

After his recent double at Spa, Thierry Tassin arrived at Zolder for the Belgian Procar finale having to carry the maximum ballast of 60kg in his Honda Integra. He still reckoned that he could overcome Peugeot's Sebastien Ugeux who was starting with a 22-point advantage.

However, Tassin could foresee one problem: 'With the ballast, the car slides a great deal more.' So, he was going to have his work cut out as the weather on race day varied from light drizzle to heavy showers, leaving the circuit partly soaked.

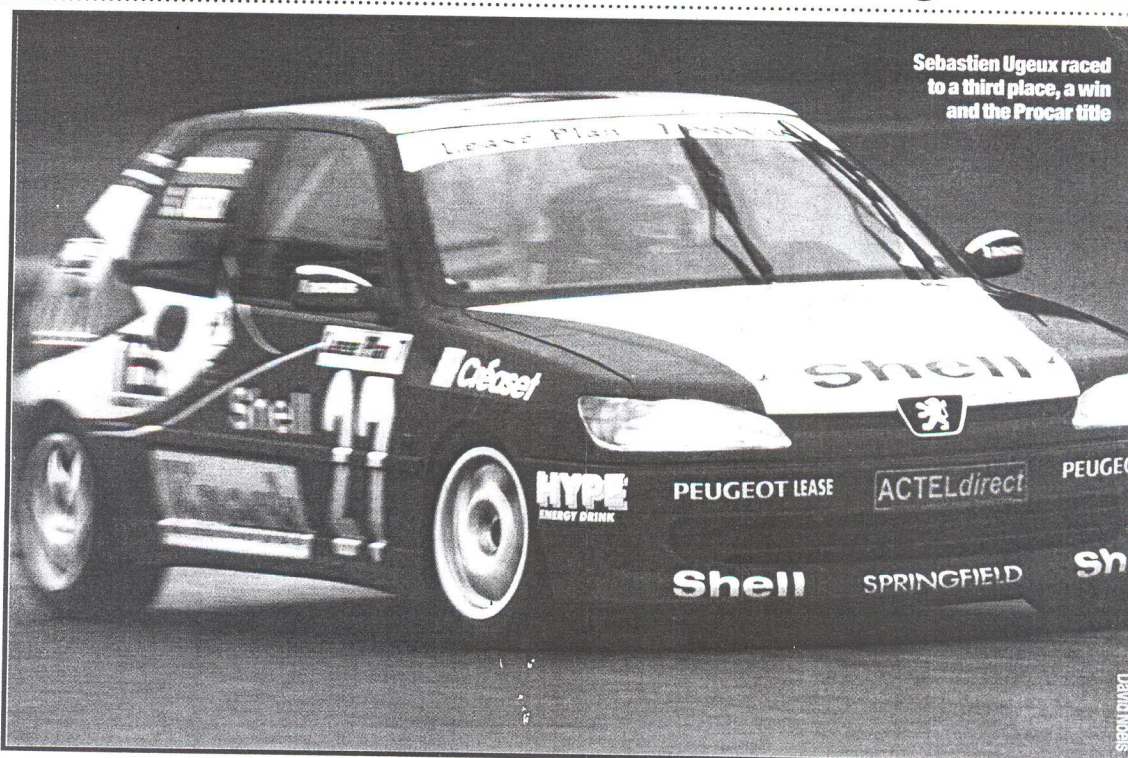
At the start of the first race, pole-sitter Ugeux had Vincent Vosse, Stephane de Groodt and Tassin alongside him as they attempted to take the first corner side-by-side. Ugeux fell to third as Tassin's hopes of making a speedy getaway were thwarted as the gap narrowed. He left the track and dropping to 14th before regaining the tarmac.

De Groodt's Honda and Vosse's Nissan were now locked together in a close battle that was to last the entire race and was arguably the best duel seen this season. Vosse went past into the lead on three occasions, but each time was instantly repassed by de Groodt.

Ugeux held third, protected by team mates Vincent Radermecker and Bart Ide, the latter having been drafted into the squad to support Ugeux's title aspirations.

On lap three, Vanina Ickx's Renault got out of shape and hit the VW Golf of guest driver Anders Olofsson, spinning it into Grant Elliott's Honda. This helped Tassin's progress up the order, which took him to seventh by lap seven. However, he couldn't find his way past Pierre-Yves Corthals' Renault.

Then Radermecker lost his brakes, but somehow managed to stay on the island and reach the finish in eighth place.



Sebastien Ugeux raced to a third place, a win and the Procar title

Ugeux lifts Procar title

Peugeot's star stayed ahead of Thierry Tassin to lift the series crown. By Dick Suter

This elevated Tassin to an eventual sixth place. However, it wasn't enough to keep his title hopes alive as third place had been enough to make Ugeux champion.

Fired up by his success, Ugeux went all-out for his second win of the year in the second race, fitting slicks on the front and grooved tyres on the rear for the second race, while all others bar Tassin went for grooved tyres all round.

Radermecker led the first three laps, but then Ugeux hit the front

and raced on to build up a lead of 27.4s by flagfall a dozen laps later.

Corthals' chances took a dive on the opening lap when Ide tipped him into the scenery. Then Radermecker was his next victim on lap four. Ide earned a stop-go penalty for his performance.

Tassin had been hemmed in at the start and had clashed with Corthals, but he came through to second after passing de Groodt, with Radermecker recovering to fourth. Elliott's rebuilt Honda suffered from

understeer on its way to seventh.

