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## **BASIL SHAABAN SELECTED TO RACE FOR A1 GRAND PRIX TEAM LEBANON**



*Basil Shaaban sitting in the Lola-Dome F3 car in which he proved his talents to A1GP Team Lebanon at the end of the 3-day driving evaluation.*

Just over 2 months after the end of A1GP Team Lebanon's intensive fitness and 3-day driving evaluation, Basil Shaaban has signed a contract to race with A1GP Team Lebanon for at least the first two A1GP championships. After a 5-year career in go-karts and junior formula cars, Basil has ascended the ladder to become a professional racing driver in one of the world's most exciting international motorsport championships. Also known as the World Cup of Motorsport, A1 Grand Prix will pit 25 nations against each other, of which Lebanon is the only Arab country.

In speaking to Basil about his becoming an official A1GP Team Lebanon driver he said, "I have been working towards this for the past five years, and it has finally happened. What an awesome opportunity to represent my nation on a global scale in cars that are in every way just one step short of Formula One's level. It will be a fantastic challenge to compete against all the world's most experienced racing nations, and we will do our best to bring the fight to them as well. I would also like to congratulate my new team-mate, Khalil Beschir, who has also signed to be the equal-status second driver in our new team."

When asked about the events leading up to this, the A1GP Team Lebanon driver explains, "Upon making myself known to the team, I was invited to participate in the fitness and driving evaluation held last December. My new teammate Khalil and I were informed within a couple of weeks that we were selected, and within two months all the contractual details were ironed out and we have signed. Now we will begin an intensive fitness and racing training program designed by the team to prepare us as much as possible in the next six months for the A1GP championship."

The A1 Grand Prix World Cup of Motorsport kicks off at Brands Hatch, England on September 23-25, 2005, the first of 12 rounds of the A1GP championship.