

Friday 2 June 2023

Barnard heads opening session in Barcelona

Taylor Barnard took the honours of topping the Free Practice session in Barcelona. After most opted to remain in the pitlane early on, the Jenzer Motorsport driver set a 1:28.831 to lead the way, before a late Red Flag disrupted his rivals attempts to improve.

Following in-season testing at the track back in April, it was a quiet start to running. Roberto Faria was the first driver to get acquainted with the Spanish circuit. With the track all to himself, the PHM Racing by Charouz driver set the initial benchmark at a 1:33.026 around the 4.657km layout.

Waiting and watching on in the pit lane, there was no urgency to hit the track, with teams and drivers already having an abundance of data to hand from testing. However, once the clock hit the 21-minute mark, cars flooded out of the pits for their out laps.

With only a third of running remaining, representative times began to be set. Luke Browning got his first attempt on board with a 1:30.181, which was immediately bettered by Hitech Pulse-Eight teammate Sebastián Montoya with a 1:29.241.

Barnard then put Jenzer Motorsport to the top of the timing sheets, breaking into the 1:28s to lead Caio Collet by 0.020s and edge a tenth ahead of fellow rookie Dino Beganovic.

Turn 9's fast nature proved to be a challenging point for several drivers. Rodin Carlin's Hunter Yeany managed to keep it together after sliding through the corner and over the kerbs. Moments later, Piotr Wisnicki brought out the first Red Flag of the weekend, spinning off into the gravel at the top of the hill.

Practice resumed with five minutes remaining, but improvements were few and far between as the hard tyres fell out of their performance window. Nobody could trouble the top three's times, with Franco Colapinto settling into fourth ahead of Paul Aron and Montoya.

Championship leader Gabriel Bortoleto moved up to seventh ahead of Campos Racing's Christian Mansell, Zak O'Sullivan and Trident's Leonardo Fornaroli, who rounded out the top 10, six-tenths down on Barnard.

The circuit's revised layout means it's all down to Qualifying, which gets underway at 15:00 local time.

CONTINUES

2023 FIA FORMULA 3 CHAMPIONSHIP – ROUND 5 FREE PRACTICE PROVISIONAL CLASSIFICATION

	DRIVER	LICENCE	TEAM	LAPTIME
1	Taylor Barnard	GBR	Jenzer Motorsport	1:28.831
2	Caio Collet	BRA	Van Amersfoort Racing	1:28.851
3	Dino Beganovic	SWE	PREMA Racing	1:28.939
4	Franco Colapinto	ARG	MP Motorsport	1:29.089
5	Paul Aron	EST	PREMA Racing	1:29.209
6	Sebastian Montoya	COL	Hitech Pulse-Eight	1:29.241
7	Gabriel Bortoletto	BRA	Trident	1:29.358
8	Christian Mansell	GBR	Campos Racing	1:29.400
9	Zak O'Sullivan	GBR	PREMA Racing	1:29.416
10	Leonardo Fornaroli	ITA	Trident	1:29.437
11	Grégoire Saucy	CHE	ART Grand Prix	1:29.444
12	Oliver Goethe	DEU	Trident	1:29.482
13	Hugh Barter	AUS	Campos Racing	1:29.691
14	Mari Boya	ESP	MP Motorsport	1:29.726
15	Josep María Martí	ESP	Campos Racing	1:29.858
16	Gabriele Mini	ITA	Hitech Pulse-Eight	1:29.887
17	Jonny Edgar	GBR	MP Motorsport	1:29.939
18	Oliver Gray	GBR	Rodin Carlin	1:29.995
19	Nikola Tsolov	BGR	ART Grand Prix	1:30.077
20	Nikita Bedrin	ITA	Jenzer Motorsport	1:30.170
21	Luke Browning	GBR	Hitech Pulse-Eight	1:30.181
22	Rafael Villagómez	MEX	Van Amersfoort Racing	1:30.189
23	Kaylen Frederick	USA	ART Grand Prix	1:30.264
24	Hunter Yeany	USA	Rodin Carlin	1:30.445
25	Sophia Floersch	DEU	PHM Racing by Charouz	1:30.496
26	Piotr Wisnicki	POL	PHM Racing by Charouz	1:30.608
27	Alejandro García	MEX	Jenzer Motorsport	1:30.639
28	Tommy Smith	AUS	Van Amersfoort Racing	1:30.928
29	Ido Cohen	ISR	Rodin Carlin	1:31.323
30	Roberto Faria	BRA	PHM Racing by Charouz	1:32.764

ENDS

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