

FORMEL 3 - NEWS

Press release no. 9
 FORMULA THREE
 SUNDAY (21/11) WARM-UP
 Weather: Sunny

MANNING KEEPS SETTING THE PACE

Briton Darren Manning maintained his perfect record of setting the pace in every session of the Macau Grand Prix when he topped the times during Sunday morning's warm-up session. The TOM'S driver ended the warm-up just five hundredths of a second faster than Dutchman Christijan Albers but was confident that he could have gone much faster.

"Everything feels good," he said. "It was quite difficult at the end of the session to find a clear lap. But, considering I did my time at the start of the warm-up I am pretty happy -- especially since I made a mistake on that lap as well when I clipped the kerb at Lisboa. I think I could have gone about one second faster."

Albers reported no problems on his car, despite a brief excursion up the escape road at Police after the chequered flag, while his Opel Team BSR team-mate Andre Couto was happier with his set-up after making changes since qualifying on Friday.

"The car felt a bit nervous in the rear during practice and we have managed to improve that," said the Macau driver who set the third best time. "The changes have made the car much better, and I think we will make some more improvements for the race."

Austrian Robert Lechner, who starts the race third on the grid, was happy with the set-up of his car and the fact that his leg, which he hurt in a practice accident, was giving him no trouble.

"I don't think people wanted to risk too much in that session, so I built myself up quite slowly," said the fourth fastest driver. "After about six or seven laps I was able to push a bit harder and there were no problems with the car or my leg. I only had one clear lap, which came right at the end of the session, so I am happy with the time."

Front row starter Briton Jenson Button was pleased with the set-up on his Promatecme car but believed he could have gone faster if he had not missed a gear on his fastest lap.

"It was good," said the fifth fastest driver. "I think I could have gone about seven tenths quicker, but there was no way I could have caught Manning."

Briton Andrew Kirkaldy reported a small brake problem on his Alan Docking Racing car...Italian Paulo Montin stopped out on the track with a mechanical problem...Frenchman Sebastien Dumez had an excursion up an escape road.

(ends)

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