

14 February 2024

Immediate release

“G FORCE DRIVER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM” Launches

Growing Talented Teenage Racing Drivers with G Force Engineering -Two Selections from Oceania, One from Switzerland for this season-

G Force Engineering, led by President and CEO Masaru Okazawa, is set to launch the G FORCE DRIVER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM aimed at nurturing junior drivers to hone their talents as racing drivers and step up to a higher level of international racing stage.

In the 2024 program, three drivers have been selected: Sebastian Manson from New Zealand, Jesse Lacey from Australia, and Michael Sauter from Switzerland. They will compete in the 2024 FORMULA REGIONAL JAPANESE CHAMPIONSHIP (FRJ).

While the three drivers will be divided into two teams for entry, Masaru Okazawa, representing G Force Engineering, will take the helm as supervisor, drawing from his extensive experience as a member of Team Goh in numerous international races including the Le Mans 24 Hours, as well as his achievements in domestic top-tier categories like SUPER GT and SUPER FORMULA.

Driving coaching will be provided by Seiji Ara, a Le Mans winner who continues to excel in events like SUPER GT, while Hiroshi Yuchi, a renowned racing car designer and engineer in Japan, will serve as the chief engineer. Leveraging exceptional engineering expertise developed in international racing, G Force Engineering aims to provide various approaches to equip teenage drivers competing in mid-level formula races with the necessary elements for advancement.

The FRJ season will kick off with pre-season joint testing at Suzuka on February 21, where Sebastian and Jesse will make their debut on Japanese circuits. Two weeks later, on March 9-10, the FRJ opening weekend will feature three races at Suzuka Circuit, marking the beginning of the 2024 season and setting the stage for Sebastian, Jesse, and Michael's battles on Japanese circuits.

Sebastian Manson

"I am extremely excited for the amazing opportunity that has been presented. Japan has always been a country I have wanted to experience. I believe they have some of the best tracks in the world. I can't wait to compete in Formula Regional Japan. This will be the highlight of my career so far. I'm looking forward to embarking on it and working with G Force Engineering."

Jesse Lacey

"I'm incredibly thrilled about competing in Formula Regional in Japan this season. I'm eagerly anticipating the exhilarating races at iconic tracks such as Suzuka. It's an honor and a privilege to drive for G FORCE DRIVER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM, and I'm excited to meet and work with the entire team."

Michael Sauter

"First of all, I'm grateful for all the supporters, team members and staffs, that I got this fantastic opportunity. I'm looking forward to the races on amazing tracks and to the opponent drivers. I was 11 years old as I visited Suzuka Circuit at the first time in 2015. I couldn't imagine at that time, that I would come back to Suzuka for a Formula race. It's going to be a challenging season for me and surely a really exciting time with a wonderful team and the best surroundings. I'll do my best to fight for the championship."

XXX

Attachment 1

2024 G FORCE DRIVER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM DRIVERS

Sebastian Manson

Nationality:	New Zealand European
Date of Birth:	7 February 2008
Height:	185cm
Weight:	70kg
Blood Type:	O Positive
Team :	Birth Racing Project (BRP)
Car Number:	55



I am a 15-year-old racing driver from New Zealand who is a student at Saint Kentigern College, I have studied 1 year of Japanese within my school curriculum. I have been racing since I was six years old. I started in karting and have competed in New Zealand, Australia, and Italy. I moved to car racing at the age of 12 and I am competing in a third season of Formula Ford. I enjoy hobbies such as sim racing, going to the gym and other motorsport-based activities. I have some interest in nutrition and diet.

