

30 August, 2019

Hughes fastest in Spa-Francorchamps Free Practice

HWA RACELAB driver tops the times ahead of Kari and Peroni

Jake Hughes showed no signs of a summer break hangover, carrying on his good form from Round 5 and topping today's Free Practice in Spa-Francorchamps. The HWA RACELAB man was electric on his penultimate tour of the Belgian circuit to finish ahead of Trident's Niko Kari and Campos Racing's Alex Peroni in a new look top 10.

Around half of the grid set out onto the track when the session got underway and it was Lirim Zendeli who put in the first lap, before Devlin DeFrancesco set the standard at 2:11.153. Giorgio Carrara - in just his third FIA Formula 3 outing - then took the time to under 2m 10s, as the rest of the field began to filter out onto the track.

From then on, Pedro Piquet began to dominate the session, initially taking the lead on his first flying lap, before beating his own time to secure first at the halfway point. The order beneath him remained in a constant state of evolution – Logan Sargeant, Ye Yifei and Leonardo Pulcini were amongst the drivers to prop up the Brazilian and sit in second place.

Round 5's top performers, ART Grand Prix, began to get their bearings in the second half of Free Practice and Christian Lundgaard leapt to first, followed closely by teammate David Beckmann. With less than 15 minutes to go, the teams dived in the pits for a freshen-up. Most returned with seven minutes on the clock, but Lundgaard's departure from the pits was stalled as he required a new steering wheel.

Upon the Dane's return, Fabio Scherer had climbed a mammoth 27 places to steal his place at the top of the standings with a laptime of 2:06.912. This was short lived as Liam Lawson, Yifei and Peroni all took turns in first place.

Looking to make a statement, Hughes set a purple Sector 2 and sailed around the track with less than five minutes on the clock in search of P1. The Brit fought off traffic on a crowded track to set the quickest time of the morning.

With time left for just one more lap, no one was able to topple the HWA RACELAB driver's time of 2:05.929, as Kari and Peroni settled for places in the top three. Yifei, Richard Verschoor and Lawson completed the top five, followed by Bent Viscaal, Scherer, Raoul Hyman and Andreas Estner.

Action will resume for Qualifying at 5.50pm local time and the new look top ten will hope to carry their positive starts into the all-important race for pole.

FIA Formula 3 Round 6 – Qualifying provisional classification

DRIVER	TEAM	LAPTIME	LAPS
1 Jake Hughes	HWA RACELAB	2:05.929	13
2 Niko Kari	Trident	2:06.462	15
3 Alex Peroni	Campos Racing	2:06.479	15
4 Ye Yifei	Hitech Grand Prix	2:06.512	16
5 Richard Verschoor	MP Motorsport	2:06.544	17
6 Liam Lawson	MP Motorsport	2:06.629	15
7 Bent Viscaal	HWA RACELAB	2:06.895	14
8 Fabio Scherer	Sauber Junior Team by Charouz	2:06.912	17
9 Raoul Hyman	Sauber Junior Team by Charouz	2:06.915	15
10 Andreas Estner	Jenzer Motorsport	2:06.968	17
11 Keyvan Andres	HWA RACELAB	2:07.013	12
12 Lirim Zendeli	Sauber Junior Team by Charouz	2:07.023	16
13 Simo Laaksonen	MP Motorsport	2:07.033	16
14 Giorgio Carrara	Jenzer Motorsport	2:07.158	16
15 Jehan Daruvala	PREMA Racing	2:07.742	15
16 Christian Lundgaard	ART Grand Prix	2:07.797	12
17 David Beckmann	ART Grand Prix	2:07.897	14
18 Pedro Piquet	Trident	2:07.913	14
19 Marcus Armstrong	PREMA Racing	2:07.930	15
20 Yuki Tsunoda	Jenzer Motorsport	2:07.981	15
21 Leonardo Pulcini	Hitech Grand Prix	2:07.982	13
22 Max Fewtrell	ART Grand Prix	2:08.121	14
23 Robert Shwartzman	PREMA Racing	2:08.167	15
24 Juri Vips	Hitech Grand Prix	2:08.283	14

25	Devlin DeFrancesco	Trident	2:08.331	16
26	Logan Sargeant	Carlin Buzz Racing	2:08.826	13
27	Felipe Drugovich	Carlin Buzz Racing	2:08.857	14
28	Teppei Natori	Carlin Buzz Racing	2:08.913	13
29	Sebastian Fernandez	Campos Racing	2:10.457	14
30	Alessio Deledda	Campos Racing	2:10.734	14



Jake Hughes (HWA RACELAB)



2019 FIA Formula 3 - Round 6 Free Practice Classification

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