

# ALFONSO CELIS Jr. (FORTEC MOTORSPORTS) TAKES MAIDEN POLE IN SPA-FRANCORCHAMPS

› Alfonso Celis Jr (Fortec Motorsports) secured his maiden pole position in the World Series Formula V8 3.5.

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Alfonso Celis Jr (Fortec Motorsports) secured his maiden pole position in the World Series Formula V8 3.5. After leading Collective Test 2, the Mexican did it all again in Qualifying 1 setting a quick lap of 1:59.387. The Series leader Pietro Fittipaldi (Lotus) will line-up alongside the Sahara Force India F1 development driver in race 1, scheduled for tomorrow afternoon at 16:15, while Diego Menchaca (Fortec Motorsports) ended up as the best rookie in fifth place overall.

The World Series Formula V8 3.5 completed the first qualifying session for round 2 of 2017 in the beautiful frame of the Spa-Francorchamps forest. The exciting environment provided by the FIA World Endurance Championship saw the stars who graduated from the RPM-MKGT promoted category in the last 20 years remain interested in their series of origin. On the other hand, the 2017 drivers provided an outstanding session.

With the first set of new tires, the provisional pole was held by Matevos Isaakyan (SMP Racing by AVF) in 2:00.201, but the Russian came to a stop with five minutes to go in turn 18. Despite the issue, he will start from the second row behind René Binder (Lotus). After the session all the times of the Russian driver have been deleted due infringement to the article 22.15 of the sporting regulations.

On the other hand, Teo Martin Motorsport did an amazing job in repairing the car driven by Nelson Mason after the crash suffered in Collective Test 2. The Canadian racer eventually set the seventh fastest lap time.

## Alfonso Celis Jr. (Fortec Motorsports)

"I'm really happy to finally get this result, I think we've been always showing the pace but it's nice to finally get a reward for that, get it printed and official. In Silverstone we knew we could have the pace, but many external things impacted on it. So it's nice to be there and hopefully fight for the win tomorrow".

## Pietro Fittipaldi (Lotus)

"Qualifying was ok, obviously we want to be on top. In the first lap we were quickest but I made a mistake in the second and then we realized we were quicker in second and third sector, so we're losing time in the first sector which is only one corner. If you look at speed, maybe we have to check on downforce. We have to work for the second qualifying and then for the race in the afternoon".

## René Binder (Lotus)

"I'm happy with how qualifying 1 went as I didn't feel well in the morning with some stomach pain. I slept through all the day to be focused on this session. Now it is a little better, maybe it was some kind of flu but I feel really well. I think session was good for both our cars".

## Diego Menchaca (Fortec Motorsports)

"On the first set of tires it went really good, I was third in the same tenth of Isaakyan who was on the provisional pole. With the second set I made a mistake during the first push lap which compromised the rest of the lap and the second was not good enough as I made another mistake. It's a shame, sorry for the team as we had the potential to be in top-3".