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Times

SUPPLEMENT

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QUALIFYING TOP DOGS



Motorcycle GP – Hickman con



Danny Webb



Michael Rutter



Peter Hickman

Renato Marques

PETER Hickman is the confirmed favorite to win the final after yesterday's qualifying session of the Macau Motorcycle Grand Prix by topping the timesheet of first qualifying session that

closed the first day of Macau Grand Prix event.

Hickman, riding a BMW S1000RR from Aspire-Ho by Bathams Racing Team clocked his best lap at 2:25.429, almost one second faster than the closest contender, his teammate and eight-time winner of the Macau GP, Mi-

chael Rutter.

The two men from Aspire-Ho by Bathams Racing Team dominated a session that presented only one surprise, the third best time achieved by another British rider, Danny Webb from MGM by Penz13 Team.

With a very steady riding

performance, Webb managed to triumph over favorites such as Martin Jessopp on the Ducati Panigale 1199 and Gary Johnson on the Kawasaki ZX10RR who placed fourth and fifth at 3.3 and 3.4 seconds respectively, from the leader Hickman.

Closing the top six was

Horst Saiger on the Yamaha R1 still trying to get some track time and adjusting to a new motorcycle. The season has not been a particularly happy one for Saiger due to an arm injury that forced him to stop riding for a lengthy period.

The afternoon's qualifying

Renato Marques

THE Formula 3 World Cup reigning champion Daniel Ticktum topped yesterday's qualifying session for the FIA Formula 3 World Cup, one of the major events of the Macau Grand Prix.

Ticktum's performance confirms that he is up to defending his titles earned in previous years and to the challenges presented by several racers, including the European Formula 3 Champion Mick Schumacher and Callum Ilott, two of the most serious candidates this year.

In the qualifying session held yesterday afternoon, Ticktum topped the timesheets with a 2:11.004 lap, only 0.132 of a second faster than the Carlin man, Ilott coming in second.

To prove how close these drivers are to each other, the gap between first and fourth (Jake Hughes, Hitech GP) was

F3

Ticktum tops first qualifying session

less than half a second (0.494) with Mick Schumacher placing third between Ilott and Hughes. The German driver racing under the colors of Theodore Racing by Prema confirmed himself to be the on-track favorite coming out of his performance this year. In wishes he expressed earlier this week he acknowledged feeling confident and willing to give his best shot at reaching the top spot on the podium.

It is expected that, today, the battle between the front trio (Ticktum, Ilott and Schumacher) will continue at this elevated level during the two sessions scheduled for the day, pushing the pack of all other young and talented drivers to follow. The pack will be reaching

for the stars to win what was once considered the "ultimate test" for drivers aiming for the major category of single-seater racing, the Formula 1.

Earlier in the day, Schumacher lead on the timesheets during the first Free Practice Session when he clocked the best time at 2:12.168 followed by Ilott (just 0.030 of a second away) and with Juri Vips from Motopark Academy not far behind.

F3 action will be on track at the Guia Circuit from 11:30 a.m. for a 40-minute Free Practice session, followed in the afternoon by another 40-minute Qualifying session at 3:10 p.m. that will define the start grid for the 10-lap Qualification Race to be held on Saturday from 9 a.m.

RENATO MARQUES



Daniel Ticktum



Mick Schumacher



Callum Ilott

firmed favorite in Qualifiers



session ran without any setbacks in contrast to the morning's troubled Free Practice session that was red-flagged twice, both due to crashes.

The first incident was Andrew Dudgeon from VRS Racing Team, riding a BMW S1000RR that crashed in

the early laps on reservoir bend. Although the rider is not considered to be in a life-threatening condition, medical reports indicate that he has a fracture in his lower spine that is still being assessed by the medical team.

Immediately after the session restarted, Spaniard

Raul Torras crashed hard at the Mandarin's Bend setting his motorcycle alight in a fireball.

The high-speed crash knocked out Torras with a hard hit to the head, sending him unconscious.

Taken to the hospital where he is still being observed

and evaluated by the medical team, the rider is suspected of having an intracranial hemorrhage as a result of the crash.

