



Machado keeps his chances of winning the cadet title alive.

During the second meeting of the Spanish Karting Championship, Àlex Machado finished 4th and 5th in the two races in the cadet category held in the Campillos karting premises in Málaga.

Thanks to these results the Automóvil Club d'Andorra Junior Programme's driver still holds the opportunity to win the title at the end of the year.

Over the weekend, the Andorran driver experienced very difficult moments, when it looked like he wouldn't be able to change his waning performance. Àlex and his team fought hard and although they weren't able to climb the podium, they managed to stay on track towards what would be their first title in the cadet category.

One of the most complicated parts of the meet was the **qualifying practice**. Àlex's good racing, which secured him 4th place in his practice (the first one) and what's more turned out to be the best time in the third section of the Campillos circuit, wasn't enough to achieve his goal. His opponents in the second practice were faster overall and the combined standings for both practices placed the Andorran driver in 14th place, more than half a second slower than Eduardo García's pole-position (1'12"259).

The **qualifying heats** looked difficult and they were, however the AVRacers' driver did better than expected. In the two heats he finished 4th and 8th respectively, the latter being his overall place after both qualifying heats. Hence he was in the fourth lane on the starting grid and this meant trouble.

At the beginning of the **first race**, everything looked good for Machado and his team, since the Automóvil Club d'Andorra's driver managed to overtake three opponents and was in fifth place after 1/3 of the race (3 laps out of 9). From then on, however, everything went wrong and on the fourth lap he was pushed back to ninth place. Despite the set back, Àlex gave everything he had and managed two excellent final laps, that placed him 6th when the chequered flag was waved. Later on the sporting stewards excluded two drivers and Àlex was elevated to 4th position.

The **second race** was also complicated for Àlex. He started from the second lane of the starting grid and despite reaching third place on the first lap, he was unable to keep up and ended up crossing the finish line in 6th place. Once again in this meeting, the stewards excluded two drivers at the end of the race, moving Machado up to 5th place.

As said previously, the young Andorran driver endured a really difficult weekend in Campillos, with a lot of pressure. Here's what he had to say about the whole experience: *It's a really long circuit. You pick up speed in the straights and that's where my opponents kept overtaking me, whilst braking. I couldn't really stop them since they would have probably crashed into me and pushed me off the track.*

Overall I'm happy with the results; I still have the opportunity to win the Spanish Championship and that was my goal before these races. In Alcalá del Río we will try to get it right so we can get closer to winning the title.

The most crucial races of the Spanish Karting Championship 2011 will occur on the 10th and 11th September in the Alcalá del Río's circuit in Sevilla.

Press service.

Classifications of the second meeting of the Spanish Karting Championship 2011/ Cadet.

Official practices:

1.-Eduardo García (FA) 1'12.259, 2.-Xavier Lloveras (Top Kart) a 0.037, 3.-Laia Fontecha (Tony Kart) a 0.067, 4.-Bosco del Moral (FA) a 0.167, 5.-Diogo García (Birel) a 0.210 ...14.-Àlex Machado (RK) a 0.510... up to 46 drivers.

Qualifying heats:

1.-Bosco del Moral (FA) 0 points, 2.-Xavier Lloveras (Top Kart) 3 p., 3.-Laia Fontecha (Tony Kart) 5 p., 4.-Daniel Fernández (Tony kart) 5 p., 5.-Luis Ramos (Tony Kart) 7 p. ... 8.-Àlex Machado (RK) 12 p.

1st race:

1.-Luis Ramos(Tony Kart) 11'01.632, 2.-Eduardo García (FA) a 0'02.228, 3.-Laia Fontecha (Tony Kart) a 0'02.679, 4.-Àlex Machado (RK) a 0'03.225.

2nd race:

1.-Laia Fontecha (Tony Kart) 11'03.718, 2.-Bosco del Moral (FA) a 0'00.474, 3.-Eduardo García (FA) a 0'01.127, 5.-Àlex Machado (RK) a 0'03.312

