

# PACIFIC F2000 RACING

## PRESENTS FORMULA F2000 F1600

For Immediate Release

### Funk Claims Maiden Series Victory in Round Five

Buttonwillow, Calif. (May 2, 2015) – Series rookie Connor Funk, starting only his third race in the Pacific Formula F1600/F2000 Championship, survived a race that saw many of the leading drivers have misfortune to claim his first win on the 3.020 mile, 25A configuration at Buttonwillow Raceway Park in the California central valley. The race was run with the Cal Club Region of the SCCA as part of the SCCA U.S. Majors Tour.



The series format, designed to allow drivers to compete in the series and SCCA sanctioned events simultaneously, saw the Formula 2000 group run in FC and was grouped with FA, FM and the sports racer groups P1 and P2.

The three-day format allowed for practice and qualifying sessions on Friday with a second qualifying session and race on Saturday followed

by a warm-up session and race on Sunday. This format and the ninety degree afternoon temperatures allowed drivers to choose whether to run in the heat of the afternoon on Friday or save their equipment for the cooler early morning temperatures on Saturday and Tom Hope; #10, H+M Racing Van Diemen did just that only running one lap on Friday hoping that Saturday morning would bring more favorable times. Series regular driver Robert Armington; #11 Cypress Lane Racing, Hoosier Tires, Premium Power Systems, Inc. Van Diemen elected to run on Friday posting the fastest time however would not be eligible for points and prizes this weekend by choosing to not run the series specific Pirelli tires as this race would also help qualify him for the SCCA Run-Offs to be held later this year in Daytona. All of this meant that the #99, Racing Optics, Frank Monise Motors, DFR Van Diemen of Peter West posted the fastest time to claim provisional pole for Saturday's race. West was followed by Tom Hope, whose solitary lap put him second fastest, Dave Freitas Racing teammate Connor Funk, #27, DFR Van Diemen; Nick Kodenko, #31, Kodenko Automotive, Associated Tire, Kodenko Jeans, Van Diemen, returning to the series after a years' hiatus, and Alex Kirby again in the aging #81, LA Prep Inc., Fast Forward Components, Swift DB3.

The Saturday early morning qualifying session was only fifteen minutes in duration and as anticipated times fell rapidly. Tom Hope quickly secured the fastest time of the session eclipsing the mark set by Armington to claim the pole with both Armington and Peter West all within 0.381s. Connor Funk was next followed by Nick Kodenko, Alex Kirby and Kim Wilcox; #62, Hooverspeed Van Diemen, making his first appearance in the series.

Unable to participate this weekend were the Dave Freitas Racing duo of Yufeng Luo; #13, DFR Van Diemen, who was off at Indianapolis with the U.S. F2000 Series group and Harin DeSilva; #96, DFR Van Diemen, whose travel commitments did not allow him to be here this weekend.

The green flag to begin the race flew at 3:07, delayed briefly due to track clean up from the previous session, and it was Tom Hope in his bright red Van Diemen who immediately claimed the lead over Armington and Peter West as the three began to break away from the rest of the field and at the end of lap one it was Hope, Armington, West, Kodenko, Kirby and Wilcox.

On lap two West had a big off course excursion going through the fast right hand turn, modeled after and known as Riverside, which dropped him to the rear of the field from where he began his charge to reclaim the lost ground.

On lap three things changed at the front as the pace of the remaining duo of Hope and Armington brought them up to the rear of a Formula Atlantic competitor and when Hope was unable to get around he lost momentum and Armington surged by into the lead leaving Hope in second. At the same time as Armington had gotten by Hope, West improved his position passing Wilcox for fifth.

The next time around, lap four, Hope was again in the lead as Armington in his attempt to get by the Formula Atlantic made contact damaging the nose of his Van Diemen and losing the whole front wing assembly which immediately reduced his pace and all he could do from that point was to hang on for his best result. At the same time Hope retired to the pits having lost fourth gear. The order was then the wounded Armington who was rapidly being caught by the remaining competitors led by Connor Funk, Nick Kodenko, Alex Kirby, Peter West and Kim Wilcox.

From here the race settled down a little with Funk clearly ahead of the field and Armington falling back to his eventual fifth place finish the battle was now on between Kodenko and Kirby for second place as they changed positions several times before the finish.

Connor Funk led the final laps unscathed to take his first series win and put Dave Freitas Racing on the top step of the podium. The victory also moves Funk into the lead in the points by two over Tom Hope.

The battle for the runner-up spot was decided at the line as Alex Kirby in the 1989 Swift DB3 with the Ford Pinto engine edged out Nick Kodenko in his Van Diemen with Zetec Ford power by just 0.629s and for Kirby it was a bright spot of the day after having been taken out at the first corner of the F1600 race earlier in the day.

Nick Kodenko's third place finish was an impressive result having taken the year off and as he stated this would have been a one weekend outing this year, may return in September when the series returns to Buttonwillow Raceway Park.

Peter West came home in fourth place and with that became the Master Class victor.

Kim Wilcox claimed fifth place after being unable to compete at Thunderhill due to an ankle injury for his first series finish.

Hope was sixth but only claimed a single point by not having completed half distance. He did however manage to set the races' fastest lap during his brief stint on the track and collected bonus points for that and the pole position claimed earlier in the day.

Round six will commence at 2:40pm on Sunday.

**F2000 Qualifying:** 1. Tom Hope, (Van Diemen-P), 1m45.606s; 2. Peter West, (Van Diemen-P), 1m45.987s; 3. 4. Connor Funk, (Van Diemen-P), 1m49.997s; 4. Nick Kodenko, (Van Diemen-P), 1m48.631s; 5. Alex Kirby, (Swift-H), 1m49.346s; 6. Kim Wilcox, (Van Diemen-A). Tires: A-Avon, C-Cooper, G-Goodyear, H-Hoosier, P-Pirelli.

**F2000 Round 5 (13 laps):** 1. Funk; 2. Kirby; 3. Kodenko; 4. West; 5. Wilcox, +1 lap; 6. Hope, +9 laps.

**Fastest race lap:** Hope, 1m46.278s.

**Master class winner (over 50):** West.

**Points:** 1. Funk, 69; 2. Hope, 67; 3. West, 61; 4. Kirby, 59; 5. Armington, 51; 6. Kodenko, 22; 7. Rozenboom, 20; 8. Wilcox, 17.

The series can be followed at <https://www.facebook.com/pacificf2000racing> and <https://www.twitter.com/PacificF2000>.

For more details go to <http://www.pacificf2000.com> or contact Peter West at 310-363-9444, or by email, [pacificf2000@hotmail.com](mailto:pacificf2000@hotmail.com).