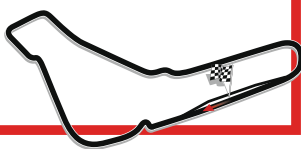


GP2
Monza (I)
September 6-7



Round 9/11

RESULTS

RACE 1: 30 LAPS, 107.796 MILES

1	STOFFEL VANDOOORNE (B)	48m02.203s
ART Grand Prix; Grid: 1st-1m31.707s		
2	ARTHUR PIC (F)	+0.673s
Campos Racing; Grid: 2nd-1m31.926s		
3	MITCH EVANS (NZ)	+4.102s
Russian Time; Grid: 3rd-1m31.934s		
4	STEPHANE RICHELMI (MC)	+9.502s
DAMS; Grid: 6th-1m32.150s		
5	ANDRE NEGRAO (BR)	+11.140s
Arden International; Grid: 9th-1m32.354s		
6	FELIPE NASR (BR)	+11.605s
Carlin; Grid: 7th-1m32.310s		
7	MARCO SORENSEN (DK)	+14.458s
MP Motorsport; Grid: 14th-1m32.419s		
8	JOLYON PALMER (GB)	+15.049s
DAMS; Grid: 26th*-1m32.010s		
9	STEFANO COLETTI (MC)	+16.704s
Racing Engineering; Grid: 12th-1m32.412s		
10	JOHNNY CECOTTO JR (VV)	+17.164s
Trident; Grid: 23rd**-1m32.533s		

Winner's average speed: 134.612mph. Fastest lap: Julian Leal, Carlin, 1m33.473s, 138.634mph. * - qualifying time disallowed. ** - three-place grid penalty for impeding.

RACE 2: 21 LAPS, 75.370 MILES

1	PALMER	36m38.991s
Grid: 1st		
2	COLETTI	+1.501s
Grid: 9th		
3	RICHELMI	+3.024s
Grid: 5th		
4	SORENSEN	+4.881s
Grid: 2nd		
5	NEGRAO	+7.980s
Grid: 4th		
6	NASR	+10.602s
Grid: 3rd		
7	PIC	+11.238s
Grid: 7th		
8	ADRIAN QUAIFE-HOBBS (GB)	+12.453s
Rapax; Grid: 14th		
9	DANIEL DE JONG (NL)	+16.157s
MP Motorsport; Grid: 25th		
10	DANIEL ABT (D)	+20.311s
Hilmer Motorsport; Grid: 22nd		

Winner's average speed: 123.458mph. Fastest lap: Coletti, 1m33.258s, 138.954mph. All drivers in Dallara-Mecachrome GP2/11.

DRIVERS' CHAMPIONSHIP

1	PALMER	231	6	COLETTI	114
2	NASR	190	7	PIC	90
3	VANDOOORNE	164	8	LEAL	66
4	CECOTTO	128	9	RICHELMI	63
5	EVANS	125	10	MARCIELLO	57

