

PEDRO PIQUET POSTS FASTEST TIME IN FREE PRACTICE

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Pedro Piquet (Van Amersfoort Racing, 0m48.478s) came out on top in free practice of the FIA Formula 3 European Championship at the 2.3 kilometres long Norisring. The Brazilian was 0.031 seconds faster than his nearest rival Callum Ilott (Prema Powerteam, 0m48.509s). The best-placed German in the first event of the 2017 FIA Formula 3 European Championship season on German soil was Maximilian Günther (Prema Powerteam, 0m48.617s), who ended up third. Ferdinand Habsburg (Carlin, 0m48.723s), points' leader Joel Eriksson (Motopark, 0m48.727s) and Jehan Daruvala (Carlin, 0m48.727s) as the best-placed rookie followed in fourth to sixth place.

While the FIA Formula 3 European Championship already had events in the UK, Italy, France and Hungary this year, this weekend marks the first round in Germany. After Pau in the south of France, it is the second time this season that the young drivers can show their skills at a street circuit.

Last year, Pedro Piquet got his first experience of the Norisring and he put them to good use in free practice. After 80 minutes of practice, the two times' Formula 3 champion in his home country Brazil was slightly faster than Callum Ilott. Behind local hero Maximilian Günther, Ferdinand Habsburg was the best-placed driver who is making his Norisring debut this year. In fifth and sixth place, Joel Eriksson and Jehan Daruvala posted personal best lap times that were identical to one thousandth of a second. As Eriksson set his time before his Indian rival, the Swede was classified in fifth place.

Harrison Newey (Van Amersfoort Racing, 0m48.743s), Lando Norris (Carlin, 0m48.748s), David Beckmann

(Motopark, 0m48.756s) and Guanyu Zhou (Prema Powerteam, 0m48.780s) rounded out the top ten.