Although none of the riders are believed to be in a life-threatening condition they will be out of the GP this year, bringing the grid down

from 28 to 26 riders.

The motorcycle action goes back to the track at the Guia Circuit today at 7:30 a.m. for a 45-minute qualifying session that will then define the starting grid for the 12 laps of the 52nd Macau Motorcycle Grand Prix to be raced on Saturday around 4 p.m.

GT

Frijns takes Audi to top on first run

RENATO MARQUES



Robin Frijns



Christopher Haase



Edoardo Mortara

Renato Marques

ROBIN Frijns of the Netherlands set the pace in the first of the GT cars onto the Guia Circuit yesterday early afternoon.

Frijns took the Audi R8 LMS from Audi Sport Team WRT to the best time of the session, clocking the best lap in 2:18.588.

Right behind Frijns placed another of the major favorites to win the final, the FIA GT World Cup reigning champion, Edoardo Mortara in the Mercedes-AMG GT3 from Team GruppeM Racing, which added only 0.129 of a second to the best time of Frijns. "Mr

Macau" does not plan to give his title away easily.

In the bigger surprise of the day, German Christopher Haase managed to pull a rabbit out of his hat and score third best in another Audi R8 LMS, showing that the brand is well prepared and keen to regain the manufacturers' title.

Fourth and fifth, were Brazil's Augusto Farfus Jr (BMW M6 GT3) and Earl Bamber (Porsche 911 GT3 R) respectively, thus placing four different manufacturers in the top five finishers in yesterday's Free Practice session.

If Haase performed the bigger surprise

by scoring third best, maybe the second surprise, this time on the down side, was by Maro Engel. As a serious candidate to the title, Engel did not manage better than seventh, behind Laurens Vanthoor's Porsche but then, at this level of competition and with so many star drivers and top brands, every micro-second can make the difference between scoring a podium or finishing in the middle of the field.

Keeping in mind that yesterday's session was only the first practice session, any outcome is still possible.

More action from the GT cars will follow today at 12:30 p.m. for a 30-minute Free Practice session followed by a 30-minute qualifying session at 4:10 p.m.

Renato Marques

WTCR – Huff leads Guia Race like a fish to water

FOR the British racer Rob Huff, the Guia Circuit has few secrets and that was proven once more yesterday when Huff gave another lesson on how to take the Guia Circuit by storm.

One of the most successful drivers on the streets of Macau and the most successful driver in touring car racing clocked the best laps on track during the World Touring Car Cup (WTCR) Free Practice session.

In the end, the man from Volkswagen Golf GTI TCR from Sebastien Loeb Racing clocked one lap in 2:29.766, leaving the closest competition over half a second away: the Honda Civic TCR driven by the Frenchman Yann Ehrlacher racing for ALL-INKL.COM Munnich Motorsport. Another 0.149 of a second away was another Frenchman, this time MRacing-YMR's Yvan Muller, driving a Hyundai i30 N TCR.

Besides the gap achieved by Huff, all the other drivers placing second to seventh clocked times within the same second, showing the high competitiveness of these drivers and their racing machines.

In a race like this where the difference in lap times is almost unnoticeable, the start position assumes a very significant role in the way the race unfolds and the final results. It is expected that today, all drivers will give

RENATO MARQUES



Rob Huff



Yann Ehrlacher



Yvan Muller

their utmost to top yesterday's times and get the best possible seat on the grid for the series of three races that comprise this event.

A note to the Macau drivers

that are participating in this event as "wild cards": the best time of any local driver was achieved by André Couto in the Honda Civic TCR for the MacPro Racing Team. Couto

clocked his best lap of the day in 2:36.030 almost 6.3 seconds slower than the leader.

The WTCR racing action will start today at 8:50 a.m. with a qualifying session of 40 minu-

tes followed in the afternoon (1:35 p.m.) by the split qualifying session (Q1, Q2, and Q3) that will define the grid for the eight-lap Race 1 to be held on Saturday at 2:25 p.m.

