





VAN AMERSFOORT RACING DOMINATES PAU FREE PRACTICE

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15.05.2015. The start of the third FIA Formula 3 European Championship race meeting turned into a special challenge for the 34 young drivers, because at times, heavy rain fell over the 2.76 kilometres long street circuit in Pau. In the addition of the two free practice sessions, Arjun Maini (Van Amersfoort Racing, 1:19.736 minutes) ended up fastest in Group A from Charles Leclerc (Van Amersfoort Racing, 1:19.982 minutes) and Antonio Giovinazzi (Jagonya Ayam with Carlin, 1:20.168 minutes). In Group B, Alessio Lorandi (Van Amersfoort Racing, 1:19.353 minutes) posted the fastest time from Markus Pommer (Motopark, 1:20.459 minutes) and Jake Dennis (Prema Powerteam, 1:20.537 minutes).

Due to the number of the competing drivers and the relatively short track, the field was split up into two groups for the two free practice sessions. Especially in first free practice, drivers in both groups had to deal with heavy rain at times, but they coped well with the challenging conditions and hardly made any mistakes. The sun came out at the start of second free practice and the racing line dried out, only for another downpour to follow a few minutes later.

The drivers from Group A were able to complete their second free practice on a drying track and also set their best lap times at that stage. In the final seconds of the session, Arjun Maini toppled his team-mate Charles Leclerc from first place. Behind the Van Amersfoort Racing duo and Antonio Giovinazzi, Alexander Albon (Signature, 1:20.599 minutes) ended up fourth from Felix Rosenqvist (Prema Powerteam, 1:20.793 minutes) and Santino Ferrucci (kfzteile24 Mücke Motorsport, 1:21.031 minutes). For the drivers in Group B, the racing line initially was almost completely dry and Alessio Lorandi in particular made the best of it. The Italian claimed the top spot and held on to it until the end of the session. Markus Pommer ended up second from Jake Dennis, Gustavo Menezes (Jagonya Ayam with Carlin, 1:20.544 minutes), Pietro Fittipaldi (Fortec Motorsports, 1:20.630 minutes) and Brandon Maisano (Prema Powerteam, 1:20.777 minutes). As rain intensified, American driver Menezes slid off into the Armco barriers due to aquaplaning, which brought the red flags out. Race control decided not to restart the session.