

PATRIK

THE BOHEMIAN

From the disappointment of 2017 to the ghosts of non-finishes, to tears for the victory of Genk; Hajek's was the World of Revenge.

TEXT: **A. GIUSTINI** – PHOTO: **CUNAPHOTO.IT**

PATRIK HÁJEK (KOSMIC / VORTEX)

«After what happened last year, it is a dream to have managed to win the World Championship. It is an indescribable emotion. The vehicle was perfect. I want to thank all the Kosmic team and the OTK group».

The World Championship playing itself out in a single race is always a lottery. And what was seen in Belgium in the season's most important competition for the gearbox class confirms expectations. In Genk, with a sensational audience (5000 spectators) as a backdrop, Patrick Hayek wins a deserved KZ World Title.

This year the story was different as Hájek assumed the role of orchestra conductor of a perfect symphony, a race led from start to finish. There was nothing Rick Dreezen and Fabian Federer could do, both having to content themselves with the remaining steps on the podium. The final was immediately orphaned of Marijn Kremers and Simo Puhakka, two other accredited would-be protagonists of the world championship race in Belgium.

The team bearer captained by Olivier Marechal thus leaves his mark in the palmares of international karting by taking the most coveted title of the 125 gearbox. The European vice champion and among the eligibles to win last season's World Cup when, alas, he collided on the first lap with Iglesias in command of the final, this time Hayek takes home the highest recognition at the end of his career.

A clear success, with no ifs and buts.



He had confided to us a long time ago that he was not so sure of participating in this world championship, as well as withdrawing from competitions: we refer you to the interview by Andrea Giustini published on p. 26 to learn more. And why we justify his tears at the end of the award ceremony.

Patrick Hayek never gave the impres-



sion of being a hot head, far from it. He is the stereotype of the good boy, polite and respectful. One of the few who has never given himself airs, making himself always available, although reserved, even when things were not going right. Kind off but fast on the track. When it was time to fight, he certainly never pulled back. Thanks to

him we have seen plenty of beautiful duels. When in charge, he manages to run the race like few others; even at Genk his rhythm was almost a dirge. In the central part of the race, the most important section, he consistently repeated 52.7, 52.8 ... 52.7, 52.8 ... thus keeping the Belgian Dreezen, already winner of the 2014 European Cham-

pionship, and here playing the role of antagonist, at a fair distance. The pupil of Dino Chiesa in KZ is a fearsome adversary, who knows the Genk track very well. But even the Belgian could not rival that pounding pace: the Vortex RKZ-powered Kosmic of Håyek was unapproachable.

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FABIAN FEDERER (CRG/TM)

«It was a very nice race from the point of view of the result and having finished on the podium of the KZ World Championship makes me really proud. From a sporting point of view, however, it was not as simple as it may have seemed from the outside because during the 12th lap the throttle wire got stuck, so I had to change my driving style. In these cases it is important to immediately identify the problem and brake first to avoid finishing long. This obviously reflects on lap time, but fortunately I did not suffer attacks».

Federer sets best time in qualifying

The Official Trials, which inaugurated the 2018 edition of the CIK-FIA World Championship on Friday, saw the CRG of SRP Racing of Fabian Federer set the best time. The South Tyrolean stopped the clock at 52.392, 124 thousandths faster than Marijn Kremers. 3rd Hájek, on pole in Group C, followed by Simo Puhakka

and Anthony Abbasse. Jorrit Pex and Bas Lammers, 11th and 16th, did not shine. Also delayed were the two IPK drivers with Jeremy Iglesias (Formula K) in P20 and Francesco Celenta (Prague) in P24, grappling with the Vortex engine tests after the recent end to their collaboration with TM.



HÁJEK SHOWS HIS HAND DURING THE HEATS

To make the difference in the qualifying batteries, which establish the starting order of the Final, was Patrik Hájek. The soon-to-be World Champ finished the series of heats with zero penalty points, so 3 successes on the same number of races, always keeping command of operations. And if that's not a signal ... The second best result was by Marijn

Kremers, then Rick Dreezen and Simo Puhakka. The stalemate in the start of the second battery saw Friday leader Federer in 6th place. 11th and 14th Pedro Hiltbrand and Paolo De Conto, 15th and 17th in qualifying, the ascent of which was slowed by a penalty apiece due to the detached bumper.





Above, Hájek (Kosmic / Vortex) dominates the KZ World Championship. Left, Puhakka and Kremers. The Dutchman of BirelArt in an attempt to regain the position centers the Tony kart driver ... It was still the first lap of the world. Above, the start of the final.

