

## ROUNDS 1 & 2 – CURITIBA, BRAZIL RACE REPORT

*Weather:* partly sunny and hot for Race 1; cloudy with a wet track for Race 2

*Crowd:* 48,000 over the weekend

### SEAT RESUME WHERE THEY HAD FINISHED

SEAT Sport and their León TDI cars annihilated the opposition in Brazil, saying loud and clear that they are determined to retain the Drivers' and Manufacturers' titles they claimed last year.

Five SEAT drivers on top in the qualifying session, four ahead of the rest in both races: the turbo diesel power is stronger than ever in the WTCC.

The BMW men did their best, but even the weather played against them, providing what are the worst racing conditions for the rear-wheel drive.

The new Chevrolet Cruze has shown flashes of competitiveness, like Menu's second place in Q1 or Larini's fourth in Race 1 that was vanished by a penalty.

The LADA cars are not on the pace so far; however they have started reducing their gap from the top and managed to score the first points of a Russian manufacturer in a World Championship.

The championship will resume in Puebla, Mexico, on March 22<sup>nd</sup> for rounds 3 and 4.

### RACE 1 – MULLER BEGINS ON A HIGH NOTE

Reigning champions Yvan Muller and SEAT Sport began the new season in the best way as they dominated the race. Muller led from lights to flag, followed by a trio of team-mates: Jordi Gené, Rickard Rydell and Gabriele Tarquini who finished in the order.

Nicola Larini crossed the line fifth and scored the first points for the new Chevrolet Cruze, while Augusto Farfus and Sergio Hernández were the best of the BMW men. They were classified sixth and seventh, ahead of Tiago Monteiro who claimed pole position for Race 2. Félix Porteiro won the Independents' class after resisting pressure from Tom Coronel in the early stages.

The race was disrupted by the safety car from lap 6 to 9, after Stefano D'Aste crashed at the Esse de Alta

### Man of the race

On his first race with the BMW Team Italy-Spain, Sergio Hernández showed his stuff. Eleventh after the qualifying he managed to escape the lap-one pile up and climbed to eighth.

He had a hard fight with Nicola Larini over the seventh place and briefly managed to jump ahead of the Chevrolet. After the safety car period he chased Augusto Farfus and finished seventh immediately behind him.

### Key moment

After the start the field survived the first corner, but a pile up at turn four eliminated three of the major contenders: Jörg Müller, Andy Priaulx and Alain Menu. Müller swerved to the left, hit Priaulx and spun collecting Menu.

The latter retired, while Müller pitted for repairs and rejoined five laps later. As for Priaulx he rejoined immediately and recovered from 21<sup>st</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup>.

### Withdrawals

A. Menu: race incident; S. D'Aste: race incident; R. Huff: throttle cable; K. Poulsen: race incident; M. Čolak: race incident.



## RACE 2 – TARQUINI LEADS ANOTHER SEAT QUARTET

SEAT encored in Race 2, placing again four drivers in the top four positions.

The race started behind the safety car on a track flooded by a violent thunderstorm, with Félix Porteiro who had inherited pole position after Tiago Monteiro's penalty.

In the early stages the BMW drivers – Porteiro, Andy Priaulx, Sergio Hernández and Augusto Farfus – set the pace, but soon the SEAT tide became unstoppable.

Gabriele Tarquini, Rickard Rydell, Jordi Gené and Yvan Muller jumped on top to stay, while Porteiro repeated his success in the Independents' class.

### Man of the race

Dropped by BMW and demoted to Independent, Félix Porteiro took his own revenge by leading the race and keeping life hard to his former team-mates.

Not only the young Spaniard won twice the Independents' class, but he also managed to score points for the overall classification, and each of them equates now to three further points for the Trophy.

Porteiro and Proteam made clear from the start that they are the duo to beat in the Independents' class.

### Key moment

On lap 4 Gabriele Tarquini was chasing the BMW cars of Andy Priaulx and Sergio Hernández, who were second and third. On the straight that leads to turn 4 the Italian made his move, squeezing between the German cars and outbraking them amid the water puddles.

*"I had the advantage to be fastest out of the corner, but it was a bit risky..."* he admitted.

The risk paid off and became the springboard to his victory.

### Withdrawals

M. Čolak: broken wheel

## **FLASH NEWS**

### **MONTEIRO AND LARINI PENALISED AFTER RACE 1**

Nicola Larini and Tiago Monteiro lost the fifth and eighth positions they had achieved respectively in Race 1 after the stewards decided to give them a 30-second penalty for overtaking during the safety car period.

