

MORAD RACES TO WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

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When Daniel Morad drove his Rotax DD2 kart at the La Conca International Circuit track during last weekend's Rotax Max Challenge Grand Finals in La Conca, Italy he had some unfinished business to complete.

Racing as a member of the Team Canada contingent during last year's event in Egypt, the Stouffville resident was in contention to win the DD2 class event.

But sitting in fourth place with one lap to go and gaining ground on the leaders, Morad's kart went airborne after it was struck on the side.

While Morad came away with just a few bumps and bruises, he felt a victory had been in his grasp.

In this year's 24-lap finale, the 20-year-old former Markham resident avoided any mishaps on the 1,250-metre course.

Making his ride even more enjoyable, Morad was first to cross the finish line and was crowned this year's Rotax DD2 world champion.

"When I was in front of the main



DANIEL MORAD: Stouffville resident escaped trouble that plagued him at 2009 worlds in Egypt.

straight grandstand, everyone was jumping out of their seats. It was just an emotional flush as I crossed the line. It was as if I was full of juice and it was flushed out of me. That's the closest thing I can compare it to," he said.

He started the feature race from the 13th position.

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"Something was different about this race. I put every ounce of brain power into it. For about 30 minutes before my race I stood there motionless and didn't say a word to anyone; I was just in the zone," he said. "From there, I calculated every move I made out there and tried to execute my plan I worked on beforehand.

"I knew I needed a good start and I got just that. I went from 13th to seventh on the first lap and from there, just picked off one at a time."

Not only did Morad atone for last year's disappointment.

Since he first began kart racing, his ultimate goal was to become a world champion. To do that, he said, took a lot of hard work and assistance from several sources.

"I always wanted to race in Europe and compete against the best of the best," he said. "This was my opportunity to do so and I put everything into this. I qualified for this event via the Florida Winter Tour series with help from Intrepid Canada Goodwood Kartways, SRA Karting and the Florida Win-

ter Tour and I've been training hard with P1 Fitness and testing back home with Prime Kartsport out of Hamilton and PSerra Racing

from Stouffville to prepare for this event. "All the hard work has finally paid off and now, I'm finally a world champion."

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