

## Ries Viverette next in line of young champions at famous GKS kart team



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12 year-old **Ries Viverette** wrapped up the prestigious Rotax BNL karting championship last weekend in Genk, winning the championship on a high note with a weekend victory. In the minimax class (10-13 years) he was in front all season, with several victories and many podiums as a result. The battle with his rivals was fierce, but Ries always stayed in control and never caved in to pressure.

“I’m very happy with this result, especially because I got to celebrate with my two biggest rivals, who are also two good friends” Ries said afterwards. “The races this weekend were treacherous because of the constantly changing weather, but the speed was good, and I stayed out of trouble.”

“That’s right” ads father/mechanic Kris; “he was extremely focused, even managed to make the biggest difference in the rain. His starts were great, his driving very mature”

“We are ecstatic, especially since Ries had a chance to win the championship last year in the last race, but was run off the track by an overeager pilot and wound up missing the podium all together. It’s very satisfying to come back and win in such a nice way.”

For 5 years Ries has been part of the GKS kart team, run by Paul and Koen Lemmens. Under their guidance Jenson Button (McLaren), Jerome D’ambrosio (Lotus) and Robin Frijns (Sauber) have all honed their craft. The team has won numerous world and European titles.

‘Koen and Paul have always given Ries their full confidence, also for development work. GKS is a very professional team, but still maintains a real family feeling. We are very thankful for their support, as well as to Rico Frijsinger and the rest of the team.’

The Rotax BNL championship is a RACB sanctioned competition, and the winners exclusively hold the title of Belgian kart champion.

Ries is already looking forward to taking the next step up to the faster 13-15 year old categories.

“It will be even faster and tougher, I can’t wait to start” Ries adds quickly. “I also hope to get more international experience. Even though it keeps getting more serious, it also keeps getting more fun!”

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(pictures: Michael Melis - www.kartphoto.com)

Website Ries: <http://ries.viverette.be>

Website GKS: <http://www.gks.be>

Website Karting Genk: <http://www.kartinggenk.be>

Website BNL kampioenschap: <http://www.bnlkartingseries.com>

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All pictures available in larger format.

