



PRESS RELEASE

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Nakamura fastest for Hitech in Madrid ahead of Kato



Jin Nakamura started the Madrid weekend fastest of all for Hitech. The Japanese driver recorded a 1:49.835 in the final minutes of the session to lead compatriot Taito Kato for ART Grand Prix by a tenth. Van Amersfoort Racing's Enzo Deligny completed the top three. Kato was the first to set a time in the session, with the ART driver leading an early 1-2-3 for the French team on a 1:53.026.

The Japanese driver lowered his time to a 1:52.026 which was then bettered by Tuukka Taponen by just 0.037s. Kato then returned to the top with 15 minutes to run on a 1:51.567 before title contender Ugo Ugochukwu went fastest with a 1:51.192.

The Campos Racing driver was flying on his next lap as he shaved off over half a second on his next attempt to lead the pack on a 1:50.587 with teammate Ernesto Rivera in P2. Championship leader Freddie Slater replied with 20 minutes to go, lowering the benchmark effort to a 1:50.453.

Pedro Clerot had an earlier time good enough for P3 deleted, but he restored himself to the top three with just over 15 minutes to go with Taponen and then Rodin Motorsport teammate Brando Badoer in the top five. Kato then went quickest once again, 0.060s ahead of Slater's time, before Fionn McLaughlin went just behind Clerot for Hitech in fifth.

Ugochukwu logged a 1:50.268 on his next lap to return to the top, before title rival Slater bettered that by just 0.072s. Into the final five minutes and Enzo Deligny went to P2 just 0.069s off top spot before the next set of improvements arrived.

Kato lowered his best to a 1:49.936 to go P1, as Ugochukwu finished 0.064s down on that time in P2, 0.002s ahead of Rivera, with Slater fourth. Nakamura then went quickest in the final minute, with Deligny moving himself back to third just as the Red Flag was thrown.

A crash for Nicola Lacorte in the final seconds brought Practice to a close, with the DAMS Lucas Oil driver OK after tagging the barriers at the exit of Turn 9. Nakamura led Kato, Deligny, Ugochukwu and Rivera in the top five. Slater followed in sixth ahead of McLaughlin, Taponen, Clerot and Bruno Del Pino in the top 10.

There will be two Qualifying sessions this weekend, with the first getting underway at 18:25 local time. The second will follow immediately afterwards, with the green light scheduled for 18:55 local time.

FIA Formula 3 - Madrid - Provisional Classification - Practice

POS	DRIVER	LICENCE	TEAM	TIME
1	Jin Nakamura	JPN	Hitech	1:49.835
2	Taito Kato	JPN	ART Grand Prix	1:49.936
3	Enzo Deligny	FRA	Van Amersfoort Racing	1:49.979
4	Ugo Ugochukwu	USA	Campos Racing	1:50.000
5	Ernesto Rivera	MEX	Campos Racing	1:50.002
6	Freddie Slater	GBR	TRIDENT	1:50.031
7	Fionn McLaughlin	IRL	Hitech	1:50.079
8	Tuukka Taponen	FIN	MP Motorsport	1:50.192
9	Pedro Clerot	BRA	Rodin Motorsport	1:50.295
10	Matteo De Palo	ITA	TRIDENT	1:50.485
11	Mattia Colnaghi	ITA	MP Motorsport	1:50.540
12	Alessandro Giusti	FRA	MP Motorsport	1:50.568
13	Theophile Nael	FRA	Campos Racing	1:50.578
14	Bruno Del Pino	ESP	Van Amersfoort Racing	1:50.630
15	Woohyun Shin	KOR	Hitech	1:50.758
16	Brando Badoer	ITA	Rodin Motorsport	1:50.803
17	Noah Stromsted	DNK	TRIDENT	1:50.811
18	James Wharton	AUS	PREMA Racing	1:50.826
19	Kanato Le	JPN	ART Grand Prix	1:51.001
20	Yevan David	LKA	AIX Racing	1:51.052
21	Maciej Gladysz	POL	ART Grand Prix	1:51.058
22	Hiyu Yamakoshi	JPN	Van Amersfoort Racing	1:51.390
23	Nandhavud Bhirombhakdi	THA	DAMS Lucas Oil	1:51.513
24	Alex Powell	USA	PREMA Racing	1:51.675
25	Jose Garfias	MEX	PREMA Racing	1:52.019
26	Fernando Barrichello	BRA	AIX Racing	1:52.182
27	Niccolo Maccagnani	ITA	Rodin Motorsport	1:52.254
28	Nicola Lacorte	ITA	DAMS Lucas Oil	1:52.289

ENDS

About FIA Formula 3:

2019 marked the launch of the FIA Formula 3 Championship. An ambitious new project from the FIA and the former GP3 Series Organisation to form an official third rung of the Road to F1 ladder. Combining GP3 and European F3, the idea

was to create a defined entry point for young and ambitious drivers to join the Formula 1 circus, and to give them the chance to take the path to join their heroes in the main paddock. With some of the world's best racing teams on board, and the hottest junior motor racing talent from across the globe filling their race seats, Formula 3 promised to be one of the most exciting championships in motorsport.

Designed as the perfect training ground for both F2, and ultimately, F1, our young drivers must showcase their skills both in speed and in tyre management, just like they will have to do when they move up the motorsport ladder. Notable F3 alumni include 2020 Champion Oscar Piastri, F1 rookie Arvid Lindblad and of course the F1 rookie class of 2024 that included F3 Champion Gabriel Bortoleto, Oliver Bearman, Franco Colapinto and Isack Hadjar. The Championship benefits from the FIA's excellence in the scrutineering of cars and the overseeing and running of events, while FOM's (Formula One Management) unparalleled expertise in broadcasting and marketing ensures that the Championship has a truly global reach and appeal. 2026 promises to be a thrilling spectacle from start to finish.

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