

Mansell is the youngest ever BOSS

TAMWORTH driver Scott Mansell became the youngest ever winner of the EuroBOSS Championship following a podium finish at Le Mans on Sunday.

Mansell, driving the Zig-Zag Mansell Motorsport Benetton Judd B197 Formula One car, clinched the title in the last round of the series at Le Mans despite having to race the last five laps in fifth gear.

The teenager's season has included four race wins, seven pole positions and five outright circuit lap records set at the Brands Hatch Indy, Donington National, Silverstone National, Lausitzring GP and Zolder GP circuits.

The rain fell heavily during qualifying at Le Mans and Mansell put in just three laps to take

second place on the grid behind Klaas Zwart in pole position.

Zwart and Mansell both made good starts but Patrick D'aubrey, from the second row in another Benetton, made a superb start and all three went into the first corner side by side.

With Mansell only needing fifth place or higher to clinch the championship, he wisely let Zwart and D'aubrey battle it out and settled into a comfortable third place.

Over the first ten laps, the gap between the first three remained close and the title looked to be Mansell's. However, Mansell was experiencing a 'notchy' gearbox and increasing difficulty changing up and down so on lap ten, he decided to



run the last five laps in just fifth gear.

Zwart, in his Ascari Judd, finished first, D'aubrey was second and Mansell came in third to become the EuroBOSS 2004 Champion by six points over Zwart.

"The race was a little frustrating for me as finishing in the points was more important than battling for the race victory," said Mansell, a

previous *Herald Sports* Award winner.

"It is a great achievement and I am delighted to win the 2004 EuroBOSS Championship with the Zig-Zag Mansell team who have done a superb job.

"I would like to thank them and everyone who has made this possible, my family and friends and sponsors Zig-Zag, Drayton Manor Theme Park and Castrol."