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FC Basel on a Swiss Roll in opening British Race

02/08/2009 - FC Basel claimed its maiden Superleague Formula by Sonangol victory by winning the opening race at Donington Park today.

The Swiss club's Max Wissel (D) finished 2.18-secs ahead of the Glasgow Rangers machine of John Martin (AUS) in the 44 minute plus one-lap race around the 2.5 miles (4.02 km) parkland track in the Midlands area of Britain.

The heavy rain of yesterday which had caused qualifying to be abandoned & caused minor damage to a section of the track & was thankfully replaced by sunny intervals encouraging a healthy crowd to attend.

Wissel took the opportunity to overtake Martin on lap 12 lap when the backmarker PSV Eindhoven car delayed Martin as the Australian attempted to lap the Dutch car.

SLF championship leader Adrián Vallés (SP), who started from his worst proper qualifying position of the season in 10th place, finished sixth – just a second behind the Tottenham Hotspur machine of Craig Dolby (GB).

The pole-starting Corinthians car of Antônio Pizzonia (BRA) finished third having led until pitting on lap nine but a slow compulsory pit-stop lost the Brazilian valuable time.

A second race, followed immediately by a Super Final, will be staged at the British venue later today with Flamengo's Enrique Bernoldi (BRA) starting from pole-position after spinning out on the opening lap of race one which caused a brief Safety Car period which also saw the front-row starting Olympiacos machine of Davide Rigon (IT) retire with no oil pressure as the race resumed on lap five.

QUOTES:

FC Basel: Max Wissel (D)

"It's a perfect result for FC Basel – I'm so happy for 'my' club. I pushed very hard but the car and pit-stop were all very good – I'm delighted."

Glasgow Rangers: John Martin (AUS)

"I came out of the pits leading but was effectively robbed of a win due to a backmarker not getting out of the way. Nevertheless this is my second runners-up place in consecutive race weekends."

Race 1 - SF Round 3 UK - Classification

POS	No	RACING TEAM	DRIVER	TIME	GAP
1	10	FC Basel SF Racing Team	M. Wissel	45:15.840	31 laps
2	17	Rangers FC SF Racing Team	J. Martin	45:18.020	2.180
3	14	Corinthians SF Racing Team	A. Pizzonia	45:18.961	3.121
4	3	AC Milan SF Racing Team	G. Pantano	45:19.793	3.953
5	19	Tottenham Hotspur SF Racing Team	C. Dolby	45:27.330	11.490
6	21	Liverpool FC SF Racing Team	A Vallés	45:28.422	12.582
7	22	AS Roma SF Racing Team	J. Kennard	45:32.255	16.415
8	16	FC Porto SF Racing Team	T. Gommendy	45:32.693	16.853
9	15	Atletico de Madrid SF Racing Team	H. P. tung	45:39.373	23.533
10	24	FC Midtjylland SF Racing Team	K. Andersen	45:40.327	24.487
11	18	Sevilla FC SF Racing Team	E. Guerrieri	45:41.679	25.839
12	2	Sporting Clube de Portugal Racing Team	P. Petiz	46:21.063	1:05.223
13	4	Galatasaray SF Racing Team	S. Mansell	45:17.559	1 lap
14	69	Olympique Lyonnais SF Racing Team	N. Panciatici	45:24.269	1 lap
15	5	PSV Eindhoven SF Racing Team	D. Muermans	45:31.924	1 lap
16	8	RSC Anderlecht SF Racing Team	Y. Buurman	13:03.937	24 laps
17	9	Olympiacos SF Racing Team	D. Rigon	6:03.415	28 laps
18	7	Flamengo SF Racing Team	E. Bernoldi	-	-

Race 2 Grid

Row 9	17- Rangers FC	18- FC Basel
Row 8	15- AC Milan	16- Corinthians
Row 7	13- Liverpool FC	14- Tottenham Hotspur
Row 6	11- FC Porto	12- AS Roma
Row 5	9- FC Midtjylland	10- Atletico de Madrid
Row 4	7- Sporting Clube de Portugal	8- Sevilla FC
Row 3	5- Olympique Lyonnais	6- Galatasaray
Row 2	3- RSC Anderlecht	4- PSV Eindhoven
Row 1	1- Flamengo	2- Olympiacos

POLE POSITION

FURTHER INFORMATION :

Additional briefing information, video and images are available at:

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