

CALLUM ILOTT AHEAD OF LANDO NORRIS AT RED BULL RING

Posted on 22. September 2017 (<http://www.fiaf3europe.com/2017/09/22/callum-ilott-ahead-lando-norris-red-bull-ring/>)



This weekend, Lando Norris (Carlin, 1m23.578s) has his first chance to claim the FIA Formula 3 European Championship title early. The McLaren junior driver started his weekend with second place in free practice. Only Callum Ilott (Prema Powerteam, 1m23.423s) was faster. Next up behind the two Brits at the 4.326 kilometres long Red Bull Ring were Joel Eriksson (Motopark, 1m23.655s), David Beckmann (Motopark, 1m23.683s) and Joey Mawson (1m23.757s). Maximilian Günther (Prema Powerteam, 1m23.792s), Norris's fiercest rival in the battle for the title, was classified in sixth place.

As usual, the young drivers had 80 minutes of free practice available to prepare themselves for this weekend's two qualifying sessions and three races. In the process, stalwart Callum Ilott coped best with the undulating Red Bull Ring as he posted the fastest lap of the session. Behind the Brit, who is already in his third season in the FIA Formula 3 European Championship, Lando Norris ended up as the best-placed rookie. Joel Eriksson secured third place from David Beckmann. Joey Mawson became 5th, the Australian rookie driver scored his maiden FIA Formula 3 European Championship podium finish at the Nürburgring a fortnight ago and continued his good performance in free practice in Spielberg.

Maximilian Günther was classified sixth from rookie driver Mick Schumacher (Prema Powerteam, 1m23.844s). Ralf Aron (Hitech Grand Prix, 1m23.913s), Ferrari junior driver Guanyu Zhou (Prema Powerteam, 1m23.969s) and Nikita Mazepin (Hitech Grand Prix, 1m23.975s), who is backed by the Force India Formula 1 team, rounded out the top ten. Ferdinand Habsburg (Carlin, 1m23.976s), the only Austrian in the field, just missed a top ten result by one thousandth of a second. Newcomer Devlin DeFrancesco (Carlin, 1m24.525s) ended up in 18th position in his first FIA Formula 3 European Championship practice session.