

Friday 21 July 2023

O'Sullivan gets up to speed quickly in Budapest

Zak O'Sullivan was the driver to beat in the opening Free Practice session in Budapest. The PREMA Racing driver clocked in a 1:32.701 to take the top spot during the first half of the session. Mari Boya started MP Motorsport's weekend strongly in second, three-tenths off the #3 car and Paul Aron secured third moments before a session-ending Red Flag.

On his debut at the Hungarian circuit, Max Esterson took advantage of every opportunity to learn the track. Setting the initial time to beat with a 1:35.804, the Rodin Carlin driver was swiftly beaten by teammate Oliver Gray to the tune of six-tenths.

Fellow Williams Academy junior Luke Browning then took over the lead with a 1:33.726, putting the #16 Hitech Pulse-Eight car 0.792s clear of Nikola Tsolov.

Jenzer Motorsport's Nikita Bedrin joined Browning inside the 1:33s, as the remainder of the field slowly peeled out of the pits. In a preview for Qualifying this afternoon, finding a gap to put together a flying lap wasn't straightforward, with a queue of traffic forming on the run down to Turn 13.

PREMA Racing assumed the top of the timing sheets. Dino Beganovic went fastest with a 1:33.186, which was immediately beaten by O'Sullivan's 1:32.702, and Aron joined his teammates inside the top three.

Boya lowered his personal best to slot into second, three-tenths off the Briton, whilst Josep María Martí moved up to third, less than a tenth slower than his fellow Spaniard.

Rafael Villagómez brought out the Red Flag with six minutes left on the clock. The Van Amersfoort Racing driver spun and crashed into the barriers between Turns 11 and 12. As a result, the session was not resumed, leaving O'Sullivan at the top of the timing sheets.

Boya finished the session in second, as Aron managed to put in one final attempt before the Red Flag to move up into third, demoting Martí to fourth. Beganovic ended up in fifth ahead of Villagómez, Oliver Goethe, Grégoire Saucy, Franco Colapinto and Browning.

Starting positions are vital around the Hungaroring, so the field will need to put their best foot forward when Qualifying gets underway at 15:05 local time.

CONTINUES

2023 FIA FORMULA 3 CHAMPIONSHIP – ROUND 8 FREE PRACTICE PROVISIONAL CLASSIFICATION

	DRIVER	LICENCE	TEAM	LAPTIME
1	Zak O’Sullivan	GBR	PREMA Racing	1:32.701
2	Mari Boya	ESP	MP Motorsport	1:32.086
3	Paul Aron	EST	PREMA Racing	1:32.180
4	Josep María Martí	ESP	Campos Racing	1:33.183
5	Dino Beganovic	SWE	PREMA Racing	1:33.186
6	Rafael Villagómez	MEX	Van Amersfoort Racing	1:33.311
7	Oliver Goethe	DEU	Trident	1:33.319
8	Grégoire Saucy	CHE	ART Grand Prix	1:33.428
9	Franco Colapinto	ARG	MP Motorsport	1:33.610
10	Luke Browning	GBR	Hitech Pulse-Eight	1:33.726
11	Kaylen Frederick	USA	ART Grand Prix	1:33.757
12	Gabriel Bortoleto	BRA	Trident	1:33.781
13	Taylor Barnard	GBR	Jenzer Motorsport	1:33.783
14	Nikita Bedrin	ITA	Jenzer Motorsport	1:33.788
15	Jonny Edgar	GBR	MP Motorsport	1:33.813
16	Leonardo Fornaroli	ITA	Trident	1:33.835
17	Caio Collet	BRA	Van Amersfoort Racing	1:33.990
18	Hugh Barter	AUS	Campos Racing	1:33.995
19	Nikola Tsolov	BGR	ART Grand Prix	1:34.101
20	Ido Cohen	ISR	Rodin Carlin	1:34.196
21	Christian Mansell	GBR	Campos Racing	1:34.251
22	Sebastian Montoya	COL	Hitech Pulse-Eight	1:34.458
23	Sophia Floersch	DEU	PHM Racing by Charouz	1:34.565
24	Oliver Gray	GBR	Rodin Carlin	1:35.174
25	Maxwell Esterton	USA	Rodin Carlin	1:35.804
26	Roberto Faria	BRA	PHM Racing by Charouz	1:35.896
27	Alejandro García	MEX	Jenzer Motorsport	1:36.045
28	Tommy Smith	AUS	Van Amersfoort Racing	1:37.180
29	Woohyun Shin	KOR	PHM Racing by Charouz	1:37.212
30	Gabriele Mini	ITA	Hitech Pulse-Eight	1:52.560

ENDS

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