

Friday 9 September 2022

Bearman makes strong start at Monza

Oliver Bearman hit the ground running at Monza, finishing the opening session of the Championship-deciding weekend fastest of all. Isack Hadjar also looked quick out of the starting gates, ending up just a fraction off the top spot. Arthur Leclerc made it two PREMA Racing drivers in the top three in third.

With heavy rain overnight and into the morning, Free Practice got underway in damp conditions as drivers headed out onto the circuit. Rafael Villagomez was the first to suffer a spin, pirouetting out of Turn 2 under acceleration but able to get going once again.

As the sunshine began to break through the cloud cover, drivers were finding time and began to push more. Hadjar found out the track wasn't easy though, spinning at Ascari. Fortunately for the Hitech Grand Prix driver, he got it pointed the right way and continued.

With half an hour to go, Juan Manuel Correa led the way on a 1:50.513, narrowly ahead of Alexander Smolyar and Zak O'Sullivan. A Virtual Safety Car was deployed briefly for the Jenzer Motorsport of Federico Malvestiti, who had come to a temporary halt at pit exit. He was able to get going once more.

MP Motorsport's Smolyar was the first to try the slicks on what was a greasy track with 15 minutes remaining. Though he wasn't posting top sector times, his gamble seemed to inspire the rest, as drivers re-emerged from the pitlane fitted with dry tyres for the final 12 minutes of Practice.

Entering the final 10 minutes, the track hit the crossover point. Martins shot to the top by four-tenths until Grégoire Saucy and Oliver Bearman dipped into the 1:47s with five minutes to go. The PREMA Racing driver went almost six-tenths clear with four minutes to go on a 1:47.228.

Bearman's next lap was almost a second quicker as the track continued to dry out rapidly in the final moments. David Vidales, Martins and then Jonny Edgar each then took the top spot in quick succession before Bearman restored his name to the top of the times on a 1:44.873.

Hadjar ended up 0.048s down in P2 ahead of Arthur Leclerc in third. A late spin for Smolyar brought out the yellow flags in the final sector preventing any further improvements.

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2022 FIA FORMULA 3 CHAMPIONSHIP – ROUND 9 FREE PRACTICE PROVISIONAL CLASSIFICATION

	DRIVER	TEAM
1	Oliver Bearman	PREMA Racing
2	Isack Hadjar	Hitech Grand Prix
3	Arthur Leclerc	PREMA Racing
4	Jonny Edgar	Trident
5	David Vidales	Campos Racing
6	Grégoire Saucy	ART Grand Prix
7	Victor Martins	ART Grand Prix
8	Caio Collet	MP Motorsport
9	Zak O'Sullivan	Carlin
10	Jak Crawford	PREMA Racing
11	Franco Colapinto	Van Amersfoort Racing
12	Brad Benavides	Carlin
13	Josep María Martí	Campos Racing
14	Roman Stanek	Trident
15	Reece Ushijima	Van Amersfoort Racing
16	Kush Maini	MP Motorsport
17	Ido Cohen	Jenzer Motorsport
18	Enzo Trulli	Carlin
19	Kaylen Frederick	Hitech Grand Prix
20	Zane Maloney	Trident
21	Rafael Villagómez	Van Amersfoort Racing
22	Alexander Smolyar	MP Motorsport
23	Juan Manuel Correa	ART Grand Prix
24	Francesco Pizzi	Charouz Racing System
25	Hunter Yeany	Campos Racing
26	William Alatalo	Jenzer Motorsport
27	Nazim Azman	Hitech Grand Prix
29	László Tóth	Charouz Racing System
	Alessandro	
29	Famularo	Charouz Racing System
30	Federico Malvestiti	Jenzer Motorsport

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