





A PERFECT START FOR OCON AT PAU

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09.05.2014. Rookie driver Esteban Ocon (Prema Powerteam, 1:10.688 minutes) set the fastest time in free practice of the FIA Formula 3 European Championship on the streets of Pau in the South of France. In his first outing at the 2.76 kilometres long street circuit, the 17-year-old Frenchman ranked ahead of rookie Max Verstappen (Van Amersfoort Racing, 1:10.859 minutes). Felix Rosenqvist (kfzteile24 Mücke Motorsport, 1:10.950 minutes) and Lucas Auer (kfzteile24 Mücke Motorsport, 1:11.083 minutes) followed in third and fourth place.

Ocon, who came to the city at the foot of the Pyrenees as the FIA Formula 3 European Championship points' leader, moved up into first place a few minutes before the end of the first free practice as he toppled Max Verstappen, who was also outpaced by Felix Rosenqvist soon after that and ended up third. The 16-year-old Dutchman, the son of ex-Formula 1 driver Jos Verstappen, improved his lap time and eventually was classified second ahead of stalwarts Rosenqvist and Auer.

British driver Jake Dennis (Carlin, 1:11.292 minutes) completed the good display of the rookies as he was in contention for the top position for a long time. Tom Blomqvist (Jagonya Ayam with Carlin, 1:11.385 minutes), Edward Jones (Carlin, 1:11.434 minutes), Jordan King (Carlin, 1:11.454 minutes), Riccardo Agostini (Eurointernational, 1:11.461 minutes) and Mitch Gilbert (Fortec Motorsports, 1:11.494 minutes) ended up sixth to tenth.

Free practice was interrupted for approximately 13 minutes following an accident by Michele Beretta (Eurointernational, 1:13.166 minutes). Earlier, Antonio Fuoco (Prema Powerteam, 1:13.568 minutes) and Roy Nissany (kfzteile24 Mücke Motorsport, 1:13.048 minutes) had crashed into the Armco barriers that line the demanding street circuit.