



FL WINTER TOUR PRESENTED BY BTK / ARROW RACING KARTS

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FINAL ROUNDS THIS WEEKEND. WHERE WE STAND NOW !

Disclaimer: All points calculations are unofficial. This story was compiled by Formula Kart's Bill Wright, who we all know is old and senile, but will never admit it! Competitors should always rely on their own calculations when determining points. Enjoy!

Record numbers of participants, great racing, and an overall "fun" feeling are making the 2006 Formula Kart Racing Florida Winter Tour a really good place to be. Here's a summary of where we stand.

FirstKart.com Pro Shifter:

Some of the best racing in the 8-year-history of The Tour has occurred in this years stacked field of Pros.

Fast and consistent, Floridian Jon Branam (JBR Birel/SRA TM ; 3,2,3,3) has the points lead before the drops in a seemingly tight battle, with only 15 points separating first and second. But the real story is seen in the points *after* we factor in the drop. Here equally quick and consistent Californian Wesley Boswell (MRP Birel/ SRA TM; 4,5,2,2) leads, with Branam only 5 points back. Floridian Keith Spicer (DL Tony Kart/Vortex) who started strong but struggled at Moroso (1,1,7,10), is just 9 points out of first, 4 points out of second. Canadian Daniel Morad (First Kart/SRA TM ; 2,8,6,5), the resurgent Puerto Rican Jan Velez (PSL CRG/PSL Maxter ; 17,22,1,1) and Canadian Michael Vincec (Cameron CRG/Swedetech TM ; 5,23,5,6) each have a chance at the title, and could easily finish top three in points. Don't count out Floridian Stuart Marsell (BTK Arrow/ Swedetech TM; 7,4,4,8). This kid has been flying, and but for some bad luck could easily be our points leader. Ocala will see the return of his equally quick brother Brandon, a potent combination that has occupied the front row of a Winter Tour round before.

Cash payout so far in the Pro class totals \$12,480, with \$7,520 still up-for-grabs. Biggest money winner so far is Velez with total earnings of \$3,280.

Kart Mini of America ICA

To say that the debut of this class in the Winter Tour was "a little rough" would be an understatement. With the exception of British CIK ace Alexander Sims, who dominated every on-course session at Homestead, a combination of mechanical DNF's and "spirited" driving by the

remainder of the ICA competitors during both Homestead rounds combined to eliminate most of the field in almost all on-course sessions. After an equally spirited "tongue-lashing" by race director Chris Egger the Moroso rounds showed us the true potential of the class, with some really good driving and racing, arguably the best of any class during the Moroso event-weekend. Missing was said Sims, an FIA/CIK licensed driver who had to sit out the Moroso rounds waiting on CIK approval for the Tour, or face a potential 6-month suspension for participating in a non-CIK event. Look for all rounds of the 2007 Florida Winter Tour to have official CIK status, and for many more of Sims Euro-contenders to join him here.

A quick check of the points shows Canadian Colby Jenn (Italian Motors Italkart/ IM TM ; 19,3,7,1) leading, before and after factoring the drop. Floridian Chris Larson (Parilla; 2,2,8,DNF), who started the Tour on a Margay and has since switched back to a Prime Gillard, is second with and without the drop, just 8 points out of first. Floridians Dominic Scheer (MRP Birel/SRA TM 10,11,3,5), and Ricky Taylor (Kart Mini/IM Parilla ; 12,7,10,2) and New Jersey resident Anthony Llopiz (J3 Kosmic/Vortex ; 6,16,6,4) round out the top 5 before the drop, but Llopiz moves up to third after the drop, 55 points out of first.

Sims (PSL CRG/Nodtune Maxter; 1,1, DNS, DNS) will return as the Ocala rounds now have the CIK anointing. It will be interesting to see if the other ICA contenders have their act together enough to stay with the talented Brit'.

J3 Competition JICA

Another class making it's Winter Tour debut, and with very encouraging results. This class is also one of 4 classes vying for a Skip Barber Racing School (www.skipbarber.com) 3-day competition course that will be awarded to the Points Champion.

Columbian Sergio Pena (Marenello/Parilla; 5,2,2,7) leads the points before the drop, but after the drop Pena drops to 3rd, with Idaho resident Brett Smrz (First Kart/Parilla; 1,DNS,1,1) taking the point, and Puerto Rican Victor Cabrera (Kosmic/Hi-Rev Parilla; 2,1,DQ,4) moving into second. Smrz had been very fast, but this class has lot's of talent still within striking distance of the Championship. Bad luck and misfortune have played a big role in the current points. Look for fireworks in Ocala.

RJ Gators Mini Max

Hat's off to the folks from RJ Gators and Club Mini Max. In the 2005 Florida Winter Tour this class averaged 7 entries. This year the class has averaged 37! Much of that growth can be attributed to an unprecedented participant sponsorship program funded by RJ Gators and developed by Club Mini Max. Check it out at www.clubminimax.com .

Reigning U.S. Rotax Mini Max National Champion Floridian Daniel Formal leads both points charts, while Dominican Republic driver Daniel Vela and Floridian Gabriel Chaves are tied for second, 22 points back.

