

10 May, 2019

Pacey Piquet sets the tone in Barcelona

Trident racer tops the times in first ever F3 free practice

Pedro Piquet roared around the track to steal the fastest time right at the death during an trouble-free first FIA Formula 3 free practice session in Barcelona, Spain. The Trident driver set 1:33.255 at the chequered flag to put him ahead of Hitech Grand Prix's Jüri Vips and PREMA's Robert Shwartzman.

Leonardo Pulcini who had set the pace during pre-season testing on the Spanish track laid down an early gauntlet with a time of 1:35.794, in the 17 degree morning heat. He was soon toppled by Alex Peroni though who was closing in on the 1m 35s mark.

There was no love lost between an extremely competitive pack: David Beckmann was held up by Fabio Scherer in his attempts to climb up the leaderboard and the German clipped the back of the Sauber Junior Team by Charouz driver in an unsuccessful overtake move. With Beckmann back in the pits for a front wing change, Christian Lundgaard made no mistake in his bid for P1 and broke the 1m 35s barrier.

PREMA's Jehan Daruvala briefly nabbed P1, before Shwartzman set the time to beat and dipped under 1m 34s for the first time. Behind the leader, Marcus Armstrong, Simo Laaksonen and Beckmann were battling to make up the top three before Jake Hughes reminded everyone of his lap speed to take P2. The British driver narrowly missed out on top spot in the final sector.

Shwartzman appeared unmovable from his perch as the clock ticked down. It wasn't until the final moments that the Russian was knocked down the order, as Piquet and Vips flew around the track to snatch first and second, with just 0.009s between them. Piquet's time of 1:33.255 was enough to seal P1 and he was followed by Vips, Shwartzman, Niko Kari, Hughes, Logan Sargeant, Armstrong, Laaksonen, Beckmann and Ye Yifei.

Having enjoyed their first taste of an F3 race weekend, the drivers and teams will look to continue their early competitiveness in qualifying at 5.50pm local time.

2019 FIA Formula 3 Round 1 – Free Practice classification

DRIVER	TEAM	LAPTIME	LAPS
1 Pedro Piquet	Trident	1:33.255	15
2 Jüri Vips	Hitech Grand Prix	1:33.264	19
3 Robert Shwartzman	PREMA Racing	1:33.510	14
4 Niko Kari	Trident	1:33.519	15
5 Jake Hughes	HWA RACELAB	1:33.766	17
6 Logan Sargeant	Carlin Buzz Racing	1:33.923	15
7 Marcus Armstrong	PREMA Racing	1:33.923	14
8 Simo Laaksonen	MP Motorsport	1:33.938	16
9 David Beckmann	ART Grand Prix	1:34.059	15
10 Ye Yifei	Hitech Grand Prix	1:34.144	20
11 Jehan Daruvala	PREMA Racing	1:34.211	15
12 Christian Lundgaard	ART Grand Prix	1:34.237	15
13 Devlin DeFrancesco	Trident	1:34.301	16
14 Bent Viscaal	HWA RACELAB	1:34.321	17
15 Max Fewtrell	ART Grand Prix	1:34.301	16
16 Felipe Drugovich	Carlin Buzz Racing	1:34.475	15
17 Richard Verschoor	MP Motorsport	1:34.608	16
18 Keyvan Andres	HWA RACELAB	1:34.755	15
19 Lirim Zendeli	Sauber Junior Team by Charouz	1:34.860	19
20 Teppei Natori	Carlin Buzz Racing	1:34.877	17
21 Alex Peroni	Campos Racing	1:35.038	17
22 Liam Lawson	MP Motorsport	1:35.053	13
23 Sebastian Fernandez	Campos Racing	1:35.139	7
24 Leonardo Pulcini	Hitech Grand Prix	1:35.192	19
25 Andreas Estner	Jenzer Motorsport	1:35.219	21
26 Yuki Tsunoda	Jenzer Motorsport	1:35.573	16

27	Raoul Hyman	Sauber Junior Team by Charouz	1:35.725	16
28	Artem Petrov	Jenzer Motorsport	1:35.814	18
29	Fabio Scherer	Sauber Junior Team by Charouz	1:36.140	15
30	Alessio Deledda	Campos Racing	1.36.241	16



Pedro Piquet (Trident)



**2019 FIA Formula 3 -
Round 1 - Free
Practice Classification**

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