HÁJEK DOMINATES, KREMERS WASTES, DREEZEN THANKS

At the go, Patrik Hájek takes the lead, stays in front. Behind him, Simo Puhakka precedes Dreezen, overly cautious at the start, also surprises Kremers on braking. The Dutchman of BirelArt won't stay put, however, and at the last corner ends up centering Puhakka. The collision, unexpected, penalizes both and forces them to start from the bottom of the group and then finish their run in the rear. The episode consumed in the first beats of the final hands over the keys of the World Cup to Patrik Hájek. Neither Dreezen nor Fabian Federer will succeed in resuming the Kosmic of the Czech. Meanwhile, after being overtaken by a rising Jorrit Pex, Anthony Abbasse remains bogged down in the group and due

KZ FINAL					
P	N	Driver	NAT.	EQUIPEMENTS	GAP
1	10	Hajek, Patrik	CZE	Kosmic / Vortex / LeCont	23 Laps
2	9	Dreezen, Rick	BEL	KR / Parilla / LeCont	1.785
3	3	Federer, Fabian	ITA	CRG / TM Racing / LeCont	3.142
4	14	Irlando, Alex	ITA	Sodi / TM Racing / LeCont	3.267
5	5	De Conto, Paolo	ITA	CRG / TM Racing / LeCont	3.309
6	1	Pex, Jorrit	NLD	CRG / TM Racing / LeCont	4.261
7	16	Torsellini, Mirko	ITA	KR / Parilla / LeCont	7.804
8	27	Hanley, Benjamin	GBR	Croc Pr.s / TM Racing / LeCont	8.457
9	28	Complese, Lorenzo	ITA	Evokart / TM Racing / LeCont	9.790
10	7	Lammers, Bas	NLD	Alpha / TM Racing / LeCont	9.885
11	17	Pex, Stan	NLD	CRG / TM Racing / LeCont	12.218
12	31	Kokko, Henri	FIN	Ninar / TM Racing / LeCont	15.255
13	21	Specken, Guust	NLD	Birel Art / Vortex / LeCont	16.502
14	29	Dale, Andrea	ITA	CRG / TM Racing / LeCont	16.763
15	18	Milell, Noah	SWE	Tony Kart / Vortex / LeCont	19.975
16	11	Celenta, Francesco	ITA	Praga / Vortex / LeCont	20.614
17	15	Puhakka, Simo	FIN	Tony Kart / Vortex / LeCont	20.736
18	26	Chubarov, Ivan	RUS	Croc Pr. / TM Racing / LeCont	23.795
19	2	Iglesias, Jeremy E.	FRA	Formula K / Vortex / LeCont	24.904
20	6	Kremers, Marijn	NLD	Birel Art / TM Racing / LeCont	29.714
21	22	Kohler, Leon	DEU	Energy Corse / Vortex / LeCont	31.497
22	32	Longfield, Tom	GBR	Comp / TM Racing / LeCont	35.506
23	25	Vallar, Damien	FRA	Birel Art / TM Racing / LeCont	47.947
24	24	Mizzoni, Mirko	ITA	Italcorse / TM Racing / LeCont	3 Laps
25	30	Adams, Christophe	BEL	Sodi / TM Racing / LeCont	10 Laps
26	19	Soquel, Yohan	CHE	Luxor / LKE / LeCont	13 Laps
27	8	Hiltbrand, Pedro	ESP	CRG / TM Racing / LeCont	16 Laps
28	20	Kuovi, Jan	FIN	CRG / TM Racing / LeCont	18 Laps
29	12	Abbasse, Anthony	FRA	Sodi / TM Racing / LeCont	21 Laps
30	23	Thonon, Jonathan	BEL	Birel Art / TM Racing / LeCont	21 Laps

RICK DREEZEN (KR / PARILLA)

«I'm really happy. It's not every day that I can run a World Championship just a few kilometers from home. It was a special weekend, considering the lack of experience with the new team. Fortunately everything worked well and we closed in 2nd place. There is a bit of regret for not having won, given how the three days of competition evolved, but certainly we have shown to have a solid foundation on which to work this winter».

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to being touched on the rear enters a spin. The French Sodi driver ends against the Birel ART of an innocent Jonathan Thonon. The departure of the two favors Irlando, who is behind Jorrit Pex, against whom he launches the decisive attack during the tenth lap. Pex turns out to be a tough customer for Irlando and this fight benefits Federer, 3rd but struggling with a blocked accelerator wire that

forces him to brake much earlier. When in fact the Italian of Sodi gets rid of the 2015 champion, there will be too few laps to go chasing the last step of the podium belonging to Federer. And at the stroke of the 23rd passage all joy breaks in the team captained by Olivier Marechal who celebrates the victory, the first of Patrik Hájek, escorted on the podium by Rick Dreezen and Fabian Federer



Fabian Federer (Crg / Tm) in front of Alex Irlando (Sodi / Tm). Their duel at a distance was among the most watched, and Federer had to defend himself hard as he faced the problem with the throttle wire. A deserved podium. Right, Hájek, 2018 world champion between Dreezen and Federer. The Dutchman, as shown in the heats, gave the impression of aiming for the top goal. But second place was beyond expectations, thanks above all to the unexpected retirement of Puhakka and Kremers. Below, Paolo De Conto as he passes Jorrit Pex. For the outgoing world champion, a world to forget.



A BLACK FRIDAY SLOWS DE CONTO AND HILTBRAND

The weekend of CRG drivers Paolo De Conto and Pedro Hiltbrand was one wherein they had to make a comeback. Both, despite being among the fastest on the track, found themselves having to recover after a Friday to forget, which saw them conclude qualifications in 15th (Hiltbrand) and 17th (De Conto) positions. The result is justified by the breaking of the connecting rod for the Spaniard and the water hose clamp for the current champion. Once the inconveniences were solved, then, the two drivers staged two spectacular comebacks in the arc of the heats. The blindfolded goddess of luck, however, once again turned her back on Hiltbrand who, on the seventh lap of the Final, saw a return of the aforementioned problem.





