

8 June 2019

Spa-Francorchamps, Belgium – Rounds 5 & 6

RACE 1 REPORT

Magnus beats Urrutia to victory in an Audi 1-2

Gilles Magnus' dream to win on his home racetrack came true in the first race of TCR Europe at Spa-Francorchamps. The young Belgian converted the pole position into his maiden win and jumped on top of the championship standings as well.

Magnus' Comtoy Racing Audi RS 3 LMS and the similar car driven by Santiago Urrutia for Team WRT delivered a brilliant fight and eventually finished first and second, which meant the first podium result for the Uruguayan. Podium that was completed by another Belgian youngster, Maxime Potty in the WRT-run Volkswagen Golf GTI who recovered to third after a bad start.

It was a podium of youth with Magnus (19), Urrutia (22) and Potty (19) totalling 60 years among them.

Aurélien Comte lost the third place to Potty in the final sprint and salvaged a fourth place for the Peugeot patrol that had higher ambitions. Jimmy Clairet and Davit Kajaia were classified fifth and sixth, their best results to far in the season.

Josh Files and Julien Briché, who had arrived in Belgium as first and second in the standings, remained scoreless. The Briton paid this morning's mistake that led to his Qualifying crash and retired, despite the team's efforts to rebuild his car. The Frenchman retired as well after making a mistake in the early stages of the race.

During the final lap, there was an incident between Abdulla Al-Khelaifi and Lilou Wadoux; the French girl's Peugeot rolled onto the gravel and stopped upside down. Wadoux was examined at the circuit's medical centre and then sent to Verviers' hospital for a further check as a precaution.

The second race will start tomorrow at 12:00 with Dušan Borković and Kajaia sharing the front row of the top-ten reverse grid; live streaming at www.tcr-series.com and www.tcr-series.tv.

Key facts

Grid – both Files' and Teddy Clairet's cars have been repaired following their crashes in Qualifying

Warm up lap – Sutton's car doesn't start and is towed back to the pit lane

Start – Magnus and Urrutia sprint ahead of the rest of the field; Potty makes a bad start and drops from third to seventh behind Comte, Briché, J. Clairet and Homola; Sutton starts from the pit lane

Lap 1 – Comte and Briché cut the chicane, the latter slows down and pits; Kangas and T. Clairet come together and crash

Lap 2 – the safety car is deployed

Lap 3 – Briché rejoins, having lost two laps in the pits

Lap 4 – at the restart, Magnus leads from Urrutia, Comte and J. Clairet; Potty overtakes Homola for fifth; Files retires

Lap 5 – Urrutia tries to overtake Magnus at the Source, but outbrakes himself and turns wide; Kajaia overtakes Homola for sixth after they swapped paints

Lap 6 – Paulsen overtakes Coronel for ninth and then Engstler for eighth; Morbidelli overtakes Coronel for tenth

Lap 7 – Coronel and Morbidelli clash at the Source; Coronel moves up to tenth and Lloyd to 11th; Potty overtakes J. Clairet for fourth; Briché returns to the pits

Lap 8 – Homola and Paulsen make contacts while fighting for seventh

Lap 9 – Potty overtakes Comte to finish third behind Magnus and Urrutia; Al-Khelaifi and Wadoux collide and the French girl's Peugeot rolls onto the gravel and stops upside down

Quotes from the podium finishers in Race 1

Gilles Magnus (winner): *"It is absolutely fantastic to win at home, here at Spa, and I am very happy for Comtoyou Racing and the RACB, who have supported me a lot. I am still a rookie with touring cars, but I have worked and trained a lot. At Hockenheim, we were ok, but here we really had a great pace. I trained also on starts, and here my kick-off was very good, so I could take the leads and pull away a little bit, which helped preserving the tyres. Santi (Urrutia) tried to attack me, but I stayed cool and everything went well. Now, we are well-positioned in the championship as well."*

Santiago Urrutia (second): *"It's a good result, and I am happy that after my very bad starts at Hockenheim, it worked better here. I trained a lot at the team's factory. I had to defend my second position in the first laps but then I was able to focus on reducing the gap from Gilles (Magnus) and I almost caught him. I tried to outbreak him at La Source, but it was a little bit optimistic, and after that, it was over. He had a little bit more speed than me, I couldn't do more."*

Max Potty (third): *"It's been an exciting race, which ends better than it started. The bad start was entirely my fault, I remained in neutral... I was lucky I could get back to the top without big troubles. The pace was very good and it's a pity that mistake at the beginning. In the last lap, I managed a daring overtake on the outside at Stavelot, I admit I took a risk, you don't often try things there! But it went well, also because Comte was very fair."*

Magnus takes pole as Teddy Clairet and Files crash

Gilles Magnus drove his Comtoyou Racing Audi RS 3 LMS to set pole position on his and the team's home track. Magnus set the fastest lap of 2:28.885 and beat by 65 thousandths of a second Santiago Urrutia who completed an all-Audi front row for Race 1.