BELGIAN PROCAR CHAMPIONSHIP, ROUNDS 13 & 14 OF 14, ZOLDER (B), 2 x 15 LAPS - 2 x 39.00 MILES, OCT 11, Race 1 1 Stephane de Groodt (Honda Integra), 30m47.72s, 75.98mph; 2 Vincent Vosse (Nissan Primera), 30m48.63s; 3 Sebastien Ugeux (Peugeot 306), 30m58.20s; 4 Bart Ide (Peugeot 306), 31m03.47s; 5 Pierre-Yves Corthals (Renault Megane), 31m06.98s; 6 Thierry Tassin (Honda Integra), 31m07.73s. **Fastest lap** De Groodt, 2m02.00s, 76.72mph. **Race 2** 1 Ugeux, 30m36.48s, 76.45mph; 2 Tassin, 31m03.83s; 3 de Groodt, 31m08.95s; 4 Vincent Radermecker (Peugeot 306), 31m11.55s; 5 Vosse, 31m19.86s; 6 Ide, 31m22.36s. **Fastest lap** Ide, 1m59.73s, 78.18mph. **Final championship positions** 1 Ugeux, 218pts; 2 Tassin, 188; 3 de Groodt, 174; 4 Pierre-Yves Corthals, 160; 5 Radermecker, 157.

Audi controls wet race at Zolder

The combination of Jean-Francois Hemroulle, Tim Verbergt and an Audi A4 quattro took another win in the final round of the Belcar Championship at Zolder.

The partnership finished the two-hour race almost a minute ahead of the PCA Porsche 993 shared by the Huisman brothers.

Vincent Vosse claimed pole in the Porsche 911 he shares with Kurt Thiers, but the car was immediately crippled by a slipping clutch and never featured.

Duncan Huisman had qualified sixth, but his Porsche was relegated to the back of the 47-car grid as his brother Patrick had not been able to

take part in the qualifying session.

Once the race was underway, the Audi was headed by the second PCA Porsche, which was shared by Bas Leinders and Kurt Mollekens, as its sister car forged its way up the order.

When the Audi pitted, its stop was half the length of its rivals, thanks to its lighter consumption, and Hemroulle really got the hammer down on his return, the four-wheel drive machine revelling in the soaking conditions.

The Huisman Porsche reached second, but it was at a disadvantage to the Audi in the conditions and had to settle for the runner-up spot.

● Dick Suter

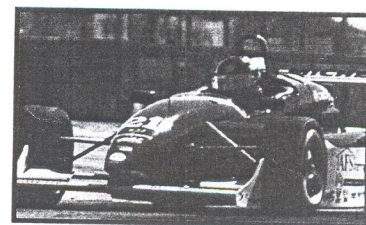
Pro Series win for Simmons

Jeff Simmons showed commendable calm by posting a flag-to-flag victory in the Barber Dodge Pro Series race at Road Atlanta Saturday.

An early jump on Todd Snyder at the green flag enabled Simmons to drive away from the field to claim the third win of his campaign. The triumph, combined with the bonus point earned when he claimed pole, vaulted Simmons into the points lead with two races left. The points system counts the driver's 10 best finishes, and Snyder and Simmons arrived level, but when each driver's two lowest scores were dropped Simmons emerged from the meeting with a five-point lead going into the penultimate round.

Snyder was never able to get closer than a few car lengths behind Simmons as the top three drivers compiled a sizeable lead. A restart off a yellow flag on lap 20 allowed Snyder one last shot, but the move was parried by Simmons.

Townsend Bell earned his first Barber Dodge podium finish with a third-place effort. He challenged



Simmons controlled the race from the front

Snyder on the restart and pulled alongside, but was content to settle for third as the dicing for second allowed Simmons to tack a few seconds on to his own margin. Sepp Koster of the Netherlands placed fourth, with Norway's Thomas Schie completing the top five.

BARBER DODGE PRO-SERIES, ROUND 10 OF 12, ROAD ATLANTA (USA), 27 LAPS - 69.12 MILES, OCT 10 1 Jeff Simmons, 40m33.80s, 103.34mph; 2 Todd Snyder, 40m35.87s; 3 Townsend Bell, 27 laps; 4 Sepp Koster, 27; 5 Thomas Schie, 27; 6 Giovanni Anapoli, 27; 7 Iradj Alexander-David, 27; 8 Jon Fogarty, 27; 9 Brian Pelke, 27; 10 Peter Boss, 27. **Fastest lap** Simmons, 1m24.29s, 109.34mph. **Championship positions** 1 Snyder, 136pts; 2 Simmons, 126; 3 Schie, 103; 4 Anapoli, 100; 5 Will Langhorne, 78; 6 Nicholas Rondet, 67. **Next round** Homestead, Oct 17.



The Hemroulle/Verbergt A4 suited the wet

BELGIAN BELCAR CHAMPIONSHIP, ROUND 7 OF 7, ZOLDER (B), 62 LAPS - 161.20 MILES, OCT 11 1 Jean-Francois Hemroulle/Tim Verbergt (Audi A4), 2h00m37.43s, 80.18mph; 2 Patrick & Duncan Huisman (Porsche 993), 2h01m04.21s; 3 Albert Vanierschot/Bert Longin (Porsche 993), 2h01m57.10s; 4 Bas Leinders/Kurt Mollekens (Porsche 993), 2h02m06.34s; 5 Vincent Dupont/Paul Kumpen (Porsche 911), 2h02m26.06s; 6 Marc Schoonbroodt/Jose Close (Porsche 993), 61 laps. **Final championship positions** 1 Hemroulle/Verbergt, 280pts; 3 Patrick Belien, 274; 4 Patrick Huisman, 264.