Same penalty, for the same reason, was also inflicted to Jaap van Lagen and George Tanev who had finished in 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> position respectively.

### **43 TONNES OF FOOD COLLECTED BY WTCC**

The WTCC made again a contribution towards the aid of the starving people of Brazil.

Like in 2007 and 2008 free tickets were offered to the public in exchange for two kilograms of food.

43 tonnes of food were collected through the campaign and donated to the charity society Instituto Pró-Cidadania de Curitiba who will distribute them to those in need.

## **THE WORD TO THE WINNERS**

Yvan MULLER – winner of Race 1: *"Sure it was nice to start the season with a victory like last year. I hope the championship will finish in the same way... During the race I have stay focused not to make any mistake and avoid my team mates from coming to close."*

Gabriele TARQUINI – winner of Race 2: *"The weather conditions helped us, especially in the first laps, otherwise it would have been very difficult to beat the four BMW cars I had in front of me on the grid."*

**2009 FIA World Touring Car Championship  
RACE 1 - FINAL CLASSIFICATION**

POS	NO	CLS	DRIVER	NAT	CAR	TIME	LAPS	GAP	KPH	BEST
1	1		<b>Yvan MULLER</b> SEAT Sport	FRA	SEAT Leon TDI	26:45.799	16		132.54	1:25.662
2	4		<b>Jordi GENE</b> SEAT Sport	ESP	SEAT Leon TDI	26:47.897	16	2.098	132.36	1:25.760
3	3		<b>Rickard RYDELL</b> SEAT Sport	SWE	SEAT Leon TDI	26:48.679	16	2.880	132.30	1:25.873
4	2		<b>Gabriele TARQUINI</b> SEAT Sport	ITA	SEAT Leon TDI	26:49.300	16	3.501	132.25	1:25.775
5	8		<b>Augusto FARFUS</b> BMW Team Germany	BRA	BMW 320si	26:53.565	16	7.766	131.90	1:25.747
6	10		<b>Sergio HERNANDEZ</b> BMW Team Italy-Spai	ESP	BMW 320si	26:53.951	16	8.152	131.87	1:25.710
7	6		<b>Andy PRIAULX</b> BMW Team UK	GBR	BMW 320si	26:57.927	16	12.128	131.54	1:25.913
8	23	I	<b>Felix PORTEIRO</b> Scuderia Proteam	ESP	BMW 320si	26:59.240	16	13.441	131.43	1:26.113
9	21	I	<b>Tom CORONEL</b> SUNRED Engineering	NED	SEAT Leon	27:01.770	16	15.971	131.23	1:26.512
10	9		<b>Alessandro ZANARDI</b> BMW Team Italy-Spai	ITA	BMW 320si	27:01.904	16	16.105	131.22	1:26.386
11	22	I	<b>Tom BOARDMAN</b> SUNRED Engineering	GBR	SEAT Leon	27:02.789	16	16.990	131.15	1:26.948
12	25	I	<b>Franz ENGTLER</b> Liqui Moly Team	GER	BMW 320si	27:06.628	16	20.829	130.84	1:26.529
13	20		<b>Viktor SHAPOVALOV</b> LADA Sport	RUS	LADA 110	27:12.138	16	26.339	130.40	1:27.892
14	19		<b>Kirill LADYGIN</b> LADA Sport	RUS	LADA 110	27:13.339	16	27.540	130.30	1:27.765
15	14		<b>Nicola LARINI</b> Chevrolet	ITA	Chevrolet Cruze	27:22.982	16	37.183	129.54	1:25.806

Curitiba

Cars 11, 12, 27, and 28 Back of the grid, 30sec pen. 24, 5, 14, and 18

Circuit Length = 3.6950 km.

Stewards decisions 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 9,10 and 11 refer.

