




Sizzling debut by Shahaan

DC CORRESPONDENT

 A new kid on the racing block, Shahaan Engineer made a sizzling single-seater debut at the Formula Renault UK Championship recently. The 16-year-old karting graduate was the youngest driver on the strong 29-car grid, but he racked up a series of creditable results in one of the most competitive winter series for the juniors.

Representing UK's top team

Fortec Motorsports, Shahaan picked up his pace throughout testing before stunning the paddock with the eighth fastest time on a water-soaked track. Serving up tremendous overtaking moves in horrendous wet conditions, the talented Indian newcomer finished 13th in his first race - out of 29 competitors - and then took 14th place in race two.

Shahaan was pleased with his debut though he was docked with grid penalties for not obeying yellow flags. "It was a satisfy-

ing results

given the fact that the grid had experienced drivers from Renault UK, Eurocup, Formula BMW and Ford," said the teenager.

The grid had some of the big names of junior single-seater such as Joshua Hill (son of F1 legend Damon Hill), Jordan King (F2 driver) and Oliver Rowland (McLaren protégé).

During rounds three and four, he secured a pair of top 12 finishes to cap off an impressive

weekend. In the last round of the championship, Shahaan finished ninth. So impressive has the young Indian's debut car racing campaign been, Fortec Motorsports has decided to sign Shahaan for the 2012 season.

Team owner Richard Dutton said "Shahaan did an amazing job and showed true race spirit in his first few races in a race car, we look forward to learning more of what Shahaan can show us and are happy to continue into 2012 with him."

TN sports digest

Kavin, Aravind slam hundreds

Brief scores of the St. Michaels trophy: Vidya Mandir SSS 86 in 30 overs (S. Srivatsan 25, M.Affan Khader 4/10) lost to St. Bede's AIHSS 87/3 in 20.2 overs (L. Sathya Narayan 35*, R. Raagul 26). St. Michaels 250/3 in 30 overs (M. Venkat 59, S. Vignesh 53, R. Mukesh 52, GR Manish 39) bt Valliammal MHSS 49 in 13.2 overs (M. Vivian 3/15, SR Ashwin 3/20, S. Prithveer 4/7). Santhome HSS 141/6 in 30 overs (C. Karthik 58, Vignesh Sridhar 3/32) bt PSBB 132 in 28.1 overs (GK Karthik Ganesh 31, A. Vishal Vaidhya 4/33). Don Bosco MHS 133/5 in 30 overs (Anton Andrew 50*, Martin 30, Rameez Raja 3/21) bt St. Patricks AIHS 127 in 28.3 overs (G. Vignesh 41, Hemanth Raghu 40, Anton Andrew 3/2). Nellai Nadar HSS 95/8 in 25 overs (M. Aravind 25) lost to Chettinad Vidhyashram 96/7 in 19.5 overs (Shyam Sundar 48). Maharishi Vidhya

Mandir 208/3 in 30 overs (**R. Kavin 165***) bt PSBB (Ch-17) 176/6 in 30 overs (**S. Aravind 109**). St. Johns MHS 153/9 in 30 overs (M. Vishal 36, R. Naveen Kumar 25) lost to Pon Vidhyashram 157/5 in 28.2 overs (N. Vijay Kumar 50, D. Prashant Prabhhu 55, S. Krishna 32*). PSSS 147/7 in 30 overs (Sai Ram 51, Pawan Kumar 4/24) bt Pon Vidhyashram 98 in 24.2 overs (Prabhav 3/30). St. Michaels 159/7 in 30 overs (Vignesh 77, Adithya Raj 25) lost to Don Bosco MHSS 161/3 in 27.5 overs (Radees Manikandan 27, E. Vignesh 60*, Darryl 43*). St. Bedes 182/4 in 30 overs (R. Raagul 75, SR Vignesh Rao 51) lost to Santhome HSS 184/7 in 29.1 overs (ST Natarajan 39, K. Vishal Vaidhya 63*).

Prabhhu, Varun hog limelight

Results of the TNBSA state ranking tournament: Group A: Harpreet Singh (MCC) bt Ankit (Q-Trickz) 3-1,

Damu Menon (TNBSA) bt Parthiban (MDU) 3-1.

Group B: Pranit (MCC) bt Prem Prakash (SVS) 3-2, Subramaniam (GJSR) bt Surendran (Erode) 3-0.


Group C: Prabhhu (MGC) bt Peter Paul (C&U) 3-2, Praveen (CBA) bt Bhuvaneshwaran (TNBSA) 3-2, Vijay Nichani (CBA) bt Prabhhu (MGC) 3-1.

Group D: J. Varun Kumar (MCC) bt Naveen (CBA) 3-1, Dilip Kumar (TNBSA) bt Imran Ganj (MCC) 3-0.

Chess selection tournament

The Thiruvallur District Chess Association will conduct a selection tournament (under 12 & 14) on November 22 at the Sethu Bhaskara School. Players The top two players will represent Thiruvallur in the forthcoming state championships. For further details, contact: 2658 5871.

TANVEER SHINES IN MEDIA 11'S WIN

 Media XI registered a comfortable four-wicket win over Software Professionals XI in an exhibition cricket match (DIA trophy) organised by Dr. A. Ramachandran's Diabetes Hospital at the Santhome HSS Grounds. The contest was conducted as part of the World Diabetes Day celebrations on Sunday.

MZ Tanveer fashioned the win with a stellar all-round performance. After picking three wickets and taking four catches, Tanveer scored a quick-fire 54 (26b, 5x6, 4x4). For the winning team, Vinod smashed seven sixes in as many deliveries. Srinivas' return of four wickets went in vain. Former Indian captain and chairman of selectors, Kris Srikanth inaugurated the tournament. Former Indian opener Sadagopan Ramesh, cine director Gautam Menon and actor Prashanth gave away the prizes.

Brief scores: Software Professionals 132 in 13 overs (Shariq 38, Tanveer 3/18) lost to Media XI 136/6 in 13.2 overs (Tanveer 54, Vinod 42, Srinivas 4/28). MoM: MZ Tanveer (Media XI). **Special prizes: Best batsman:** Vinod (Media XI). **Best bowler:** Srinivas (SP).