NOVEMBER 16 - 18

16 November (Friday)

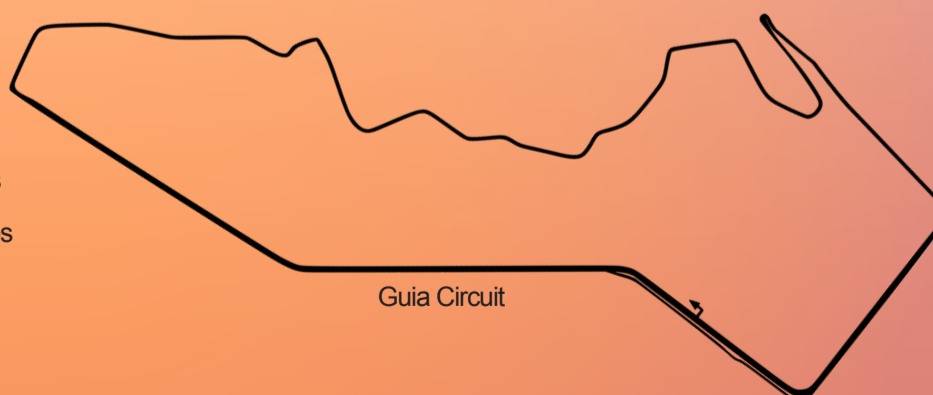
- 06:30 ~ 07:00 Circuit Inspection
- 07:30 ~ 08:15 Suncity Group Macau Motorcycle Grand Prix - 52nd Edition - Qualifying
- 08:50 ~ 09:30 Suncity Group Macau Guia Race - FIA WTCR - Qualifying
- 09:50 ~ 10:20 Suncity Group Greater Bay Area Lotus Cup - Qualifying
- 10:40 ~ 11:10 FOOD4U Macau Touring Car Cup - Qualifying
- 11:30 ~ 12:10 Suncity Group Formula 3 Macau Grand Prix - FIA F3 World Cup - Free Practice 2
- 12:30 ~ 13:00 SJM Macau GT Cup - FIA GT World Cup - Free Practice 2
- 13:35 ~ 14:50 Suncity Group Macau Guia Race - FIA WTCR - Q1, Q2, Q3
- 15:10 ~ 15:50 Suncity Group Formula 3 Macau Grand Prix - FIA F3 World Cup - Qualifying 2
- 16:10 ~ 16:40 SJM Macau GT Cup - FIA GT World Cup - Qualifying

17 November (Saturday)

- 06:30 ~ 07:00 Circuit Inspection
- 07:10 ~ 07:50 Safety, Rescue and Extrication Cars - Testing laps
- 08:00 ~ 08:40 Special Event
- 09:00 ~ 10:00 Suncity Group Formula 3 Macau Grand Prix - FIA F3 World Cup - Qualification Race - 10 laps
- 10:25 ~ 11:25 FOOD4U Macau Touring Car Cup - 12 laps
- 11:50 ~ 12:10 Suncity Group Macau Motorcycle Grand Prix - 52nd Edition - Warm Up
- 13:05 ~ 14:05 SJM Macau GT Cup - FIA GT World Cup - Qualification Race - 12 laps
- 14:25 ~ 15:15 Suncity Group Macau Guia Race - FIA WTCR Race 1 - 8 laps
- 15:55 ~ 16:55 Suncity Group Macau Motorcycle Grand Prix - 52nd Edition - 12 laps

18 November (Sunday)

- 06:30 ~ 07:00 Circuit Inspection
- 07:10 ~ 07:50 Safety, Rescue and Extrication Cars - Testing laps
- 08:20 ~ 09:10 Suncity Group Macau Guia Race - FIA WTCR Race 2 - 8 laps
- 09:35 ~ 10:35 Suncity Group Greater Bay Area Lotus Cup - 12 laps
- 11:00 ~ 12:00 Suncity Group Macau Guia Race - FIA WTCR Race 3 - 11 laps
- 12:25 ~ 13:40 SJM Macau GT Cup - FIA GT World Cup - 18 laps
- 14:00 ~ 14:35 Special Event
- 15:10 ~ 15:20 Lion Dance
- 15:30 ~ 16:30 Suncity Group Formula 3 Macau Grand Prix - FIA F3 World Cup - 15 laps



Guia Circuit