TEAMS

1	DAMS	294	4	RACING ENGINEERING	171
2	CARLIN	256	5	TRIDENT	150
3	ART GRAND PRIX	190	6	RUSSIAN TIME	131

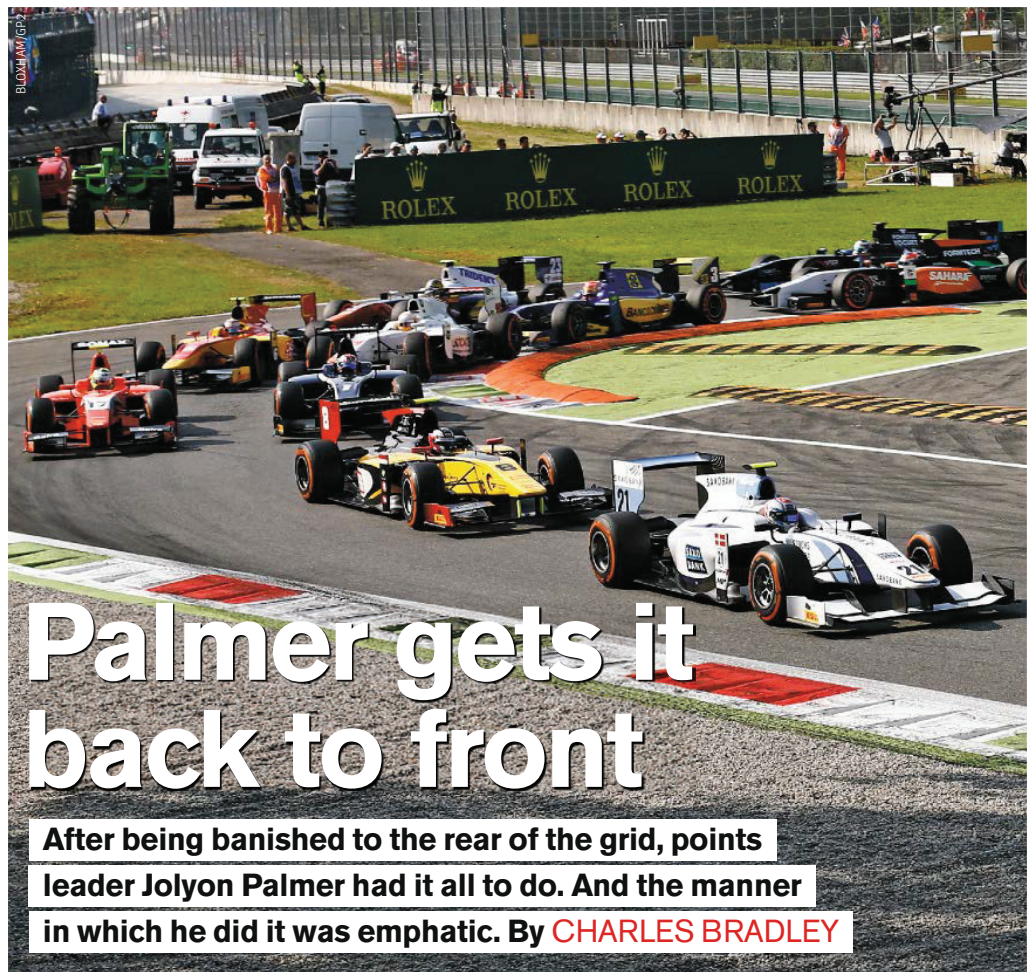
POINTS SYSTEM EXPLAINED

Race 1: 25-18-15-12-10-8-6-4-2-1 to top 10 finishers. Race 2: 15-12-10-8-6-4-2-1 to top eight. Pole for race one: 4. Fastest lap of top 10 finishers in each race: 2.

Coletti (left) had this race one drama



FOR IN-DEPTH RESULTS
forix.autosport.com **FORIX**



Palmer gets it back to front

After being banished to the rear of the grid, points leader Jolyon Palmer had it all to do. And the manner in which he did it was emphatic. By CHARLES BRADLEY

CHAMPIONSHIP LEADER JOLYON PALMER TURNED a 32-point GP2 Series lead into 41 at Monza, but how he managed that after being slung to the back of the grid after qualifying was a turnaround of epic proportions. His sprint race victory on Sunday, his third win of the season, was the icing on his comeback cake following a charging drive from the back to eighth on Saturday.

The DAMS driver had qualified fourth but, when his car returned to parc ferme with less than the requisite one litre of fuel to satisfy the scrutineers, he went to bed seething. "More motivated than ever," he tweeted. "Head down, move on." And how.

Despite starting on the slightly slower hard-compound tyre, he gained six places on the opening lap of Saturday's feature race, then another five on the second tour. By lap seven he was up to 12th, and then outbraked Rio Haryanto with ease for 11th at Rettifilo on lap 10, as those who'd started on the medium tyre began the mandatory pitstop sequence.

