

NICK CASSIDY ON TOP AT RAINY SPA

Posted on 28. July 2016 (<http://www.fiaf3europe.com/2016/07/28/nick-cassidy-top-rainy-spa/>)



The 7.004 kilometres long circuit of Spa-Francorchamps greeted the FIA Formula 3 European Championship drivers with rain, but it became less intense in the course of the session. Nick Cassidy (Prema Powerteam, 2:30.211 minutes) coped best with the conditions: in free practice, he came out on top from Callum Ilott (Van Amersfoort Racing, 2:30.260 minutes). The best-placed rookie, Joel Eriksson (Motopark, 2:30.961 minutes) and Lance Stroll (Prema Powerteam, 2:30.305 minutes), the current FIA Formula 3 European Championship points' leader, were classified third and fourth respectively. The times of the four fastest drivers were less than 0.1 seconds apart.

The session, split up into two heats, got underway in the rain that initially intensified. At this stage, the session had to be interrupted briefly following a crash by Pedro Piquet (Van Amersfoort Racing, 2:38.329 minutes). Only in the second half, rain diminished and the lap times improved accordingly. Nick Cassidy had already claimed the top spot a few minutes before the end of the first part of the session already, but saw his position challenged in the final stages. Some of his rivals were still able to improve, but none of them turned out to be able to beat the New Zealander's time.

Only in the final minutes, Callum Ilott moved up into second place and Joel Eriksson also made use of the improved track conditions to post his fastest lap time towards the end of the session. Thus, Lance Stroll dropped back from second to fourth place. Behind the Canadian, George Russell (HitechGP, 2:30.723 minutes), the rookie trio of Guanyu Zhou (Motopark, 2:30.757 minutes), Ben Barnicoat (HitechGP,

2:30.819 minutes) and David Beckmann (kfzteile24 Mücke Motorsport, 2:30.843 minutes) as well as Sérgio Sette Câmara (Motopark, 2:31.085 minutes) and Maximilian Günther (Prema Powerteam, 2:31.087 minutes) followed in fifth to tenth place.