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Newsletter

KnK/NL0906 - 02 – Saturday RMC 4.

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After a wet Wednesday, Thursday looked like it might be dry. The track was alive with the sound of Rotax engines while tuners and drivers set about their karts looking for new settings for a circuit they had not driven on before. There was a certain excitement in the air as karts went out on the track. Eager tuners in the paddocks, stopwatches in hand, looked on eagerly.



Drivers, save a few, were relaxed and thoroughly enjoying the prospective challenge of competing at a new track - the great equalizer for the last two rounds of the Rotax Max Challenge.



Looked like the parents were more stressed than their children!!

RMC Round 4 on Saturday was a closely fought race in all the classes, especially in the senior class. Akhil Kushlani racing his Birel kart showed his domination in the heats, the semi-finals and the final, followed by Aditya Akhinini and Aditya Patel racing Swiss Hutless Magic karts. Dishali Patel the new KnK driver drove well in her new KnK Trakhawk. This was the first time she raced this year. Unfortunately, Dishali did not race in the final because she was unwell.



Akhil's Birel kart was competitive all weekend with technical support from Birel Asia Pacific.

The two Adityas raced this close all weekend.

The final results for **RMC 4** on Saturday was; **Mini Max** – 1st - Vishnu Prasad (CRG), 2nd – Parth



Ghorpade (CRG), 3rd – Nikhil Kashyap (KnK). **Junior Max** – 1st – Karan Goenka (Arrow), 2nd – Chirag Malhotra (Arrow), 3rd – Chitesh Mandody (Arrow). **Senior Max** – 1st Akhil Khushlani (Birel), 2nd – Aditya Akhinini (SH), 3rd – Aditya Patel (SH).

RMC Round 5 - Sunday – Nikhil Kashyap our KnK Mini Max driver was coming to terms with the new track as well as the new 2007 KnK Juvenile Mini Max chassis. The Mini Max class is a very competitive class. Parth Ghorpade a local lad and Vishnu Prasad have battled it out all year and Vishnu has held the advantage. 2006

has been a re-play of the 2005 season for all practical purposes; these two have been friendly rivals for many years.

Nikhil had not raced in 2006, his first race this year was on Saturday in RMC 4 where he finished in an impressive 3rd place.



Running amongst the top three through the heats, the semi and the final, Nikhil even briefly led the pack a couple of times. In the final, he raced Parth for second while Vishnu cleared away, finishing an impressive race with a comfortable lead. Nikhil finally completed the race in a convincing second place ahead of Parth in a wet race.



In Junior Max, Karan Goenka finished first, followed by Chitesh Mandody, also a Kolhapur lad, Viraj Malhotra stood on the 3rd step of the podium. It was an impressive drive by Chitesh who raced Rotax for the first time ever this weekend it was also his first race in 2006 the previous day.

The outcome of the senior race might have been quite predictable if it had not been for Ameya Walewalkar the 2001 national karting champion who had accepted the KnK Karts offer to race the KnK Annihilator. Ameya was all set to spoil everyone's party even though he hadn't raced karts for a while until the previous day when he had a rather poor showing.

Ishaan Singh of Karts 'n' Kitcars,

makers of KnK karts had tested the new KnK Annihilator on Thursday, it had run very strong and had an excellent dice with Akhil Khushlani during practice. Ishaan was not racing this weekend.



Ameya used his 10-minute practice session to adjust to a kart that was set up for Ishaan, qualifying in fourth; with a gap of just .1 second each between of the first four drivers. Aditya Akhinini was on pole and Ameya was fourth, Akhil and Aditya Patel made the filling in the sandwich.

By lap 5 Heat of 1, Ameya looked quite comfortable with the KnK kart and raced to finish a close second behind Akhil's Birel. During Heat 2 it began to rain, everyone was on slicks, Ameya spun off halfway into the race and DNFd. The

suddenness of the brake had caught him out. He would start the semi final in a lower order on the grid.

The pre-final was declared a wet race, suddenly the paddocks came alive with some furious work on karts as teams changed to wet tyres and set ups.

In the pre-final, Ameya was determined to make it to the front in as few laps as it would take, he was in the lead by lap 7 and then gradually opened the gap from second placed Aditya Akhinini, to finish about 40 meters ahead of the battling group. Akhil finished fourth after spinning and losing second and third positions to Aditya A. and P respectively.

I think it is necessary to quickly clarify that kart drivers in the senior class in India are not selected based upon their names starting with the alphabet "A" !!!



Ameya and the KnK Annihilator sat on pole for the final, the crowd's support for Ameya was thunderous, it was almost as if he was racing before his home crowd. A poor start put him down in fourth albeit not for long, by lap 6 the KnK was in the front. Ameya brought the Annihilator home almost a half lap ahead of Akhil who finished well ahead of Aditya Akhinini, Aditya Patel finished fourth.

The final results for RMC 5 on Sunday was; **Mini Max** – 1st - Vishnu Prasad (CRG), 2nd – Nikhil Kashyap (KnK), 3rd – Parth Ghorpade (CRG).
Senior Max – 1st Ameya Walewalkar (KnK), 2nd – Akhil Khushlani (Birel), 3rd – Aditya Akhinini (Swiss Hutless).

Junior Max – 1st – Karan Goenka (Arrow), 2nd – Chitesh Mandody (Arrow), 3rd Chirag Malhotra (Arrow) –.

We came away quite pleased with Sunday's results; a second place in Mini Max, a win in Senior Max and the Best Tuner Award in the senior class.

We did not race Junior Max this year.

We would like to thank the amazing spectator following of Kolhapur for their support and all the drivers who cheered for us.

Thank you for reading with me, look forward to catching up with you again next month.

Cheers!

Micki