THE UNEXPECTED ACCIDENT BETWEEN KREMERS-PUHAKKA

On the right, the sequence of the incident involving Kremers and Puhakka. As always the two drivers stated their reasons, but those who crash are always wrong. And the version of Kremers, of having braked more than one meter ahead of schedule, does not however justify the collision, especially in the KZ world where professional drivers race. Because it is the driver behind who must be ready for every eventuality. The world title was up for grabs, and you cannot risk a collision on the first lap. And for one who has seen enough in the world at the time of Beggio, Piccini and Rossi ... The fact is that the race was thus left orphaned of two protagonists potentially able to change the fate of this world.

ZOOM PATRIK HÁJEK



IN THE END

The story of Patrik Hájek's last year, neo-world champion in KZ, gives an even sweeter taste to the victory of the prestigious karting title. TEXT: **A.GIUSTINI** PHOTO: **CUNAPHOTO.IT**

Wackersdorf, Germany, 10 September 2017.

The KZ World Championship is staged in Germany. The European vice champion Patrik Hájek presents himself with the clear objective of improving the result of the continental competition in the only way possible: with victory. The Czech qualifies in 8th place, just over a tenth from the lead. In the heats, things improve; the Kosmic driver is 3rd, which means second row. At the start of the Finale, behind Jeremy Iglesias, the poleman Anthony Abbasse passes ahead. Iglesias is fast, Hájek more, but the duel lasts one lap and little more because the neo champion 2018, perhaps too optimistic, tries to exploit a gap left open by the French rival in a point where two karts don't pass. Contact is inevitable. Patrik Hájek's world dream lasts only a few turns. From that moment something seems to have changed in the Kosmic driver, who began to reduce the events on his agonistic agenda by favoring a greater commitment as driver coach of his protégé Roman Stanek. In the initial plans of 2018, in fact, the only races scheduled were the European Championship, the World Championship and "some tests", as Hájek told us in Sarno. "I cannot run forever", he justified himself, and yet in the three races of the WSK Super Master Series disputed in southern Italy, he hurriedly decided to prepare the CIK FIA season at best, proving to still have a lot to say at a

competitive level. In the European Championship, however, thanks to the hardly clement Salbris track, with tires and the round in Lonato disputed in mid-July in scorching heat, Hájek did not go beyond tenth absolute spot. The world championship, however, is another story because it is disputed on a single race and on a circuit, that of Genk, that is technical and with a cold asphalt compared to previous races. In Belgium, therefore, whoever bets the most wins, like in poker. And Hájek seems to be holding a pair of aces: pole after the heats and race dominated from start to finish, how the driver from Prague makes up for a difficult year by rightly entering the roll of honor of the CIK FIA World Championship.

Let's take a step back to when you arrived in Belgium. Did you expect such a result?

«After a difficult European Championship I was not expecting to be here to speak as the new World Champion. I would have given my all, as always, to then evaluate what to do for the future. Once we started the weekend, however, we realized that the feeling increased from session to session. In qualifying I was already at the top, then after the heats we realized that we really had chances. It's a dream, especially after last year's disappointment».

What have you changed from

a technical point of view compared to the European Championship?

«Nothing, rather we worked on what we had. We certainly managed to get the best out of the LeCont tires, with which the Kosmic chassis proved to have a good feeling».

When did you realize you could really do it?

«Never, in the sense ... In the races you cannot afford the slightest distraction; you cannot think of having won before having passed under the checkered flag, because it can happen that you break at the last corner. It's clear, from the screen I saw the advantage increase, but this did not reassure me. I felt every slight vibration. After the finish, only then did I realize».

At the beginning of the year you told me "I can't run forever". As World Champion, do you still think of retiring?

«It's the hardest question you could ask me. It will not be easy to decide. On the one hand I think it can be challenging to defend the crown, on the other you need to know how to say enough when you are at the height of your career...».

In sum, we do not yet know what Patrik Hájek's future will be; whatever he does, the history of the 2018 World has taught us that the most beautiful pages are written by chance. As Valentino Rossi recites in his biography, "imagine if you hadn't tried".

VIGANÒ I

Matteo Viganò (Tony Kart / Vortex) dominates in Genk and wins the top prize in KZ2.

TEXT: **S. CORRADENGO** PHOTO: **CUNAPHOTO**

“FINALLY!”, this was the word that echoed in the post race of Genk. Important result and much-deserved for the new Champion KZ2 at the end of a weekend that has nothing further to add, if not perfection. Third win in a row on this track, but we are equally sure that from here on in, Matteo will know how to assert himself on other occasions and not only in Genk.