This class has given us good, safe, clean racing. Factoring in the sheer size of the fields it's a huge testament to the level of talent coming up through this program that we've gotten through these races with great racing, and very few incidents. BRAVO!!

FirstKart.com Rotax Senior

This is another of our Skip Barber Racing School award classes, with a 3-day-competition-course valued at \$3,995 to the Class Points Champion.

The Dominican Republic is a relatively small country located just to the southeast of Cuba and sharing an island with Haiti. But based on the results the Dominicans have accumulated during this years Tour, a country that has very talented drivers. Dominican Richard Campolo (PSL CRG; 18,1,4,1) has the lead in both points calculations. Transplanted Floridians Corey Reeves (Margay; 5,4,5,12) and reigning 2005 Tour Champion Ariel Castro (CMW Fittipaldi; 27,3,3,2) swap positions when we factor the drop, with Castro in second, and Reeves third. Don't count out reigning Canadian Rotax Champion Eric Gerrits (First Kart ; 1,25,6,10) who is always a threat, and could still factor in the top points positions.

CMW Engines Rotax Junior

Idaho is growing more than great potatoes these days, as Idahoan (is that a word?) Brett Smrz is doing double-duty in both JICA and the huge Rotax Junior class, and leads the points in both classes. That could get interesting for Skip Barber as both JICA and Rotax Junior are SBRS Award classes After the drops Smrz First Kart ; 6,1,3,2) has a 34 point lead over Floridian Hayden Duerson (Ital Kart ; 2,2,5,7) in second, and Venezuelan Jose Zanella (CMW CRG; 25,5,4,4) 41 points back in third. Canadian Cory Luciano (Goodwood CRG; 3,16,6,5) and former Mini Max U.S. National Champion Floridian Jarvis Gennari (CMW Mike Wilson; 4,6,17,6), who is making his Junior class debut during the Winter Tour, both have a shot at a top points finish.

Margay Racing TaG Heavy

Another debut class here in the Tour, and we've had good participation. After the drop, Floridian John Brown Sr (Mari/Rotax) leads over Floridian George Brewer (First Kart/Rotax) in second, with Floridian Tony Navarro (Swiss Hutless/Parilla) third, Californian Raphael Navarro (Swiss Hutless/Parilla) fourth, and Puerto Rican Alberto Rodriguez (CRG/Rok) fifth. Superkart Illustrated's Rob Howden (First Kart/Rotax)has been participating In the class, but has struggled. Look for Howden to put-it-all-together in Ocala.

PSLKarting.com Expert Shifter

Another Skip Barber Award class. Numbers are off this year, not sure why?? Points, with the drop, work out like this: Floridian Doug Cox (Birel/TM) has dominated since he moved into the class. He leads over former Florida Winter Tour Champion and Floridian Jorge Audino (Birel/TM) in second, Puerto Rican Israel Cuadrado (CRG/Vortex) in third, Canadian Cory Usher (CRG/TM) fourth and Michigan's Rusty Ferguson (Birel/TM) 5th. Look for Indiana's Cole Mathewson and Mexican Rene Martinelli to make their presence felt at Ocala.

Shockwave Karting Stock Moto

This class is in it's second year with the Tour, and is making slow but steady progress in the numbers and quality of participants. Colorado's Greg Welch (Shockwave) leads, but will not attend the Ocala rounds, so that means the battle for the Points Championship will be an all-Florida race between current second place in points Michael Winchester (Birel), third in points John Pew (Kart Mini), 4th in points Tom Mounce (Kart Mini), and 5th in points Jameson Smith (Birel). Look for this class to continue to build as the Stock Moto program finds it's "center" in 2006. There are many helping get the bugs worked out of this excellent program worked-out, and it will happen ! As Rob Howden would say.....BOOK IT !!

FK Motorsports Expert Shifter Heavy

In it's second year with the Tour, it features a tight points battle between current points leader Nadir Magsi (Birel/TM) and John Dalton (Birel/TM). Ruben Seibald (Birel/TM) is currently third, but an injury at Moroso has taken him out of the points chase, so Vincent Diaz (Birel/TM) takes will factor in the top 3.

RDD Motorsports Masters Shifter

After a very weak 2005, the Masters Shifter class is building again. New folks, and some returning drivers are making things interesting again. Floridian Doug Cox (Birel/TM) is doing double-duty here and in Expert Shifter, and after the drops, leads in both. Indiana's Kurt Mathewson (CRG) sits second, long-time Winter Tour participant Javier Lurrari (Birel/TM) sits third, just ahead of 8-time Winter Tour participant and newly-eligible Masters driver Tim Heise (DC-One/Hudlett Honda) in fourth, and Mexican Robert Islas Shaw (Birel/TM) rounding out the current top 5.

Th, th, th, that's not all folks !

With two rounds to go I'm sure much of this will change. One thing for sure, this has been the largest (by FAR) and most competitive Florida Winter Tour ever, and with the changes we have planned for 2007 things will only get better from here. THANK YOU for your participation and support. I look forward to seeing all of you "on Course!" in Ocala.

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