

Justine Jackson Mid-Season Review for the 2010 Volkswagen Jetta TDI Cup Series



The 2010 Volkswagen Jetta TDI cup series has so far been the most exciting season since its inaugural year in 2008 and with both rookies and veterans in the mix of the championship chase it has been dubbed the most competitive season thus far.

19 year old Jamaican karter, Justine Jackson was chosen as one of the series' 25 drivers and was awarded the Project Podium Scholarship to compete in the 2010 season. With no experience in racing cars Justine had a huge learning curve ahead of her as she went into Round 1 at the VIRginia International Raceway finishing 21st in race 1 and 19th in race 2 having been tapped in turn 1 and spun around losing

23 sec and but able to make up the lost time to the back markers. A great learning weekend for Justine having been 14s of the pace in Practice 1 and ended the weekend 2.5s off the fastest lap of the race! In race 2!

Things looked very promising for the young Formula 1 aspirant, having completed her first 2 races in cars with remarkable improvement, Justine went on to surprise everyone by showing her potential in posting the 13th fastest time in practice for Round 3 at the New Jersey Motorsports Park in Millville New Jersey. But after a crash towards the end of practice, Justine struggled for the rest of the weekend finishing 20th in Race 3.

Next up was Miller Motorsports Park in Tooele, Utah. With its breath-taking scenery and beautiful facility it was shaping up to be a great weekend for racing. Justine had a difficult time coming to grips with the car and track and ended up a disappointing 28th in Race 4 being caught in the middle of a domino effect crash in turn 7 after making up 6 spots in less than 2 laps. A disappointing, but promising race but her only wish being that she could have at least finished the race to have more time in the car but that wasn't to be as her airbag was deployed which shut down the car.

The last stop before mid-season was Mid-Ohio Sports Cars Course, a very fun but technical track. Justine would continue to struggle placing 24th in round 5 but really enjoyed the weekend especially having met Scott Pruett and Memo Rojas of the #1 Target Chip Ganassi Team in the Rolex Sports Cars Series and also getting a chance to watch the race. She now sits 24th in the championship.

Now having a chance to look back and reflect on the first half of the season Justine has come to realize why her struggles on track have continued especially after she had such a promising start to the season at VIRginia International Raceway and New Jersey Motorsports Park. " Mid-Ohio was definitely my lowest point of the season so far and I've come to understand after speaking with the instructors and a few other onlookers where my downfall has been throughout MMP and Mid-Ohio. I can't wait until my next race at the Autobahn Country Club, in Joliet, IL in 3 weeks to start over and have a different approach. It's been such a great season so far despite what has transpired on track. I've learnt so much from Jan, Ryan and Andy and it's been a huge blessing to work with each of them. I am continuing to work hard and I'm confident things will turn around and I'm really looking forward to a great second half of the season."

Justine is sponsored by **Project Podium**, **Jetcon Corporation** and has been widely supported by the **Helle Nice Foundation**.

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