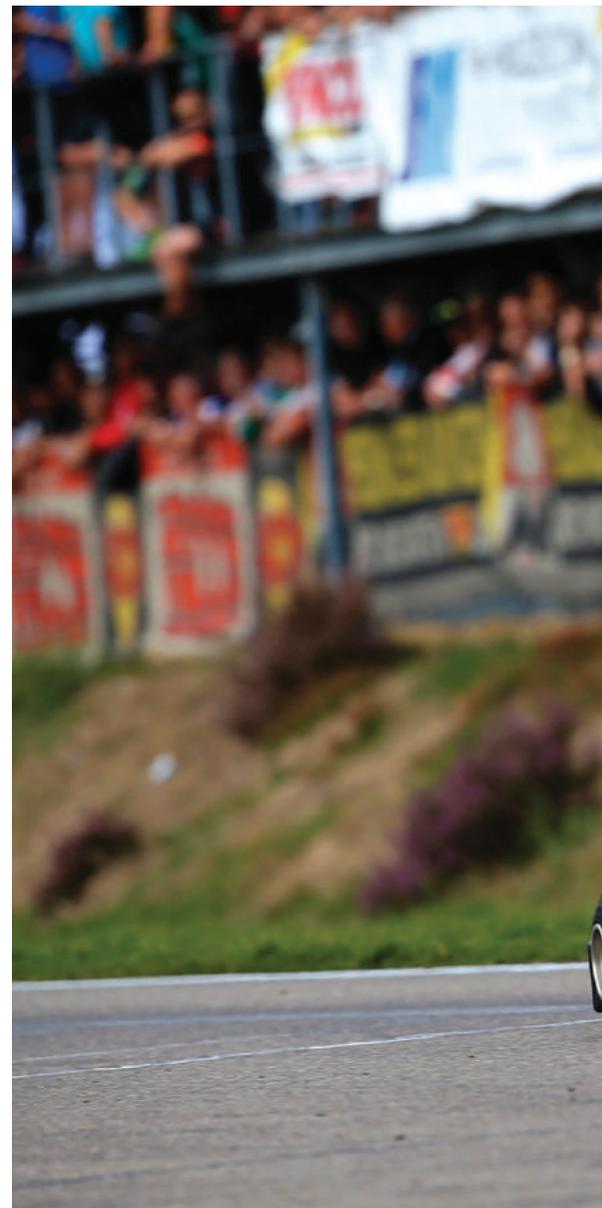
The gearbox class event gifts karting with one of the year’s best images, thanks to an audience worthy of great occasions. Opening the event is KZ2, crowded and fought over throughout the weekend, but with only one master: Matteo Viganò. The Tony Kart driver powered by Vortex brings home a success he had been aiming for two seasons, deserving all the post-race celebrations. Behind him, also celebrating, was New Zealand expert Daniel Bray second once again. David Vidales, third, happily ends the historic OTK day.

QUALIFICATIONS TONY KART / VORTEX IMMEDIATELY ON THE BALL

In addition to the stratospheric 52.411 achieved by Viganò, which earned him the absolute pole of group A, also beginning well were Alexander Schmitz, Emil Skaras and Paul Maximilian, in the first four positions. Among the outsiders: Jean Nomblot. Sixth and seventh, the two drivers fighting in the European Championship: Adrien Renaudin and Giacomo Pollini. Qualification poorly interpreted by many, such as Emilien Denner (18th), Alessio Piccini (22nd) and Riccardo Longhi (26th).

HEATS VIGANÒ PUTS EVERYONE IN LINE

The very long program, thanks to the hundred registered drivers, thrills the large Genk audience. Twenty-one direct matches that, in the end, once again reward Matteo Viganò. The success in five of the six rounds speaks volumes about the condition of the top Tony Kart driver. Nothing Adrien Renaudin could do, second, and Daniel Bray, who rose to



third. Skaras and Tubben complete the Top 5, seventh Pollini one step away from the first two rows, penalized by a contact in the last heat. Riccardo Longhi, off the front rows, due to two retirements that risked putting the driver sensationally out for the final. Manages, however, to



qualify, thanks to two victories, a second and a fourth place.

FINAL MATTEO VIGANÒ BECOMES THE GREAT AT GENK

At the go, a stampede, in full KZ2 style. At the first turn Viganò pressed by Renaudin.

Immediately behind, Skaras and Di Mauro in close contact. Sixth Vidales, while Pollini, forced to the outside, loses two positions. In the rear a collision affects the final two French drivers Evrard and Landais. On the second lap, the advantage of Viganò is already clear: almost one second.

Meanwhile, Bray makes his move, passes Renaudin at the end of the finish line straight. The European Champion takes the blow favoring the great return of Gaetano di Mauro. The Brazilian rose from sixth and sticks to the French driver's bumper, starting what will become a long pursuit. In