Start: 13:02 End: 13:29

Race Director:	Steward:	Timekeeper:	Issued at:
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**2009 FIA World Touring Car Championship  
RACE 1 - FINAL CLASSIFICATION Continued.**

POS	NO	CLS	DRIVER	NAT	CAR	TIME	LAPS	GAP	KPH	BEST
16	5		<b>Tiago MONTEIRO</b> SEAT Sport	<b>POR</b>	SEAT Leon TDI	27:24.566	16	38.767	129.41	1:25.783
17	18		<b>Jaap van LAGEN</b> LADA Sport	<b>NED</b>	LADA 110	27:39.915	16	54.116	128.21	1:27.241
18	24	I	<b>George TANEV</b> Scuderia Proteam	<b>BUL</b>	BMW 320si	27:40.667	16	54.868	128.16	1:27.506
19	28	I	<b>Marin COLAK</b> Colak Racing Team	<b>CRO</b>	SEAT Leon	22:41.852	13	3 LAPS	126.97	1:26.838
20	26	I	<b>Kristian POULSEN</b> Liqui Moly Team	<b>DEN</b>	BMW 320si	22:42.209	13	3 LAPS	126.94	1:26.483

**NOT CLASSIFIED**

7			<b>Jorg MULLER</b> BMW Team Germany	<b>GER</b>	BMW 320si	26:59.747	11	N.C.F.	90.33
11			<b>Robert HUFF</b> Chevrolet	<b>GBR</b>	Chevrolet Cruze	7:28.805	5	D.N.F.	148.19
27	I		<b>Stefano D'ASTE</b> Wiechers-Sport	<b>ITA</b>	BMW 320si	5:58.627	4	D.N.F.	148.36
12			<b>Alain MENU</b> Chevrolet	<b>SUI</b>	Chevrolet Cruze	3:21.743	2	D.N.F.	131.87

**FASTEST LAP**

1			<b>Yvan MULLER</b> SEAT Sport		SEAT Leon TDI	1:25.662	13	96.49mph	155.28
23	I		<b>Felix PORTEIRO</b> Scuderia Proteam		BMW 320si	1:26.113	4	95.98mph	154.47

**Cars 11, 12, 27, and 28 Back of the grid, 30sec pen. 24, 5, 14, and 18**

**Stewards decisions 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 9,10 and 11 refer.**

Curitiba

Circuit Length = 3.6950 km.

Start: 13:02 End: 13:29

Race Director:	Steward:	Timekeeper:	Issued at:
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**2009 FIA World Touring Car Championship  
RACE 2 - FINAL CLASSIFICATION**

POS	NO	CLS	DRIVER	NAT	CAR	TIME	LAPS	GAP	KPH	BEST
1	2		<b>Gabriele TARQUINI</b> SEAT Sport	ITA	SEAT Leon TDI	27:44.649	16		127.85	1:35.068
2	3		<b>Rickard RYDELL</b> SEAT Sport	SWE	SEAT Leon TDI	27:45.459	16	0.810	127.79	1:34.948
3	4		<b>Jordi GENE</b> SEAT Sport	ESP	SEAT Leon TDI	27:50.518	16	5.869	127.40	1:35.737
4	1		<b>Yvan MULLER</b> SEAT Sport	FRA	SEAT Leon TDI	27:51.806	16	7.157	127.30	1:35.103
5	7		<b>Jorg MULLER</b> BMW Team Germany	GER	BMW 320si	27:54.565	16	9.916	127.09	1:34.944
6	8		<b>Augusto FARFUS</b> BMW Team Germany	BRA	BMW 320si	27:56.408	16	11.759	126.95	1:35.270
7	23	I	<b>Felix PORTEIRO</b> Scuderia Proteam	ESP	BMW 320si	27:58.370	16	13.721	126.80	1:35.753
8	21	I	<b>Tom CORONEL</b> SUNRED Engineering	NED	SEAT Leon	27:58.865	16	14.216	126.77	1:35.920
9	6		<b>Andy PRIAULX</b> BMW Team UK	GBR	BMW 320si	28:02.331	16	17.682	126.51	1:36.529
10	10		<b>Sergio HERNANDEZ</b> BMW Team Italy-Spai	ESP	BMW 320si	28:02.793	16	18.144	126.47	1:36.140
11	12		<b>Alain MENU</b> Chevrolet	SUI	Chevrolet Cruze	28:03.695	16	19.046	126.40	1:34.837
12	5		<b>Tiago MONTEIRO</b> SEAT Sport	POR	SEAT Leon TDI	28:07.746	16	23.097	126.10	1:35.046
13	11		<b>Robert HUFF</b> Chevrolet	GBR	Chevrolet Cruze	28:08.025	16	23.376	126.08	1:34.914
14	9		<b>Alessandro ZANARDI</b> BMW Team Italy-Spai	ITA	BMW 320si	28:11.964	16	27.315	125.79	1:36.681
15	14		<b>Nicola LARINI</b> Chevrolet	ITA	Chevrolet Cruze	28:12.343	16	27.694	125.76	1:35.873

Curitiba

Subject to Technical Scrutineering. Car 28 did not start

Circuit Length = 3.6950 km.

