

## A taste of Bönighausen's talent in the Middle East

Colin Bönighausen's first season in the Porsche Carrera Cup came to an end at the F1 Grand Prix in Bahrain and Saudi Arabia. With another podium finish on the final race weekend, the FIRE Racing driver secured 3rd place in the winter championship.

After twelve races, the 2023/2024 Porsche Carrera Cup Middle East season ended last Saturday in Jeddah. For Colin Bönighausen from Lower Saxony, the finale was all about securing his top three place in the championship and crowning a great debut season. "I immediately felt very comfortable on the street circuit. However, we had to adjust to the change in grip conditions when Formula 2 or Formula 1 cars were on track before our session." The races were close on the fast track on the Red Sea and numerous duels characterised the two races. In a strong line-up surrounded by experienced Supercup and Carrera Cup drivers, Bönighausen was once again able to perform sensationally and cross the finish line in third place: "That was definitely my highlight of the season, to be able to finish on the podium under floodlights and as part of Formula 1," said Colin proudly alongside winner Harry King and runner-up Robert de Haan. PCCME Series Head and Team Principal Robert Lechner summarised: "At the end of the season, Colin once again put in a mega performance. On the fastest street circuit in the world, between the walls, you can really see who has talent!"

He thus secured third place in the championship, with second place theoretically still within reach. "I went into the final race with an 'all or nothing' attitude. The pace was good again, but then I made one or two mistakes on the brakes and lost the podium." However, fourth place at the end of his first season with the new Porsche 911 GT3 Cup car and without driving aids is by no means a reason to complain. In total, Bönighausen finished on the podium five times in the PCCME and thus deservedly finished

in the top three in the overall standings: "I learned a lot in terms of driving and, together with my engineer Frank Funke, developed a better understanding of the car and the tyres." Robert Lechner adds: "Colin has shown tremendous growth over the past year. He has understood what makes a good racing driver: you have to perform on and off the track. He represents his partners well and his environment is very professional."

A week earlier, also as part of Formula 1, the battle for points had already begun in the Bahraini desert. In two hot races, Colin endeavoured to make up for his poor qualifying position. The 19-year-old succeeded in doing so with fast sector and lap times and 5th place in the first race. "The Formula 1 season opener in Bahrain was a cool event filled with a lot of fans and all round entertainment."

The orange and white FIRE car is now travelling back to Europe by plane. The test drives for the upcoming Porsche Carrera Cup Germany season are scheduled for March: "The German championship will be even tougher – with 30 cars and many top drivers and teams. But I'll be able to handle it!" Colin is optimistic that he can deliver as a rookie in the PCCD as well. Robert Lechner is also convinced: "With his preparation over the winter in the Porsche Carrera Cup Middle East, he will be well prepared for the Porsche Carrera Cup Germany. I am confident that he will finish the rookie classification in the top three. We at Lechner Racing will certainly keep an eye on him." The first race will take place on 20 April at the Autodromo Enzo e Dino Ferrari in Imola.



Colin together with Robert Lechner on Jeddah's F1 podium





## About FIRE Racing:

FIRE Racing is backed by Colin Jamie Bönighausen's main sponsor – the FIRE Group! The FIRE Group is a Dubai-based property investment company founded by leading experts from the property and finance industry. It specialises in combining the world of real estate with modern blockchain technology and making it accessible to investors of all kinds. FIRE stands for "Fixed Income Real Estate" and offers everyone the opportunity to invest profitably in luxury real estate around the world and includes a large community that cheers on the racetrack with Colin!

More at [www.fire-token.com](http://www.fire-token.com)

## That's Colin:

Colin Jamie Bönighausen („CJB“), born in Hanover (Germany) in 2005, has been involved in motorsport since he was ten years old. He is currently undergoing apprenticeship training to become a plant mechanic. Like many racing drivers, the driver from Lower Saxony began his motorsport career in karting. The title in the ROK Cup Germany as well as numerous victories and top results in the ADAC Kart Masters and the Rotax Max Challenge highlight Colin's career to date. In 2022, he switched from racing karts to racing cars. He celebrated immediate success in the Porsche 911 GT3 Cup car and won the Porsche Sprint Challenge Central Europe in both the Sprint and Endurance classifications. The 18-year-old is currently competing in the Porsche Carrera Cup Middle East before stepping up to the Porsche Carrera Cup Germany in 2024.

More at [www.cjb-racing.de](http://www.cjb-racing.de)



## About VPD Racing:

Since 2010, VPD Racing from Adnet in Salzburg is a reliable partner for hobby racers and professional racers. The experienced team offers a wide range of products for kart racing, including a full-service center for chassis and motors as well as full support during race events. As the official Austrian importer of Vega tyres as well as authorised Rotax service center we are your trustworthy partner for karting in Austria as well as abroad. More at [www.vpdracing.com](http://www.vpdracing.com)

DEINE LOBBY supports companies worldwide with a professional social media campaign and uses innovative strategies and creative content to increase visibility and interaction. DEINE LOBBY started out in the automotive industry and now supports the entire racing team around Colin with marketing measures and PR work.

