

WestWHEELS CIRCUIT RACING

Love conquers all in Malaysia



Jordan Love wins again in Malaysia.
Picture: AsiaCup

Perth teenager shows breathtaking mental toughness in AsiaCup Series

■ Adrian Chambers

AsiaCup promoter Peter Thompson describes the development trajectory of Perth racer Jordan Love as “simply breathtaking”.

The 15-year-old heads back to Malaysia following his remarkable performance in the

first two rounds of the FIA-approved AsiaCup Series, now in its third season.

In the searing heat and humidity of the Sepang International Circuit, the Christ Church Grammar School student blew away allcomers in the first round and then destroyed a classy field last month with yet another five-start clean sweep.

“It is amazing to see Jordan keep improving on his race craft,” Thompson said.

“He didn’t have an easy time of it last month but his mental toughness is impressive, especially his ability to maintain a cool head in trying and difficult conditions.”

The Aussie ace now has a big championship lead after just two ACS outings at the 5.54km F1 track south of Kuala Lumpur.

“It was an awesome weekend and something I am truly proud of,” Love said. “I had to work really hard, especially against good mate Adam Khalid from Malaysia, and Japan’s Yuma Shoji.”

“I have to give a shoutout to my family, my sponsors TFS and Wayne Marsh Images for their incredible support, and the crew who looked after me so well. Looking back and in preparation for this weekend, there definitely are a couple of

small things I need to work on if I am to continue to improve.”

Meanwhile, James Allen will again drive the seriously aggressive and touchy Tatuus-chassis car, with its Clio engine and Michelin boots, in the next World Series Eurocup Formula Renault 2.0lt and the smaller FR2.0 Alps.

He and mum Julie drove 45,000km across Europe this year competing in both.

Renault has dropped its 3.5-litre series to be more accommodating of F1 organisers, who much prefer the feeder program be their own GP2s.

‘It was an awesome weekend.’

Jordan Love

And, in an interesting twist, this year’s 3.5 teams will go stand-alone next season to offer drivers a middle ground.

“The leap from 2.0 to GP2 is just too big for us,” Julie said. “So we’ll see how that program fares on its own.”

James has moved from the French team ARTA Engineering and joined crack Italian JD Motorsport after successfully completing testing

at Red Bull Ring in Austria, Belgium’s Spa and Paul Ricard in France. A typical test involves two days of track work for the driver with 2800km of focused driving through more than 6000 corners.

Perth ace Tony Ricciardello was voted Shannons Nationals Driver of the Decade, celebrating at Sydney Motorsport Park with a ninth Kerrick Sports Sedan title.

“I put some old tyres on the back, put the wing down and had a bit of fun in that last race,” the smiling 36-year-old said.

“I didn’t want to break anything and give it too much grip. I wanted to work harder in that race and get out there and enjoy it.”

It is a fitting tribute to Tony — and his father Basil — who has thrilled crowds for years with the iconic Italian red Chevrolet V8-powered, spaceframe-constructed Alfa Romeo Alfetta GTV, one of the marvels of Australian motorsport.

WA’s Stuart Kostera took out the Australian Manufacturers’ Championship 4-Hour with co-driver Dylan Thomas, in a Mitsubishi Lancer.

They took the lead two hours into the feature race when Bob Pearson’s Lancer blew a tyre, and went on to win by two laps.



Driver of the Decade Tony Ricciardello leads the pack. Picture: James Smith