

Love changes everything

Young West Australian Jordan a five-time winner in Malaysia

■ Adrian Chambers

Jordan Love had a cracking weekend in the first round of the AsiaCup Series, winning all five races at Malaysia's Formula One track, Sepang International.

This remarkable feat has skyrocketed him to the top of the lucrative championship, 39 points clear of his nearest rival, South Korean Andrew Kim.

It was a triumphant and dominant outing at the end of last month for the Perth 16-year-old who drove his No. 79 pretty close to perfection.

"Jordan has already competed in two AsiaCup Super 6 events and it's great to see his winning race craft develop," AsiaCup promoter Peter Thompson said.

"He has displayed great confidence and pace."

His determination and focus to succeed in his chosen field is impressive after making the transition from go-karts, where younger brother Aaron has just won one of WA's top events, the prestigious King of the Hill, at Wundowie.

Love dominated practice in steamy conditions, continuing the momentum into qualifying

pole for Saturday's first of four eight-lap races.

He and Kenyan Jeremy Wahome had an intense battle throughout the weekend, starting with a daring dash for the lead down the main straight into the first corner.

But the Aussie took advantage of a much better start on the cleaner side of the track to maintain the advantage and claim his first win.

With grid positions determined from race one's fastest lap times, Love again claimed pole ahead of Wahome, who took the lead in lap three after a bold move.

A mistake three corners later allowed Love to reclaim position and continue unchallenged. With two wins in the bag, things just got tougher with Wahome now on pole.

But Love prevailed in the run down into the first sequence of corners, hitting the front and leaving the field in his wake.

It was another error-free and dominant drive as he notched up his third to end day one.

That translated to pole in Sunday's 10-lapper where he successfully fended off challenge after challenge to produce a series of circuits

consistently faster than his fellow competitors, with an imposing 15-second lead at the finish.

He was odds-on for a clean sweep and delivered a masterclass performance in the final event, outgunning everyone to the first turn and then making it look easy as he cruised to his fifth victory.

"It was a fantastic weekend for me," Love said.

"The races were tough in the difficult conditions with the heat and humidity and it was quite hard to maintain my concentration.

"There were definitely

'So I have to do extra hours out of school to keep up.'

moments where I had to work hard to keep Jeremy behind me but I really enjoyed it because he is a tough fighter.

"AsiaCup is very professionally run and it's good to race in a series where the competition is strong, all the cars are the same and the focus is more on driver performance," he said.

How does racing fit in with his studies at Christ Church Grammar?



AsiaCup promoter Peter Thompson and Jordan Love.

"When I'm competing outside WA it's an early-morning flight on Thursday with racing Friday through to Sunday then a late flight home for school Monday," he said.

"So I have to do extra hours out of school to keep up and stay on track."

He will need to be at the top of his game for the second round from November 6-8 at Sepang as the field expands to 17 with the inclusion of two

Russian drivers, a Filipino and an Indonesian.

The FIA-approved AsiaCup Series by Meritus GP is in its third season and has helped train 65 drivers from 15 nations, including fellow Aussie Jake Parsons who is now second in the VW-powered Formula Masters Championship.

■ For more information, email peter@meritus.gp or visit asiacupseries.com.