It was a festival for the Belgian outfits, as Team WRT also placed the Volkswagen Golf GTI cars of Maxime Potty and Ashley Sutton in third and fourth positions.

The Qualifying was full of drama, with both Teddy Clairet and Josh Files crashing at the Raidillon in Q1, and the mystery of Daniel Lloyd's car that joined Q2 although he had set the 18th fastest lap in Q1.

Mystery that was clarified at the end of the session when the timekeepers found out that Lloyd had posted a time good enough to make the top-12, but only a few seconds after the red flag was waved. Despite he was not listed as one of the drivers eligible for Q2, the Brutal Fish Racing released him on the track.

After the session, the Stewards deleted Lloyd's Q2 lap and put him back in 18th position.

This promoted Potty, Sutton and Aurélien Comte to third, fourth and fifth on the grid for Race 1. While Dušan Borković and Davit Kajaia (tenth and ninth in the final results) will share the front row of the reverse grid for Sunday's Race 2.

The Raidillon lives up to its reputation

Once again, the Raidillon corner at Spa-Francorchamps has lived up to its reputation as one of the trickiest corners on the 7km circuit. Three drivers have fallen foul of the corner, forcing their respective teams into making extensive repairs to their cars.

Julien Briché was the first of them when his Peugeot 308 went off during Free Practice 2 on Friday. The extensive damage to the front and left-hand side of the car meant Briché's mechanics spent the night rebuilding the car, finishing the job at 06:00am on Saturday morning. Briché went on to qualify in sixth place, rewarding his team for their hard work.

In the first part of Saturday's Qualifying, the Peugeot of Teddy Clairet joined Briché's similar car on the casualty list. Clairet fell victim to Raidillon at the same place as Briché, damaging the left rear corner. Although Clairet's time in the session was enough to see him go through to Q2, the car was too badly damaged to rejoin the session and so the French driver will start both races from twelfth on the grid.

The third driver to fall foul of Raidillon was Josh Files. After having his fastest lap disallowed for infringing track limits, Files was pushing to make it into the top twelve places and so go through to Q2 when he hit the barriers hard, bringing out the red flags. The Target Competition team worked to repair the extensive front-end damage and allowed Files to start in Race 1, but retired after 4 laps.

2019 TCR Europe Series – calendar

27/28 April – Hungaroring, Hungary (FIA WTCR) *°

24/26 May – Hockenheimring, Germany (International GT Open) *

8/9 June – Circuit de Spa-Francorchamps, Belgium (International GT Open) *

13/14 July – Red Bull Ring, Austria (International GT Open) *

3/4 August – Motorsport Arena Oschersleben, Germany *

21/22 September – Circuit de Barcelona Catalunya, Spain (International GT Open) *

12/13 October – Monza ENI Circuit, Italy (International GT Open) *°

* With TCR Benelux

° With TCR Eastern Europe

Further information, results, points and HD pictures at www.europe.tcr-series.com