Career Highlights

11x Race win South Island Formula ford 2023

3x SIFF 2023 Round wins & Pole

3x Race wins North Island Formula Ford 2023

1x Round win & Pole NIFF

3x wins & 6x Podium Formula Ford winter series 2023

3x wins in 2022 Winter series

4th in 2022 NIFF championship

4th in 2022-2023 National Formula Ford championship

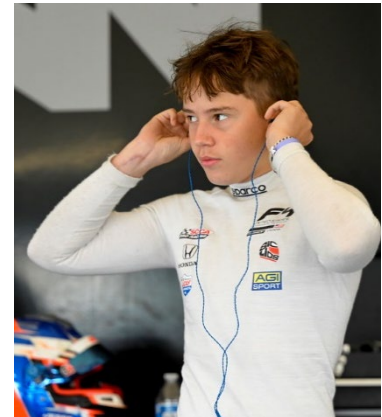
3x Test Days in Formula regional Tattus under guidance of m2 competition

Competed in Ferrari Academy Oceania and Pacific scouting making Top 6 2023

Youngest to Get selected for Motorsport New Zealand elite Driver academy 2022

Jesse Lacey

Nationality:	Australian
Date of Birth:	14 December 2006
Height:	168cm
Weight:	66kg
Blood Type:	O Positive
Team :	Bionic Jack Racing
Car Number:	53



BORN TO RACE

Jesse's racing heritage runs deep as a third-generation racer. Born into the Lacey family, which boasts a storied history in Speedway racing, including multiple Australian championships, his destiny was always to be on the racetrack. His racing journey commenced in 2016 when he was just 9 years old, and remarkably, in his debut year, he clinched the Australian Karter of the Year award in the Cadet 9 category. Fast forward six years, and Jesse took on the world's finest drivers, emerging victorious. His international racing debut in October 2019 saw him rise above 150 competitors, securing pole position in his first race. Jesse went on to achieve a remarkable triumph by winning the prestigious Sahi Trophy, prevailing over 100 racers hailing from various corners of the globe.

FERRARI DRIVER ACADEMY 2021

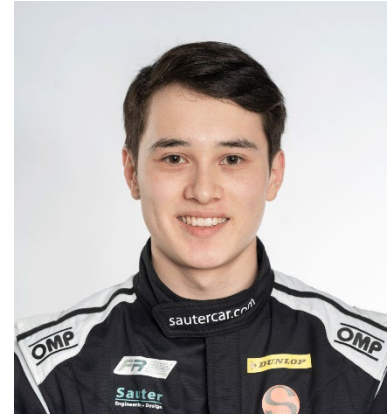
In 2021, Jesse was the winner of the Australian and NZ FDA talent search, and as a result he flew to Italy and attended the Ferrari driver academy in October. He competed against 3 other candidates selected from all over the world. The winner would receive a contract with Ferrari in 2022 to drive a Formula Four in the Italy Championship. Jesse was the youngest of the 4 drivers, and the least experienced. While he was not the eventual winner for 2021, he pitted himself extremely well against some incredibly talented young men. The experience was amazing, and it has only made him more committed.

2023 US F4 CHAMPIONSHIP

in 2023, securing a remarkable 4th place finish in the US F4 Championship in his first attempt at 16 years of age. Jesse claimed an impressive total of 6 podiums, 1 race win, 3 second and 2 third place finished, including 2 pole position and alap record

Michael Sauter

Nationality:	Swiss
Date of Birth:	5 October 2004
Height:	168cm
Weight:	57kg
Blood Type:	A positive
Team :	Birth Racing Project(BRP)
Car Number:	5



Michael was born in 2004 and besides racing I am currently doing an apprenticeship as a car body repairer. To be physically fit, I do fitness in my spare time, play tennis and ski during the winter break.

Michael's great-grandfather, Kurt Sauter was a Swiss racing and sports car manufacturer. With his self-designed and manufactured racing sports cars he achieved good results in national as well as international races.

74 years later, his great-grandson, Michael Sauter, is now driving a Formula 4 Mono-post race car in the family team and continues the tradition.

CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

- 2023 FIA Formula Regional Japanese Championship
Spot-participation at Motegi Round
- 2023 FIA F4 CEZ Championship
- 2022 ADAC Formula 4 13th in Overall rating
- 2021 ADAC Formula 4 Vice Rookie Champion
- 2012 Started the karting
3rd place at the 1st race