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front, the positions remain frozen, while Giacomo Pollini and Riccardo Longhi rise through the ranks. The NGM driver returns in the first seven, the BirelArt driver from P28 to P11 after only a few laps. Alessio Piccini also moves back into the top ten. Viganò leads undeterred, playing rubber band with Bray who, in turn, reduces the gap to six tenths. During the tenth lap the fight for the bronze medal comes alive. A tough Di Mauro intensifies the pressure on Renaudin, making himself dangerous on all the corners. On lap 15, Emil Skaras slackens. This favors Vidales, Pollini, Van Leeuwen and Longhi. The Italian, favored by the low race pace, takes ninth overtaking Piccini. Three laps later, everything changes, with Vidales first to get rid of Skaras on the driven section, while a little further back Longhi passes Pollini, seventh. The episode that assigns the third position is consumed two laps from the end. Gaetano di Mauro, glued for



more than half of the race to Renaudin, approaches the pass in the last "S" before the finish line. The two come into contact, and Vidales takes advantage to move from fifth to third. Last highlight guaranteed by Riccardo Longhi, almost there, but then surrendering to the good defense of Di Mauro. Of note, Piccini's DNF on the penultimate lap due to engine failure. Checkered flag on the

KZ2. Viganò is deservedly first under the checkered flag; good at handling the gap and tires, the Italian collects the third success in three years at Genk, the latter valid for the International Super Cup KZ2 title. Daniel Bray is second. Party in Tony Kart with David Vidales' surprise third place. Useless comeback for Longhi, disqualified during verifications for being underweight

The start of the final of the International KZ2 Super Cup. Viganò (109) and the European champion Renaudin (101) make the most of the front row. Above, the podium with Viganò trophy winner between the new Zealander Daniel Bray and the Spaniard David Vidales. To the right, Riccardo Longhi, although among the fastest in the category, did not collect as much as he deserved. Above, the Brazilian Di Mauro (167) penalized by contact with Renaudin fighting for the podium in the final stages, manages to finish fourth in front of Longhi.



GAETANO DI MAURO

Back from almost saying goodbye to karting, the Brazilian CRG driver does well in the category, despite his having started racing in cars. Amazes in the heats with excellent placings. The end result is convincing in every way, and the conquest of the podium would have been a deserved reward for what was seen on the track.

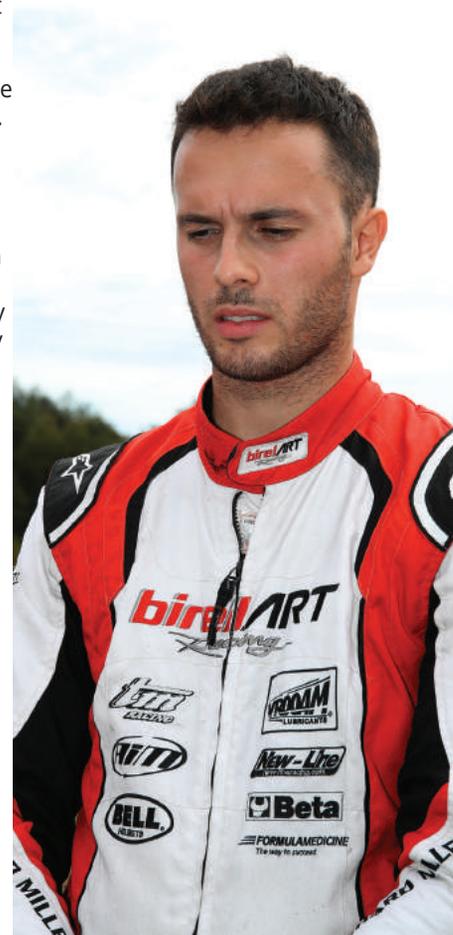
«It was a nice weekend. Let me state that I did not race in Europe this season. Despite everything, I arrived here in Genk and I immediately went quickly. Finishing fourth is not bad. It was possible to do third. It's a pity I could not get rid of Renaudin. I was too long behind him, then when he went wide I tried to pass him, but he closed the trajectory and the collision favored Vidales. For me karting is very important. It keeps me in training for my races. I am very happy for the team. I could come back next year. Now I concentrate on the next targets in Brazil».

RICCARDO LONGHI

This year the BirelArt standard bearer proved to be fast, and is certainly among the fastest in the category. Even in Belgium, Longhi complained about a troubled Saturday with two retirements in the heats, too much to start in front of the final, despite two victories. In all cases, the Italian recovered from 28th and came close to the podium, but then was penalized for being underweight. Will he be a hot name to watch in KZ, too?

«The weekend was very positive regarding speed, as always. Two contacts caused by opponents put me out of the game, also

due to not very good qualifications (due to traffic), which forced me to always start behind. Fortunately I managed to qualify for the final, despite the disasters. From the 28th starting position I could only drive to the max and try to do my best possible. In the end, I got a great race! I climbed up to the 5th place, practically attached to the 4th, scoring continuously fast laps, two tenths better than my opponents. Even this little satisfaction has been taken away from us: 100g underweight ... From these CIK appointments, I would definitely save the speed; on that we were not really second to none».



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Giacomo Pollini

After filing away an astounding European, Pollini takes the NGM Motorsport even higher. Qualifying heats once again as a protagonist. The collision in the last run on Sunday morning, however, affected the expectations of the eve. A hard blow for him and for the team.

«It was tough and we struggled a lot. In the end we were in front and it was a positive race. However, a bitter aftertaste remains because in the final we were really close to the podium, and we missed it by little. It could have been better, especially avoiding the incident in the last heat. I had a few penalties and certainly we could have started a row or two further up, to then fight closer to the first group. This year was my best year: second in the European Championship and seventh in Genk. I feel satisfied and I look forward with more conviction of my means».