Spa Francorchamps
TCR Europe
Race - 1
Final Results



Cls	N°	Driver	Nat	Team	Nat	Vehicle	Laps	Total Time	Gap	Interval	Km/h	Best	Time	Km/h
1	16	Gilles Magnus	BEL	Comtoy Racing	BEL	Audi RS 3 LMS	9	27:11.166			139.1	4	2:30.990	166.9
2	55	Santiago Urrutia	URU	Team WRT	URU	Audi RS 3 LMS	9	27:12.717	1.551	1.551	138.9	4	2:30.858	167.1
3	88	Maxime Potty	BEL	Team WRT	BEL	Volkswagen Golf GTI TCR	9	27:17.874	6.708	5.157	138.5	5	2:31.068	166.9
4	7	Aurélien Comte	FRA	DG Sport Compétition	FRA	Peugeot 308 TCR	9	27:17.923	6.757	0.049	138.5	5	2:31.523	166.4
5	112	Jimmy Clairet	FRA	Team Clairet Sport	FRA	Peugeot 308 TCR	9	27:18.516	7.350	0.593	138.4	5	2:31.770	166.1
6	3	Davit Kajaia	GEO	PCR Sport with Georgia	GEO	CUPRA TCR	9	27:22.894	11.728	4.378	138.1	6	2:32.277	165.5
7	70	Mat'o Homola	SVK	Target Competition	SVK	Hyundai i30 N TCR	9	27:25.559	14.393	2.665	137.9	6	2:33.081	164.7
8	34	Stian Paulsen	NOR	Stian Paulsen Racing	NOR	CUPRA TCR	9	27:25.915	14.749	0.356	137.8	7	2:32.106	165.7
9	8	Luca Engstler	GER	M1RA Motorsport	GER	Hyundai i30 N TCR	9	27:27.789	16.623	1.874	137.7	5	2:32.886	164.9
10	50	Tom Coronel	NED	Boutsen Ginion Racing	NED	Honda Civic Type R FK7 TCR	9	27:28.104	16.938	0.315	137.6	7	2:33.153	164.6
11	123	Daniel Lloyd	GBR	Brutal Fish Racing Team	GBR	Honda Civic Type R FK7 TCR	9	27:28.840	17.674	0.736	137.6	5	2:32.806	165.0
12	62	Dušan Borković	SRB	Target Competition	SRB	Hyundai i30 N TCR	9	27:29.837	18.671	0.997	137.5	5	2:33.124	164.6
13	19	Andreas Bäckman	SW	Target Competition	SW	Hyundai i30 N TCR	9	27:30.771	19.605	0.934	137.4	5	2:32.819	164.9
14	45	Gianni Morbidelli	ITA	WestCoast Racing	ITA	Volkswagen Golf GTI TCR	9	27:31.651	20.485	0.880	137.3	5	2:33.246	164.5
15	30	Luca Filippi	ITA	BRC Racing Team	ITA	Hyundai i30 N TCR	9	27:31.902	20.736	0.251	137.3	6	2:32.739	165.0
16	12	Nelson Panciatici	FRA	M Racing	FRA	Hyundai i30 N TCR	9	27:34.927	23.761	3.025	137.1	7	2:33.654	164.0
17	99	Dániel Nagy	HUN	M1RA Motorsport	HUN	Hyundai i30 N TCR	9	27:38.075	26.909	3.148	136.8	5	2:34.219	163.4
18	25	Natan Bihel	FRA	M Racing	FRA	Hyundai i30 N TCR	9	27:38.448	27.282	0.373	136.8	5	2:34.013	163.7
19	116	Ashley Sutton	GBR	Team WRT	GBR	Volkswagen Golf GTI TCR	9	27:40.510	29.344	2.062	136.6	5	2:33.089	164.7
20	14	Klim Gavrilov	RUS	VRC Team	RUS	Audi RS 3 LMS	9	27:41.763	30.597	1.253	136.5	6	2:33.465	164.3
21	23	Tamás Tenke	HUN	Zengő Motorsport	HUN	CUPRA TCR	9	27:43.522	32.356	1.759	136.4	4	2:33.680	164.0
22	27	John Filippi	FRA	Vuković Motorsport	FRA	Renault Mégane RS TCR	9	27:43.735	32.569	0.213	136.3	5	2:33.411	164.3
23	26	Jessica Bäckman	SW	Target Competition	SW	Hyundai i30 N TCR	9	27:43.987	32.821	0.252	136.3	5	2:34.158	163.5
24	10	Viktor Davidovski	MKD	PSS Racing Team	MKD	Honda Civic Type R FK7 TCR	9	27:52.534	41.368	8.547	135.6	5	2:34.832	162.8
25	38	Lewis Kent	GBR	Essex & Kent Motorsport	GBR	Hyundai i30 N TCR	9	27:53.705	42.539	1.171	135.5	5	2:34.518	163.1
26	17	Martin Ryba	SVK	Brutal Fish Racing Team	SVK	Honda Civic Type R FK7 TCR	9	27:56.523	45.357	2.818	135.3	5	2:34.406	163.2
27	81	Stéphane Ventaja	FRA	Team Clairet Sport	FRA	Peugeot 308 TCR	9	28:14.324	1:03.158	17.801	133.9	7	2:37.640	159.9
28	44	Lilou Wadoux	FRA	JSB Compétition	FRA	Peugeot 308 TCR	8	25:09.968	1 Lap	1 Lap	133.5	5	2:34.429	163.2
29	96	Abdulla Ali Al-Khelaifi	QAT	QMMF Racing by PCR Sport	QAT	CUPRA TCR	8	25:10.560	1 Lap	0.592	133.5	5	2:33.974	163.7
Not classified: (Requirements: 75% of number laps of leader = 7 Laps)														
24	Julien Briché	FRA	JSB Compétition	FRA	Peugeot 308 TCR	5	20:21.963	4 Laps	3 Laps	103.1	4	2:31.603	166.3	
21	Marie Baus-Coppens	FRA	JSB Compétition	FRA	CUPRA TCR	4	14:50.405	5 Laps	1 Lap	113.2	4	2:36.645	160.9	
9	Josh Files	GBR	Target Competition	GBR	Hyundai i30 N TCR	4	16:51.012	5 Laps	2:00.607	99.7	1	3:02.634	138.0	
111	Teddy Clairet	FRA	Team Clairet Sport	FRA	Peugeot 308 TCR									
46	Olli Kangas	FIN	WestCoast Racing	FIN	Volkswagen Golf GTI TCR									

Fastest lap URRUTIA in 2:30.858 at 167.1 Km/h in lap 4

Published at:.....

Track Temp: **25.4 °C** Air Temp: **15.5 °C** Humidity: **54 %** Track Status: **DRY**

Stewards:	Race Director:	Timekeeper:
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