Running a long first stint, Palmer pitted on lap 20, at the same time as the top hard-to-medium runner Marco Sorensen, who was 3.7s ahead at the time. Palmer rejoined 10th with 10 laps to go, but was now on the quicker tyre; this was his moment and eighth place was the clear target.

Palmer passed Julian Leal around the outside at Rettifilo, just before the Colombian served a drivethrough for punting Daniel Abt at Lesmo 2. Amid a sequence of fastest laps, Palmer passed Stefano Coletti's battered Racing Engineering car at Roggia with five laps remaining to obtain the prized reversed-grid pole spot for Sunday.

"The race went nearly perfectly," he reported. "The car was good, the strategy was good." On his

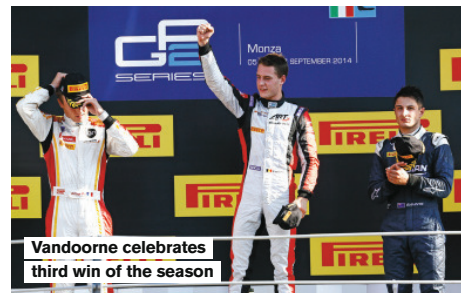
in-lap he told his team: "It feels better than a win."

Palmer got to compare those feelings directly on Sunday. Although he didn't make the best of starts to the sprint race ("They don't tend to be at the moment," he rued) he went deep under braking at the first corner to fend off the attacking Sorensen. With Palmer having compromised his exit, the Dane came back at him into the Roggia, only to lock up and go straight on.

That promoted Palmer's team-mate Stephane Richelmi to second, and Palmer pulled away with ease after a five-lap safety car period following a 180mph crash (that could have been so much worse) between series debutant Pierre Gasly and Artem Markelov on the back straight. That was sparked by Sergio Canamasas (who was later black-flagged) straightlining Ascari and rejoining, in video-game style, by hitting Adrian Quaife-Hobbs and causing a logjam behind.

Palmer was now out in front, team-mate riding tailgunner and all the chaos was going on behind him. This was going to be simple now. Or was it?

Having been thwarted by Palmer in his quest for reversed-grid pole, a fired-up Coletti emerged



Vandoorne celebrates third win of the season



Palmer leads Sorensen and Richelmi on way to crucial sprint race win

as his closest challenger. From ninth on the grid he rocketed up to sixth at the start, and pulled off some remarkable outbraking moves at Rettifilo, passing Mitch Evans, Andre Negro, Sorensen and Richelmi there with consummate ease.

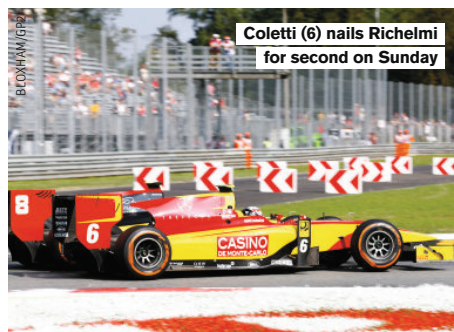
Coletti clawed back the deficit of 2.1s to Palmer to 0.7s with three laps to go, but couldn't get close enough to launch one of those amazing lunges. "I almost went off a few times trying to catch him," admitted Coletti, who settled for second after a sensational drive that echoed that Monzameister of old in GP2, Giorgio Pantano.

Rewind to Saturday's race, and it was all about ART's Stoffel Vandoorne and Arthur Pic of Campos Racing. After taking his second pole position on the trot, McLaren protege Vandoorne controlled the feature race like a veteran – especially when Pic slashed into his advantage in the closing stages.

"I upped my game and pushed really hard in the end, and finally managed to hold him off," said Vandoorne. Pic, who bemoaned a much slower pitstop, added: "It was really hard to find a place to overtake him. The only way was if he did a mistake, but he did not."

Evans rounded out the podium for Russian Time, and reckoned he'd have been more of a threat if he'd pitted earlier, but his radio connection wasn't working. He just managed to fend off Richelmi after his stop, while the much-improved Negro of Arden International finished a best-ever fifth.