MATTEO VIGANÒ - TONY KART/VORTEX

«The weekend started right away in the right fashion. We had the speed in qualifying and in the heats. I managed to handle the tires well, I knew Bray could be running with me. In the final it was a bit tough because I did not well know what to do. The gap was reduced to six tenths and I did not know whether to start pulling away or not, because of the tires. In the end I decided to manage a bit for a possible fight in the last laps ... In the end it went well.»

DAVID VIDALES - TONY KART/VORTEX

«The weekend was difficult. In the first days we were very fast, then in qualifying I was unlucky, especially for the temperatures and the traffic. Even in the heats I did not have an easy life, I had to manage the tires ... I knew I had a good overall package. I was lucky to be behind Renaudin and Di Mauro in the last laps ... I made the most of their contact and managed to overtake them».



PAUL MAXIMILIAN - DR/MODENA ENGINES

«Genk was a good weekend. After qualifying in fourth position, we did some good heats in the top three. Only one heat did not go the way we wanted. I started the Final from the tenth spot, keeping the position well. I'm pretty happy with this season. We improve every time and we even got on the podium, other times in the top ten positions. I want to be even more competitive with the team and I want to fight for the podium, these are my goals for the future».

KZ2 FINAL					
P	N	Driver	NAT.	EQUIPEMENTS	GAP
1	109	Vigano, Matteo	ITA	Tony Kart / Vortex / LeCont	23 Laps
2	111	Bray, Daniel	NZL	GP/Alu Group / TM Racing / LeCont	1.454
3	114	Vidales Ajenjo, David	ESP	Tony Kart / Vortex / LeCont	4.573
4	167	Gomes E.S. Di Mauro	BRA	CRG / TM Racing / LeCont	6.014
5	101	Renaudin, Adrien	FRA	Sodi / TM Racing / LeCont	6.675
6	133	Skaras, Emil	SWE	Energy Corse / TM Racing / LeCont	6.936
7	102	Pollini, Giacomo	ITA	Formula K / TM Racing / LeCont	7.095
8	140	Van Leeuwen, Martijn	NLD	/ Parilla / LeCont	7.191
9	117	Dahlberg, Alexander	SWE	Birel Art / TM Racing / LeCont	10.692
10	115	Paul, Maximilian	DEU	DR / Modena Engines / LeCont	11.391
11	142	Cebrian Ariza, Gerard	ESP	CRG / TM Racing / LeCont	11.943
12	103	Denner, Emilien	FRA	Kai'Kart / TM Racing / LeCont	12.310
13	132	Nomblot, Jean	FRA	Sodi / TM Racing / LeCont	13.202
14	135	Baciуска, Rokas	LTU	Sodi / TM Racing / LeCont	13.476
15	149	Davies, Dylan	NLD	CRG / TM Racing / LeCont	13.927
16	108	Petit, Hubert	FRA	Sodi / TM Racing / LeCont	14.148
17	127	Giardelli, Alessandro	ITA	Tony Kart / Vortex / LeCont	21.365
18	120	Vasile, Daniel	ROU	DR / Modena Engines / LeCont	21.470
19	119	Iacovacci, Francesco	ITA	Maranello / TM Racing / LeCont	21.952
20	134	Hall, Philip	SWE	Tony Kart / TM Racing / LeCont	28.918
21	165	Fritsch, Valentino	DEU	Birel Art / TM Racing / LeCont	30.358
22	193	Kindervater, Robert	DEU	Birel Art / TM Racing / LeCont	34.422
23	143	Berto, Filippo	ITA	CRG / TM Racing / LeCont	37.114
24	106	Piccini, Alessio	ITA	Tony Kart / Vortex / LeCont	1 Lap
25	191	Fife, Joshua	AUS	Energy Corse / TM Racing / LeCont	3 Laps
26	175	Zanchetta, Marco	ITA	Mach 1 / TM Racing / LeCont	12 Laps
27	107	Louberre, Pierre	FRA	Praga / TM Racing / LeCont	16 Laps
28	145	Tubben, Max	NLD	CRG / TM Racing / LeCont	18 Laps
29	113	Schmitz, Alexander	DEU	Tony Kart / Vortex / LeCont	22 Laps
30	121	Evrard, Paul	FRA	Kosmic / Vortex / LeCont	23 Laps
31	123	Landais, Thomas	FRA	Alpha / TM Racing / LeCont	23 Laps

