

Target Grand Nationals

2003 Georae Kualer Manufacturer's Cup Series presented by Bridgestone

Target Grand Nationals
Badger Raceway, Dousman, WI
July 25 - 27, 2003

RLV Tuned Exhaust Products Cadet Jr Sportsman Final 2

1. Evan Kalogiannis
2. Steven Arens
3. Robert Thorne
4. Anthony Llopiz
5. Cody Robinson
6. Sterling Shaw

In the RLV Tuned Exhaust Products Cadet Junior Sportsman Final #2 the #8 kart driven by Robert Thorne took a commanding lead. Thorne was the heat winner, and was solidly in control of the final when the dreaded red flag came out for an incident on the track. Once things got rolling again it was an uphill battle for Thorne, who was quickly passed for the lead by Carlos Munoz in turn ten. Thorne took back the lead the next time by, but Evan Kalogiannis, Steven Arens, Nick Novitsky, and Anthony Llopiz all joined in the fight for first. Thorne got forced wide on the exit of three >

and fell back to eighth place while Munoz took the top spot. Novitsky made a pass for the lead, and then Llopiz too made a pass. It looked as if Llopiz had it made, but Kalogiannis wasn't giving up yet and got a great run off the final corner to sneak by on the outside at the line by a mere .029 seconds. Llopiz finished in second place, but was docked two spots for passing before the cone, dropping him to 4th. Arens just a tick behind Llopiz moved up to finish 2nd, and Thorne recovered to finish in 3rd. Christian Pahud took a tumble coming down to take the checkered flag earning him a ride to the hospital so they could get a look at his leg. After an amazing move to steal the win Connecticut driver Evan Kalogiannis had this to say, "I need to say thanks to Jim and John for a great chassis, Ed Irving for the great motor, but most importantly I need to thank my mom and dad."



Cadet Jr Sportsman drivers
on the start of Final 1.

TNR Kartsports / Trackmagic Cadet Jr Sportsman Final 1

1. Carlos Munoz
 2. Robert Thorne
 3. Thomas Silva
 4. Sergio Pena
 5. Evan Kalogiannis
 6. Steven Arens
 7. Cody Robinson
 8. Sage Karam
 9. Nicholas Darinzo
 10. Jacob Sekey
- FT - Carlos Munoz 41.416

Carlos Munoz was the pole sitter (41.416) in TNR Kartsports / Trackmagic Cadet Junior Sportsman Final #1, but a dismal heat race left him finishing in 6th while Robert Thorne took the win. When the green flag dropped Thorne drove into the lead with Cody Robinson, Evan Kalogiannis, Sterling Shaw, and Anthony Llopiz tucked in behind. Shaw and Llopiz got together on the second lap ending Llopiz's day, and dropping Shaw out of the hunt. Thorne, Kalogiannis, Munoz, and Thomas Silva traded the lead every lap. Steven Arens was on the move, and he too joined the struggle for the >

lead. By the end of the race there was a nine-kart train for the lead with Thorne as the conductor. Munoz took the lead coming on to the straightaway as they took the white flag. Thorne tried to counter, but was held off going down into three. The pack crashed as they attempted to put four karts into a space reserved for one, but miraculously they all kept rolling. It was a photo finish at the line between Munoz and Thorne, the nod going to Munoz by .009 of a second. When the dust cleared Silva remained in third, Sergio Pena had moved into fourth, and Kalogiannis finished in fifth. Through a translator Munoz expressed his thanks to "mi papa, mi mama, ye Columbia."

