

Friday 28 July 2023

Browning fastest through the rain at Spa

Luke Browning finished a wet opening session at Spa-Francorchamps quickest of all, setting a 2:23.055 for Hitech Pulse-Eight to top the times in Free Practice. ART Grand Prix also made a strong start to the weekend, finishing second and third fastest with Kaylen Frederick and Grégoire Saucy respectively.

It was Saucy that set the initial benchmark on a 2:24.900 in the wet conditions. Teammate Frederick joined him in the 2:24s, just 0.043s back in P2. The Swiss driver then lowered his best to a 2:24.216 in the opening stages.

Zak O'Sullivan was the only driver within half a second of the ART man in the opening 15 minutes, slotting himself into P2 some 0.312s behind. He soon went one better, dipping down to a 2:23.862 to take the top spot. Teammate Paul Aron followed and moved himself up the order to go second, making it a PREMA Racing 1-2 with 25 minutes to go.

With half the session gone, Taylor Barnard and Gabriele Minì completed the top five for Jenzer Motorsport and Hitech Pulse-Eight respectively.

Browning popped up to second with 15 minutes left to run, setting a 2:24.089. O'Sullivan then extended his advantage, lowering his best to a 2:23.694 with just over 10 minutes left of the session.

After his fast start, Saucy improved back up to second, with the Swiss just 0.045s down on O'Sullivan's time entering the final five minutes.

While the rain remained steady throughout the Practice session, the best times filtered in in the final five minutes with plenty of improvements throughout the field.

Browning took the top spot for a matter of seconds before Caio Collet put Van Amersfoort Racing on top with a 2:23.621.

Josep María Martí was another late improver, going fastest of all with a minute left on a 2:23.420 for Campos Racing. That was until the ARTs of Saucy and then Frederick went quicker still. Not to be out-done, Browning finished off his final lap to set a 2:23.055, finishing the opening session of the weekend fastest of all.

Frederick and Saucy followed in second and third ahead of Martí. Collet was fifth in the end ahead of Minì, O'Sullivan, Oliver Goethe, Taylor Barnard and Nikita Bedrin in the top 10. Qualifying at Spa-Francorchamps is set to get underway at 15:00 local time.

2023 FIA FORMULA 3 CHAMPIONSHIP – ROUND 9 FREE PRACTICE PROVISIONAL CLASSIFICATION

	DRIVER	LICENCE	TEAM	LAPTIME
1	Luke Browning	GBR	Hitech Pulse-Eight	2:23.055
2	Kaylen Frederick	USA	ART Grand Prix	2:23.279
3	Grégoire Saucy	CHE	ART Grand Prix	2:23.388
4	Josep María Martí	ESP	Campos Racing	2:23.420
5	Caio Collet	BRA	Van Amersfoort Racing	2:23.453
6	Gabriele Mini	ITA	Hitech Pulse-Eight	2:23.581
7	Zak O'Sullivan	GBR	PREMA Racing	2:23.694
8	Oliver Goethe	DEU	Trident	2:23.796
9	Taylor Barnard	GBR	Jenzer Motorsport	2:23.877
10	Nikita Bedrin	ITA	Jenzer Motorsport	2:23.886
11	Hugh Barter	AUS	Campos Racing	2:24.055
12	Gabriel Bortoleto	BRA	Trident	2:24.122
13	Paul Aron	EST	PREMA Racing	2:24.169
14	Nikola Tsolov	BGR	ART Grand Prix	2:24.203
15	Oliver Gray	GBR	Rodin Carlin	2:24.402
16	Franco Colapinto	ARG	MP Motorsport	2:24.496
17	Dino Beganovic	SWE	PREMA Racing	2:24.726
18	Jonny Edgar	GBR	MP Motorsport	2:24.880
19	Christian Mansell	GBR	Campos Racing	2:25.036
20	Rafael Villagómez	MEX	Van Amersfoort Racing	2:25.112
21	Leonardo Fornaroli	ITA	Trident	2:25.173
22	Sebastian Montoya	COL	Hitech Pulse-Eight	2:25.557
23	Mari Boya	ESP	MP Motorsport	2:25.559
24	Ido Cohen	ISR	Rodin Carlin	2:25.931
25	Alejandro García	MEX	Jenzer Motorsport	2:26.699
26	Roberto Faria	BRA	PHM Racing by Charouz	2:26.725
27	Tommy Smith	AUS	Van Amersfoort Racing	2:26.808
28	Woohyun Shin	KOR	PHM Racing by Charouz	2:27.047
29	Francesco Simonazzi	ITA	Rodin Carlin	2:27.146
30	Sophia Floersch	DEU	PHM Racing by Charouz	2:27.310

ENDS

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