

TCR INTERNATIONAL  
MARINA BAY (SGP),  
SEPTEMBER 19-20 RD 9/11

## Comini can't win, but is new leader

STEFANO COMINI BAGGED A BRACE of second places and the championship lead in the Singapore Grand Prix-supporting double header. But it could have been even better for the Swiss driver.

With less than three laps of the first race remaining, Comini seemingly had the race in his pocket after leading from pole position, even though his Target Competition-run SEAT carried 20kg of success ballast. But suddenly West Coast Racing Honda Civic driver Kevin Gleason closed a gap of almost three seconds and took the lead.

"Everything was going perfectly and I was feeling very comfortable until an electronic problem with the gearbox arose," said Comini. "I had to reset everything. The car eventually worked well again but it was impossible to overtake."

But with title rival Pepe Oriola, laden with 30kg ballast, fourth behind an under-the-weather Gianni Morbidelli, that was enough for Comini to secure the points lead.



Their battle was the main focus of race two, in which Oriola's Craft-Bamboo SEAT team-mate Jordi Gene took a comfortable victory from second on the grid (based on a reverse of the top 10 in qualifying) after squeezing past Tomas Engstrom's VW Golf into Turn 1.

Oriola started sixth with Comini 10th, but they were soon running together as they climbed the field. Every time Oriola made a pass, Comini followed him through. Eventually, Comini forced his way ahead to take third before overtaking Mikhail Grachev's Golf for second.

Inevitably, Oriola followed him through to secure third and complete a SEAT podium sweep.

### RESULTS

**RACE 1** 1 Kevin Gleason (Honda Civic TCR), 10 laps in 24m42.376s; 2 Stefano Comini (SEAT Leon Racer), +0.819s; 3 Gianni Morbidelli (Honda); 4 Pepe Oriola (SEAT); 5 Sergei Afanasiev (SEAT); 6 Jordi Gene (SEAT).

**RACE 2** 1 Gene, 10 laps in 24m49.621s; 2 Comini, +3.637s; 3 Oriola; 4 Morbidelli; 5 Gleason; 6 Lorenzo Veglia (SEAT).

**POINTS** 1 Comini, 264; 2 Oriola, 253; 3 Gene, 234; 4 Morbidelli, 217; 5 Gleason, 201; 6 Andrea Belicchi, 164.