



Hall fights illness, produces strong training runs in Windsor

WINDSOR, Canada – Matt Hall set his sights on another podium finish on Friday after a stellar third place performance in the final training session ahead of Saturday's Qualifying.

Given Hall is battling a pesky head cold that has plagued him since leaving Australia, it was an impressive showing that confirmed the 38-year-old's solid results in earlier runs through the challenging track set up on the Detroit River straddling the U.S.-Canada border.

While difficult weather conditions led to some spectacular pylon hits and several disqualifications, the Australian posted the third fastest time in Friday's final run through the obstacle course. Hall stopped the clock in 1:12.14, which was just 0.86 second behind Britain's Paul Bonhomme and 0.31 behind Nigel Lamb's second place time.

"I think I can definitely go faster than what I did today," said Hall, who is in fourth place in the championship and eager to get his first career victory after finishing second in Perth in April. His first career podium was for third in Porto last year.

"I was quite wide on a few things and nearly hit a few gates so I can definitely straighten up some lines there.

"I'm guessing I could still save a second if I have a good run and that could put me in first place."

Austria's Hannes Arch, who won in Perth, had a spectacular pylon hit in training on Friday, hitting the Air Gate near the base and getting immediately disqualified for flying too low.

Hall has thrown his usual conservative approach to the wind in the two days of training in Windsor, attacking the course aggressively from the first training session rather than starting slowly in training and flying harder in the race.

It was one year ago here in Windsor that Hall set a goal of flying error-free in every race after he hit two pylons in his final round. He ended up a disappointing seventh in Windsor that day even though he had been flying fast enough before that to have a shot at the podium.

Hall said he switched strategy this year at Windsor and wants to push his boundaries to see if flying aggressively from the start might help him get on top of the podium.

For more information on Matt Hall Racing go to www.matthallracing.com or contact Team Coordinator David Lyall at david@matthallracing.com



“I’m happy I’m third fastest but I wasn’t very happy with the flight,” Hall said. “It was a pretty scrappy flight. The winds from the south in this track are always challenging. I still don’t feel that well either but I think I can definitely get faster.

“That’s what I am always trying to do, improve.”

Ends