

Menu Wins, Muller And Huff Reduce Championship Gap By 3 Points

The Swiss dominates Race 1, four podium finishes for the Cruzes at Suzuka

SUZUKA, 23rd October 2011 – Chevrolet took another win today in Japan, totalling four podium finishes, as the fight for the Drivers' Championship gets even more exciting. Alain Menu scored his fourth win of the season in Race 1, with Huff 2nd and Muller 4th, while in Race 2, Yvan, Rob and Alain finished 2nd, 3rd and 4th respectively, confirming the excellent form of the RML run Cruzes. Local hero Toshi Arai finished 15th in both races, after a solid show in front of his many fans.

Race 1 saw a chaotic start with two different multiple accidents, which had no consequences for the Chevrolet drivers and forced the safety car out. At the restart, Muller took the lead but could not prevent Menu passing him on lap 8. From then on, the Swiss kept the lead and crossed the line as the winner, escorted by Rob Huff, who took 2nd. Muller eventually lost two more positions, finishing 4th, while Arai concluded 15th.

Race 2 started with pole sitter Darryl O'Young, in the Bamboo run Cruze, being ousted at the first corner, which allowed Coronel to take the lead. The Dutchman resisted the pressure of the three Cruzes throughout the entire race, with Muller, Huff and Menu finishing behind him, after an interesting fight with Dahlgren.

With these results, the gap between Muller and Huff in the overall standings has been reduced by 3 points, while Menu is 73 points behind, which ensures total suspense as the WTCC heads to China for the penultimate round of the season!

• QUOTES

Alain Menu (1st / 4th): *"A very good weekend for me and I am very happy with the pace I got throughout it. Ahead of Race 1, we had agreed with Yvan not to attack each other at the start and he took the advantage, as I maybe was a little bit too cautious. After the safety car period, I could pass him again and then it was just a matter of saving the tires, controlling things and not opening the door to Rob. In Race 2, I had a good start but was blocked at the first corner and then there was little I could do, as overtaking is almost impossible here, but at least I could keep Dahlgren behind me. I am still in the race for the championship, but it is going to be very tough, as both Yvan and Rob scored heavy points today!"*

Rob Huff (2nd / 3rd): *"Not a bad weekend, as I could shorten the gap from Yvan in the championship by three points, although today's result doesn't change things much. But we knew it is going to be a long and hard road up to the end! I was lucky that my car was not damaged in the pile up at the start, although there was quite a serious contact with Coronel, after that the race was pretty straightforward, and I could finish ahead of Yvan. Race 2 was more difficult as we were very close to each other in the top five and the tires were suffering more, but it was OK to finish right behind Yvan."*

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Yvan Muller (4th / 2nd): *"Not a bad weekend, although I lost three point to Rob, but it could have been worse! In Race 1, I paid the set-up choice I made, which turned out to be a little bit too aggressive, in the attempt to spare the constraint on the front left tire, which is the one suffering most here. I could not keep Alain behind me and then lost two more positions when I made a little mistake. In Race 2, I wasn't in a position to really attack Coronel for the lead and stayed behind him to be ready for any opportunity, but he did no mistake..."*

Toshi Arai (15th / 15th): *"Yesterday, after qualifying, all my times were cancelled, as I didn't stop for the technical inspection when coming back to the pits. Very frankly, I didn't see the red light. As a consequence, I had to start last, and with the traffic problems on this track, I could not do better than 15th, a result I repeated in Race 2. Still, I am very happy of my progress throughout the weekend, I enjoyed the experience tremendously, and I am very pleased with the support received from the team and the many fans who attended."*

Eric Nève: *"Again a very good weekend for Chevrolet, but what pleases me the most is the excellent atmosphere in the team and the sportsmanship shown by our three drivers throughout the weekend. They are fighting for a World Champion title with all their determination, but in the most sportive manner, and there was not a single contact between them here in Suzuka. The fight is getting even closer now, with only two events to go, and it is important they keep the same spirit until the end"*

I am equally pleased with the performance of the other Chevrolet local hero, Yukinori Taniguchi who finished Race 1 in an impressive 6th position. It was great to have Toshi and him representing our brand which is gaining rapid momentum in Japan."

SUZUKA RACE 1 RESULTS

1. A Menu	Chevrolet Cruze	25 laps in 25m50s919
2. R Huff	Chevrolet Cruze	+ 3s133
3. M Nykjaer	SEAT SR León 1.6T	+ 3s766
4. Y Muller	Chevrolet Cruze	+ 4s441
5. K Poulsen	BMW 320 TC	+ 4s851
15. T Arai	Chevrolet Cruze	+26s767

SUZUKA RACE 2 RESULTS

1. T Coronel	BMW 320 TC	23 laps in
2. Y Muller	Chevrolet Cruze	+ 0s558
3. R Huff	Chevrolet Cruze	+ 0s840
4. A Menu	Chevrolet Cruze	+ 1s576
5. R Dahlgren	Volvo C30 Drive	+ 2s057
15. T Arai	Chevrolet Cruze	+23s541

DRIVERS POINTS STANDINGS AFTER RACE 20 OF 24

1. Y Muller (Chevrolet), 363 points; 2. R Huff (Chevrolet), 360; 3. A Menu (Chevrolet), 290; 4. T Coronel (BMW), 183; 5. G Tarquini (SEAT), 159; ... 12. D O'Young (Chevrolet), 43; 14. C Bueno (Chevrolet), 25; ... etc





MEDIA INFORMATION

MANUFACTURERS POINTS STANDINGS AFTER RACE 20 OF 24

1. Chevrolet, 810 points; 2. BMW, 485; 3. SEAT, 425; 4. Volvo, 138.

NEXT RACE: Race of China, Shanghai Tianma, 5-6 November 2011.

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