It wasn't such a great weekend for Palmer's title rival Felipe Nasr, who must've thought all his Christmases had come at once when Palmer was disqualified from qualifying. That promoted the Carlin driver to seventh on the grid, and Nasr



Coletti (6) nails Richelmi for second on Sunday

finished sixth, right on the tail of Negro, after a hectic opening race for him packed with wheel-to-wheel dices.

With Palmer finishing just two places behind, it was imperative for Nasr to finish ahead of the Briton again on Sunday. But he made a terrible start from P3 and was swamped down to ninth place.

Nasr picked up a place when Pic made a porridge of Roggia, and gained another when Evans's attempt to pass Negro around the outside of Rettifilo damaged his suspension, forcing the Kiwi out. Nasr finished seventh, but the stewards did him a favour by penalising Jon Lancaster for passing Pic over the white line on the start-finish straight, so he was classified sixth again. But that's simply not good enough form if he's to overcome the points deficit.

So Palmer had the last laugh on a weekend that served only to tighten his grip on the title with only two race weekends remaining: "It's been a weekend of massive lows but it ended in a perfect way." ❧



Muller (middle) with Bachler (left) and Bamber

PORSCHE SUPERCUP MONZA (I), SEPTEMBER 7 RD 8/10

Muller's magic Monza mastery

PORSCHE JUNIOR SVEN MULLER SCORED AN immaculate maiden Supercup victory at Monza on Sunday, his lights-to-flag performance from pole position making up for his throwing away a certain win with a spin while leading at the Red Bull Ring earlier in the season.

While 22-year-old Muller was unchallenged up front and made no such mistakes this time, it was another youngster, 23-year-old Klaus Bachler, who surged up from fifth on the grid to third at the first corner. Points leader Earl Bamber had also made a fine getaway from third on the grid to run second behind Muller, but Bachler attacked Bamber at Rettifilo at the start of lap two.

After making contact, Bamber straightlined the corner and was forced to cede the position to Bachler as they ran through Curva Grande. That meant he slipped back into the clutches of title rival Kuba Giermaziak, and the pair fought out an intense duel to the finish.

Bachler had pulled clear of Bamber and Giermaziak until he ran through the gravel on the exit of Ascari at half distance. Bamber challenged into Roggia on the following lap, but outbraked himself and took the run-off again. He rejoined aggressively in front of Giermaziak, for which he received a black-and-white warning flag, but this allowed Bachler to escape clear in second.

Giermaziak was stronger through Ascari, and that set him up with strong runs into Parabolica, and latterly Rettifilo. The Pole attacked Bamber into Rettifilo twice in the last five laps, but both times the Kiwi was able to repel him and cling to third, which extends his slender points lead with just two races to go.

Behind Giermaziak, Michael Ammermuller held off the early challenge of Clemens Schmid. But when Ammermuller ran wide at Rettifilo, it was Nicki Thiim (who started down in 11th) who took advantage to jump past Schmid for sixth. Schmid's attempts to fight back ended when he ran wide at Ascari on the penultimate lap.

Britain's Ben Barker finished ninth, despite overshooting Rettifilo, but he has lost significant ground in the points standings.

● Charles Bradley

RESULTS

1 Sven Muller (Team Project 1), 14 laps in 26m35.255s;
2 Klaus Bachler (Konrad Motorsport), +1.399s; 3 Earl Bamber (Fach Auto Tech); 4 Kuba Giermaziak (Lechner Racing Team); 5 Michael Ammermuller (Lechner); 6 Nicki Thiim (Lechner); 7 Clemens Schmid (Lechner); 8 Philipp Eng (Team Project 1); 9 Ben Barker (Lechner); 10 Matteo Cairoli (Antonelli Motorsport).
Points 1 Bamber, 123; 2 Giermaziak, 118; 3 Bachler, 84; 4 Muller, 81; 5 Ammermuller, 76; 6 Barker, 73.