



**TCR INTERNATIONAL BURIRAM (T), OCTOBER 25 RD 10/11**

## Comini, Oriola 'Thai' on wins

**STEFANO COMINI TAKES A TWO-POINT** lead over Pepe Oriola into the Macau finale after the duo shared the wins.

Oriola led a Craft-Bamboo SEAT 1-2-3 in the first race from Jordi Gene and Sergey Afanasiev after polesitter and early leader Gianni Morbidelli served a drive-through penalty for a jumped start. The Italian, giving the Step 2 version of the JAS built Honda Civic its debut, recovered to claim a point for 10th.

Comini was nursing a badly injured knee after a bizarre sofa-dropping incident and, despite needing a stick to help him walk, the Swiss wasn't unduly affected.

However, problems with the Target Competition SEAT meant he qualified ninth. With the gearbox, intercooler and turbo all changed, he finished fifth in the opener, behind Kevin Gleason's Step 1 Honda.

Comini's qualifying woes gave him reversed-grid pole once Hugo Valente's stalled Campos Opel was pushed away. He led all the way.

That was largely thanks to team-mate Loris Hezemans, the Dutchman belying his inexperience by defending second throughout. Oriola and Morbidelli traded places behind Hezemans before the Honda stopped with engine troubles.

A pair of local heroes, Munkong Sathienthirakul and Tin Sritrai (both in SEATs) shared TCR Asia honours.

### RESULTS

**RACE 1 1** Pepe Oriola (SEAT Leon Racer), 14 laps in 24m34.075s; 2 Jordi Gene (SEAT), +1.369s; 3 Sergei Afanasiev (SEAT); 4 Kevin Gleason (Honda Civic TCR); 5 Stefano Comini (SEAT); 6 Loris Hezemans (SEAT).

**RACE 2 1** Comini, 14 laps in 24m40.174s; 2 Hezemans, +2.746s; 3 Oriola; 4 Gene; 5 Lorenzo Veglia (SEAT); 6 Tomas Engstrom (Volkswagen Golf R).

**POINTS 1** Comini, 299; 2 Oriola, 297; 3 Gene, 265; 4 Gianni Morbidelli, 223; 5 Gleason, 216; 6 Andrea Belicchi, 164.