

# NORISRING ROOKIE NIKO KARI CLAIMS FIRST PLACE

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Niko Kari (Motopark, 0:48.776 minutes) is racing for the first time at the 2.3 kilometres long Norisring this weekend, but the Finn didn't have any problems in getting used to the track. In free practice of the FIA Formula 3 European Championship, he came out in first place from Anthoine Hubert (Van Amersfoort Racing, 0:48.828 minutes), Guanyu Zhou (Motopark, 0:48.843 minutes) and Maximilian Günther (Prema Powerteam, 0:48.848 minutes). Points' leader Lance Stroll (Prema Powerteam, 0:48.996 minutes) was classified eighth at the street circuit in Nuremberg.

In summerly conditions, teams and drivers from the FIA Formula 3 European Championship used the 80 minutes of free practice to prepare for the two qualifying sessions to be held later today. Only towards the end of the session, Niko Kari moved up into first place while Anthoine Hubert and Guanyu Zhou also posted their fastest times in the closing stages of free practice. Thus, three rookie drivers, none of them having driven at the Norisring ever before, locked out the first three places.

Only in fourth place, Maximilian Günther was the first driver with previous experience of the Norisring. Mikkel Jensen (kfzteile24 Mücke Motorsport, 0:48.884 minutes), David Beckmann (kfzteile24 Mücke Motorsport, 0:48.914 minutes), Nick Cassidy (Prema Powerteam, 0:48.962 minutes), Lance Stroll, Joel Eriksson (Motopark, 0:49.013 minutes) and Sérgio Sette Câmara (Motopark, 0:49.055 minutes) rounded

out the top ten. The tenth-placed Brazilian was only 0.279 seconds short of pace-setter Niko Kari. Returning to the FIA Formula 3 European Championship ranks, British driver William Buller (Carlin, 0:49.202 minutes) had to make do with 16<sup>th</sup> place in free practice.