GENK CIRCUIT 10+

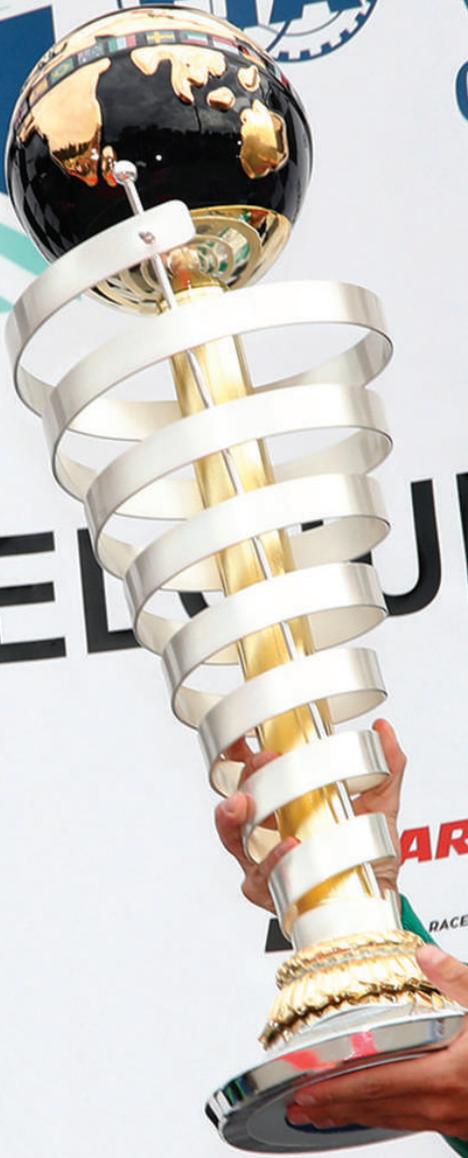
The Belgian circuit offers the season's most beautiful image. Grandstand and track perimeters packed since Saturday morning, and then replicated with Sunday's full house. An overall feeling of celebrating a great occasion, worthy of the World Championship, accompanied by the audience roaring worthy of football stadiums at every twist and turn. In sum, the warmth of Genk has left its mark. A huge round of applause to the organization that was able to promote the event in an intelligent way. Fantastique! Fantastisch!

DANIEL BRAY GPRACING/TM

«I felt at ease right away. I had a good start, Viganò was unreachable, but Renaudin was in range and I overtook him as soon as I could. I tried to push as much as possible to close the gap with Matteo, but he was super fast. I'm happy, it's my second CIK-FIA podium.»



FIA KARTING WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP



BELGIUM, 07.09.2010

KARTING
GEN
RACE LIKE CHAMPION



Panta
MOLGROUP ITALY

KING IN BELGIUM

With the third consecutive triumph in Genk, Matteo Viganò takes his rightful place in the record books alongside the most successful winners on the Belgian track. TEXT: S. CORRADENGO PHOTO: CUNAPHOTO.IT

The race staged on Sunday 9 September won't be easy to forget for Viganò. At the end of a practically perfect weekend, the Italian of Tony Kart, powered by Vortex, took home his first big CIK win. For the past three seasons, the tortuous Belgian plant has given the driver from Bergamo significant wins. A difficult track to interpret, long bends, braking points, have repeatedly made a natural selection of rivals, as have weather conditions, a true unknown in these parts.

2017, he took the Genk race, a stage of the European Championship, never a too happy one for the Italian. The 2018 event, however, presented itself immediately as a wonderful opportunity for him to make his mark. Absolute domination in all the sessions, except for the last heat on Sunday, finished in third position. The final is a separate story with Viganò more cautious than ever in the early stages, launched towards a virtually due victory. At the end of the race, he celebrates in his way in the parc

«It means a lot. It's my first CIK title. I'm really happy to have arrived. It's been a long time that I have worked to achieve this goal. Probably I would also have deserved it a few years ago. I always said that sooner or later it would come, and here it is! The merits go to the Tony Kart material, a perfect package between chassis and engine, everything necessary to win. I thought about driving and doing what I had to do».

The first big seal in KZ2 launches the kartist among the next season's expected frontrunners. Might he be heir to Marco Ardigò in the top series? The multi-titled driver still has a future ahead; that said, at least as regards nationality, Viganò could aspire to the role of direct successor.

Do you feel you are Ardigò's heir for the future?

«I don't think I can say that, because Marco will still be running. Then we'll see. I feel I'll have to work hard to get to the highest levels. We'll see next year. I will do the KZ and know if I can aspire to it or not».

With the title now in your pocket, what do you expect for the end of 2018 and the start of the new season?

«I expect the last races of the year to always be at this level, and fight for success. Next year, of course we'll go to win ... even if for a final podium ... In the first year of KZ, I'd sign immediately».

With the bar now fully raised, Viganò looks to the immediate future at the WSK Final Cup, but not only that. A jump in quality is expected in 2019, not to be confused with immediate title expectations, but only the track will reveal his future.



He starts, manages, wins, convinces.

A recipe now perfect, tried and tested, by Viganò, among the strongest drivers in the category. In 2016 and

fermé, with applause and shouts from the Tony Kart team, to then raise the winner's cup, once and for all.

Matteo, what does this title mean to you?



CIK-FIA WORLD KZ CHAMPIONSHIP

1° CLASSIFIED: PATRIK HÁJEK (KOSMIC/VORTEX)

CIK-FIA INTERNATIONAL KZ2 SUPER CUP

1° CLASSIFIED: MATTEO VIGANO' (TONY KART/VORTEX);

3° CLASSIFIED: DAVID VIDALES (TONY KART/VORTEX)

GENK (BEL), CIRCUIT HORENSBERGDAM, 9 SEPTEMBER 2018



Pauwels dreams, Boya is Champ

The Genk event marks the end of yet another season of the Academy Trophy. A close match and uncertainty reward local hero Kobe Pauwels who misses out on the title by one point, which instead goes to Spaniard Mari Boya. TEXT: **S. CORRADENGO** PHOTO: **CUNAPHOTO**



THE GRID BOYA DOESN'T SKIP A BEAT

At the end of the three heats on Saturday, Jose Maria Boya leads the final, thanks to three victories. Capital performance by the Spaniard called to run the perfect race. Behind him is Guilherme De Figueiredo, a victory and two second places and, to follow, Kobe Pauwels, two victories and a fourth place in the heats.