Weather/Track: Cloudy 22°/Wet 26°

Start: 16:14 End: 16:42

Race Director:	Steward:	Timekeeper:	Issued at:
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**2009 FIA World Touring Car Championship  
RACE 2 - FINAL CLASSIFICATION Continued.**

POS	NO	CLS	DRIVER	NAT	CAR	TIME	LAPS	GAP	KPH	BEST
16	25	I	<b>Franz ENGSTLER</b> Liqui Moly Team	GER	BMW 320si	28:14.508	16	29.859	125.60	1:36.539
17	18		<b>Jaap van LAGEN</b> LADA Sport	NED	LADA 110	28:19.073	16	34.424	125.26	1:35.811
18	26	I	<b>Kristian POULSEN</b> Liqui Moly Team	DEN	BMW 320si	28:20.509	16	35.860	125.15	1:35.573
19	22	I	<b>Tom BOARDMAN</b> SUNRED Engineering	GBR	SEAT Leon	28:21.250	16	36.601	125.10	1:36.775
20	27	I	<b>Stefano D'ASTE</b> Wiechers-Sport	ITA	BMW 320si	28:21.641	16	36.992	125.07	1:35.054
21	24	I	<b>George TANEV</b> Scuderia Proteam	BUL	BMW 320si	28:33.557	16	48.908	124.20	1:37.119
22	19		<b>Kirill LADYGIN</b> LADA Sport	RUS	LADA 110	28:34.358	16	49.709	124.14	1:37.145
23	20		<b>Viktor SHAPOVALOV</b> LADA Sport	RUS	LADA 110	28:57.718	16	1:13.069	122.47	1:38.678

**FASTEST LAP**

12		<b>Alain MENU</b> Chevrolet	Chevrolet Cruze	1:34.837	16	87.15mph	140.26
27	I	<b>Stefano D'ASTE</b> Wiechers-Sport	BMW 320si	1:35.054	16	86.95mph	139.94

**Subject to Technical Scrutineering. Car 28 did not start**

**Weather/Track: Cloudy 22°/Wet 26°**

Curitiba

Circuit Length = 3.6950 km.

Start: 16:14 End: 16:42

Race Director:	Steward:	Timekeeper:	Issued at:
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**2009 FIA WORLD TOURING CAR CHAMPIONSHIP - DRIVERS' CHAMPIONSHIP**

position	# - driver	Curitiba (BRA)		Puebla (MEX)		Marrakech (MAR)		Pau (FRA)		Valencia (ESP)		Brno (CZE)		Porto (POR)		Brands Hatch (GBR)		Oschersleben (GER)		Imola (ITA)		Okayama (JPN)		Macau (CHN)		TOTAL
		8 March	15 March	22 March	29 March	3 May	17 May	31 May	21 June	5 July	19 July	6 September	20 September	1 November	22 November											
1	Yvan MULLER (FRA)	10	5																							15
1	Gabriele TARQUINI (ITA)	5	10																							15
3	Jordi GENÉ (ESP)	8	6																							14
3	Rickard RYDELL (SWE)	6	8																							14
5	Augusto FARFUS (BRA)	4	3																							7
6	Jörg MÜLLER (GER)	0	4																							4
7	Sergio HERNÁNDEZ (ESP)	3	0																							3
8	Félix PORTEIRO (ESP)	1	2																							3
9	Andy PRIAULX (GBR)	2	0																							2
10	Tom CORONEL (NED)	0	1																							1

**2009 FIA WORLD TOURING CAR CHAMPIONSHIP - MANUFACTURERS' CHAMPIONSHIP**

position	manufacturer	Curitiba (BRA)		Puebla (MEX)		Marrakech (MAR)		Pau (FRA)		Valencia (ESP)		Brno (CZE)		Porto (POR)		Brands Hatch (GBR)		Oschersleben (GER)		Imola (ITA)		Okayama (JPN)		Macau (CHN)		TOTAL
		8 March	15 March	22 March	29 March	3 May	17 May	31 May	21 June	5 July	19 July	6 September	20 September	1 November	22 November											
1	SEAT	18	18																							36
2	BMW	11	11																							22
3	LADA	7	3																							10
4	CHEVROLET	2	7																							9