the front row of the grid and finished on the podium.

Of the four drivers in the team, the one with the most impressive career highlights would be Indonesian Moreno Soeprapto.

The Jakarta-born Moreno, 22, has been winning karting events since the age of 12. At 15 he went on to win a one-make touring car race and also made his debut in the Formula Asia series.

At 19, Moreno contested in two rounds of the Italian Formula Renault championship and later moved back to karting with participation in both the Rotex Max national and Asian Zone championships.

With an impressive background and determination to match, Moreno Soeprapto will be a name to be reckoned with in the Formula BMW series.

`FENDER BENDER' FEAST

HELD as a support event to the Japan GT Championship at Sepang last Saturday, the third round of the Malaysian Super Series (MSS) saw plenty of crashes.

In the Supercar category, running into the back of the Porsche driven by Aminuddin Omar did not stop Jimmy Low from winning on his return to the series after missing the first two rounds.

There was plenty of drama further down the field as well in the Honda Civic dominated Supersixteen category as the competitors found themselves driving in a `demolition derby' type race which led to many of their cars being damaged after colliding while dicing for position.

Though lacking in drama, the Classic Car race wowed the spectators with entries of immaculate vehicles from the US, Australia, Germany, Japan and England, to name a few.

Former Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad visited the MSS drivers and viewed their cars at the paddocks during a break.

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