FINAL PAUWELS WINS, BOYA IS CHAMP AND FLIES TO OKJ WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

At the start of the final, Boya takes the

head, gaining a few meters against De Figueiredo. The Brazilian is soon overtaken also by Pauwels, who started in P3. The scramble at the start show a good Joshua Rattican, also in the melee for the first five positions. On the third lap, it is still Pauwels who puts on a show: a surgical pass on Boya at the curve five corner. The fight for the victory in fact ends with the homeboy holding back all the Spaniard's attacks. On the tenth lap, Rattican overtakes De Figueiredo at the end of the straight. Nine laps later, checkered flag also on the Academy season itself, with Pauwels winning the race and Maria Boya

triumphant in the series. The Belgian loses the title by just one point, becoming the third different winner of the three races on the calendar. Big party for Boya, next rival at the OKJ World Championship in Kristianstad, with Kosmic colors.

Above, Kobe Pauwels and Jose Maria Boya in the last appointment of the Academy Trophy in Genk. The Belgian takes the final, but the Spaniard takes home the title with his second place finish and will take part in the OKJ World Championship in Kristianstad with the colors of Kosmic



MARI BOYA

«I am very happy. My goal was to win the title more than the race. We did a great job to get this result. Now I'm going to Kristianstad for the World Cup, along with Kosmic. We'll see what I can do ... I'll do my best to bring home a good result».

KOBE PAUWELS

«It was a very difficult race. I tried to drive better, but I had a lot of pressure from Boya. I gave everything to win in front of my audience, on my home track. I want to keep winning. I will probably take part in the Kristianstad World Cup».



ACADEMY CHAMPIONSHIP STANDING - RESULTS AFTER GENK (BEL)										
P	N	Driver	Nat.	Fra QH	Fra F	Ita QH	Ita F	Bel QH	Bel F	Points
1	510	Navalon Boya, Jose M.	ESP	9	25	(6)	(11)	10	20	64
2	502	Pauwels, Kobe	BEL	10	20	0	(3)	8	25	63
3	506	De Figueiredo, Guilherme	BRA	0	0	8	20	9	13	50
4	507	Meguetounif, Sami	FRA	8	16	10	13	0	(7)	47
5	527	Albanese, Federico	ITA	0	6	9	25	0	0	40
6	509	Rattican, Joshua	GBR	2	11	0	0	6	16	35
7	512	Zanfari, Suleiman	MAR	5	(4)	4	16	0	8	33
8	538	Kadapik, Rimmo	EST	6	13	0	4	0	0	23
9	511	Callejas Gomez, Isidro	ESP	3	8	0	0	7	5	23
10	521	Crawford, Jak	USA	0	9	3	9	0	(4)	21
11	546	Siksnelis, Kajus	LTU	1	5	7	8	0	0	21
12	503	De Haan, Robert	NLD	0	0	0	6	2	11	19
13	517	Taponen, Tuukka	FIN	0	3	1	(1)	4	10	18
14	518	Shimbara, Kotaro	JPN	7	10	0	0	0	0	17
15	508	Tanic, Craig	FRA	4	7	0	0	5	1	17
16	548	Kuc, Marcel	POL	0	0	5	10	0	0	15
17	531	Bohdanowicz, Lucas	ARG	0	0	0	0	1	9	10
18	514	Wernersson, Theo	SWE	0	1	0	7	-	-	8
19	520	Coertze, Joshua	ZAF	0	-	2	5	0	0	7
20	515	Andreasson, Norton	SWE	0	0	0	0	0	6	6
21	516	Wulf, William Kristian	DNK	0	0	0	0	0	3	3
22	523	Kvilekval, Sondre	NOR	0	0	0	-	3	0	3
23	522	Queen, Colin	USA	0	0	0	0	0	2	2
24	537	Pino Munoz, Nicolás	CHL	0	0	0	2	-	-	2
25	549	Dadhley, Jaivir	KEN	0	2	0	0	0	0	2
26	542	Orton, William	GBR	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
27	501	Leistra, Luca	BEL	0	0	-	-	-	-	0
28	529	Becicka Jr., Jiri	CZE	0	-	0	0	0	0	0
29	534	Tarillion, Maximilian	AUT	0	-	0	0	0	0	0
30	533	Gu, Zi Yue	CHN	0	-	0	0	0	0	0
31	540	Komninou, Konstantinos	GRC	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
32	535	Almeida, Rodrigo	MOZ	0	-	0	0	0	0	0
33	530	Škulj, Mark	SVN	0	0	0	-	-	-	0
34	524	Fagone, Alessio	CHE	-	-	0	0	0	-	0

