


# JAMES WHARTON LEADS FRIDAY TESTING AT RAIN-SOAKED SPA FRANCORCHAMPS

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A heavy rain that started early in the morning soaked the track at **Spa Francorchamps**, the venue for the second of ten double-header rounds of the **Formula Regional European Championship by Alpine**. The adverse weather conditions, combined with a delay caused by an on-track incident, prevented the international series drivers from hitting the track for the first collective test of the morning.





*Spa Francorchamps (BEL), May 23-26 2024 – Round two of the Formula Regional European Championship by Alpine 2024 at circuit Spa Francorchamps.*

In the afternoon, however, the weather improved significantly, with the rain easing off and the track drying towards the end of the 50-minute session. **James Wharton (Prema Racing)** capitalized on the improving track conditions, clocking the fastest lap of 2:15.646. Wharton edged out **Roman Bilinski (Trident)** by a mere 79 thousandths of a second to top the timesheets.

Rookie **Noah Strømsted (RPM)** impressed by securing the third fastest time, just ahead of the current championship leader **Rafael Camara** (Prema Racing), who also represents the Ferrari Driver Academy. **Théophile Naël (Sainteloc Racing)** secured fifth place, demonstrating strong form ahead of **Kanato Le (G4 Racing)**, who claimed sixth.

**Brando Badoer (Van Amersfoort Racing)** performed well, securing the seventh fastest time, followed closely by compatriot **Valerio Rinicella (MP Motorsport)**. The top ten was rounded out by **Jesse Carrasquedo** (G4 Racing) and **Tuukka Taponen (R-ace GP)**, with drivers from eight different teams showcasing their talents.

Attention now turns to tomorrow morning's qualifying session, scheduled for 10:20 AM, which will be broadcast live on the series' official [YouTube](#) channel.

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