

Egor Orudzhev (Arden Motorsport) fastest in Jerez Day 1

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Scoring a quick flying lap of 1'28"548 in the morning session, Russian Egor Orudzhev (Arden Motorsport) led the way in Friday testing for the Formula V8 3.5 series at Jerez de la Frontera. Jack Aitken (RP Motorsport) took the lead in the afternoon with the second fastest lap of the day overall, as rookies showed the way. Qualifying 1 and Race 1 will be held tomorrow as the World Series Festival will feature many attractions for the public both on-track and in the paddock, with 4 disciplines, 23 teams and 73 drivers representing 24 Nations spread in 4 continents.

It has been a hot day at Jerez for the penultimate round of the series, with 24° C of air temperature and the tarmac reaching the 40°C mark. The teams carried on different types of work increasing the variables that might come into play in terms of the championship, with Orudzhev still in great form in Andalusia after winning the last race at Monza. Current championship leader Tom Dillmann (AVF) ended up just behind Aitken while the top-5 was rounded out by the two cars fielded by Teo Martin Motorsport.

For the second time in a row the Madrid-based squad, running on home soil this weekend, brought Japanese Yu Kanamaru and Dutch female racer Beitske Visser to P4 and P5 respectively. Returning on-track after his Monza crash, Aurélien Panis (Arden Motorsport) took sixth place in front of Russian Matevos Isaakyan (SMP Racing), while Austrian Lotus racer René Binder edged Louis Delétraz (Fortec Motorsports) for seventh. The Swissman is one of the two Renault Sport Academy drivers for this round as he was joined by Aitken. Rounding out the top-10 were Brazilian rookies Pietro Fittipaldi (Fortec Motorsports) and Vitor Baptista (RP Motorsport). Fittipaldi was also involved in a contact at the first corner during the afternoon session, an incident with Yu Kanamaru that brought the action to an early end with two minutes to go.

The Formula V8 3.5 roster featured two welcomed returns: Isaakyan made his way back to the series after missing the round at Monza due to a clashing commitment, while Comtec Racing made their comeback to the championship with Thomas Randle, the first Australian in the series since Daniel Ricciardo in 2011.



WHAT THEY SAID

Egor Orudzhev (Arden Motorsport)

“This morning things went pretty well and we just need to analyze everything again and see where we can improve the performance a bit for tomorrow. This afternoon we ran according to plan, doing race simulations. We are happy about the outcome: in the end it was a good day in the office”.

Jack Aitken (RP Motorsport)

“It was a really good Friday, actually better than expected. I felt really well with the team and everything went as we have thought and planned. It’s quite hot today and this probably advantaged us but it went very well, we are now looking forward to qualifying tomorrow.”

Thomas Randle (Comtec Racing)

“It has been a terrific day! This was my first time in Jerez and the first in an official Formula V8 event and it could go any better. I took the car clean, I worked with the team very well and Comtec Racing did a great job, I just had to keep it away and I’m about the pace in second practice. I also had a taste of new tyres even if it wasn’t the cleanest run, but I’m confident.”

Phil Blow, Comtec Racing Team Manager

“We are very pleased to be back in the championship. This is a fantastic series, and the car is just incredible. It is also really nice to be here with Thomas, he made a great job in his third day in the car. We’ll be in Barcelona together as well so it’s great news as we have the chance to do a good job together”.

