



MEDIA RELEASE

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Armstrong the early leader in Spielberg

PREMA remain on top in Round 3 Free Practice

Marcus Armstrong came out on top in today's FIA Formula 3 Free Practice, which sprung to life in the final few minutes at the Red Bull Ring. The PREMA man set a laptime of 1:19.396 to lead Trident's Pedro Piquet and the much improved Christian Lundgaard of ART Grand Prix.

Niko Kari was first out on track in the stunning Spielberg scenery as the cars got used to a warm early morning in Austria. Jüri Vips set the bar at 1:22.686, but was quickly usurped by the ART machine of David Beckmann, with the team looking to bounce back after a sorry French weekend.

Championship leaders PREMA resisted the temptation to hit the track straight away and remained in the pits for the first ten minutes of the session. When their trio of drivers finally departed, they wasted no time in taking their customary place at the top of the standings, in the order of Robert Shwartzman, Jehan Daruvala and Marcus Armstrong.

Jenzer debutant Giorgio Carrara was impressing in his maiden F3 outing and made a surprise leap from 13th to 3rd with 10 minutes to go, despite his lack of experience in the machinery. He later dropped down the order at the hands of PREMA, before falling further and finishing in 24th.

Jake Hughes had shown impressive pace in Le Castellet last week and was looking to continue this form as he broke up the all PREMA front three to sit second behind Shwartzman.

Having acclimatised to the track, the session got going with five minutes remaining as the drivers tested out the limits of the Red Bull Ring. Beckmann, Lundgaard and Piquet all had turns at the top of the table, with Logan Sargeant and Hughes pushing them close in the positions behind. The Brazilian was the man to hold onto the position and looked to cement this going into the final few minutes.

Their speed saw the PREMA duo of Shwartzman and Daruvala – both race winners in France – pushed down to eighth and ninth. The laptimes kept on coming, but Piquet appeared uncatchable out in front.

With one final lap to switch up the order, Shwartzman was unable to improve on P8 and teammate Daruvala could only achieve P6. It was the third PREMA of Armstrong who managed to dethrone Piquet, setting a laptime of 1:19.396 to steal P1 at the death.

He was followed by the Brazilian from Trident and Lundgaard, with Beckmann fourth and Vips fifth. Daruvala, Leonardo Pulcini, Shwartzman, Kari and Max Fewtrell completed the top ten.

The teams will continue their attempts to break up the PREMA dominance when action returns this evening at 5.50pm for Qualifying in Spielberg.

2019 FIA Formula 3 Championship – Round 3 Free Practice

DRIVER	TEAM	LAPTIME	LAPS
1 Marcus Armstrong	PREMA Racing	1:19.396	22
2 Pedro Piquet	Trident	1:19.553	26
3 Christian Lundgaard	ART Grand Prix	1:19.566	27
4 David Beckmann	ART Grand Prix	1:19.641	24
5 Jüri Vips	Hitech Grand Prix	1:19.655	24
6 Jehan Daruvala	PREMA Racing	1:19.659	20
7 Leonardo Pulcini	Hitech Grand Prix	1:19.772	25
8 Robert Shwartzman	PREMA Racing	1:19.821	21
9 Niko Kari	Trident	1:19.857	26
10 Max Fewtrell	ART Grand Prix	1:19.886	26
11 Richard Verschoor	MP Motorsport	1:19.886	25
12 Felipe Drugovich	Carlin Buzz Racing	1:19.927	25
13 Logan Sargeant	Carlin Buzz Racing	1:19.938	25
14 Devlin DeFrancesco	Trident	1:20.026	25

15	Jake Hughes	HWA RACELAB	1:20.041	27
16	Simo Laaksonen	MP Motorsport	1:20.056	20
17	Ye Yifei	Hitech Grand Prix	1:20.187	26
18	Liam Lawson	MP Motorsport	1:20.233	24
19	Sebastian Fernandez	Campos Racing	1:20.242	22
20	Alex Peroni	Campos Racing	1:20.276	24
21	Yuki Tsunoda	Jenzer Motorsport	1:20.287	27
22	Lirim Zendeli	Sauber Junior Team by Charouz	1:20.415	27
23	Bent Viscaal	HWA RACELAB	1:20.441	26
24	Giorgio Carrara	Jenzer Motorsport	1:20.515	25
25	Keyvan Andres	HWA RACELAB	1:20.795	25
26	Fabio Scherer	Sauber Junior Team by Charouz	1:20.800	24
27	Raoul Hyman	Sauber Junior Team by Charouz	1:20.827	24
28	Alessio Deledda	Campos Racing	1:21.428	25
29	Andreas Estner	Jenzer Motorsport	1:22.145	13
30	Tepppei Natori	Carlin Buzz Racing	1:22.225	19



Marcus Armstrong
(PREMA Racing)



2019 FIA Formula 3 -
Round 3 - Free
Practice Classification

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