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Karun @ British F3 Chandhok recovers to finish second

Donington Park, England

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India's teen racing star Karun Chandhok recovered from a disappointing non-finish on Saturday to finish a strong second place in round 22 of the British Formula 3 Championship (scholarship class). The two rounds were held at the infamous 1.9 mile Donington Park circuit in Leicestershire.

The weekend started strongly for Karun, a former Asian Formula and National Champion, when he was 2nd fastest at the end of the official test session, just over a tenth of a second away from Ernesto Viso. The qualifying sessions though, weren't so positive for Chandhok when he ended in 3rd position for both the races. Later he reflected ***“ For some reason I just couldn't hook the lap together in either session. We're only 2 tenths of a second away from pole position in both races which is not a lot, but in such a competitive championship that makes a big difference.”***



As the cars rolled onto the circuit before the start of race 1, there was a distinct case of déjà vu from the previous weekend at Spa when the circuit was drenched with a sudden downpour, causing chaos and confusion for the drivers and teams alike. When the lights went green Karun made a great start and moved ahead of team mate Steven Kane. But as the pack reached the first corner the Brazilian driver, De Oliveira, tapped the T-Sport driver, which sent him sideways only to be collected by Justin Sherwood. This left him out of the race with suspension damage. The bitterly disappointed Chandhok said ***“ It's always messy at the first corner in the wet. There wasn't enough room for all of us and as things panned out I got tagged from all sides which is really frustrating but there's nothing I can do about it now.”***

Sunday's race went a lot better for Chandhok, when he once again made a great start to move ahead of Kane. In the early laps, the teenager from Madras battled wheel to wheel against some of the Championship class cars. By lap 5 though things had settled down and the rest of the race was a fairly processional affair with Viso taking the win ahead of Chandhok, Sherwood and Kane.

Speaking at the end of the weekend, Karun declared that he will continue to fight as hard as he can for the championship, even though his non-finish in Round 21 has made things extremely difficult for him ***“The result on Saturday was my worst nightmare come true. The championship was so evenly poised before the weekend that for sure, luck was going to play a part and sadly it played against me. It’s still not over though and I’m going to Brands Hatch as the outside bet, with everything to gain and nothing to lose. Motor racing is a strange sport and remember I came back from a 33 point deficit to lead within two rounds a couple months ago so it’s still possible. I’m going to give it everything I’ve got at Brands.”***

Karun, who is backed by primarily by **JK Tyres, in association with Kingfisher, the Vanguard group, Rolon, UCAL, Amaron, and PARX** has his final two races of the season at Brands Hatch in 3 weeks time.

Results –

Round 21	Round 22	Championship Posn.
1. Steven Kane	1. Ernesto Viso	1.Ernesto Viso - 303
2. Ernesto Visa	2. Karun Chandhok	2.Steven Kane – 301.5
3. Justin Sherwood	3. Justin Sherwood	3. Karun Chandhok – 282.5