

FITTIPALDI (Lotus) SECURES FOURTH WORLD SERIES POLE IN MONZA

› **Roy Nissany (P2) and Damiano Fioravanti (best rookie) rev the local fans for RP Motorsport**

Pietro Fittipaldi and the Lotus team put up another brilliant showing in Qualifying 1 at Monza in round 3 of the 2017 World Series Formula V8 3.5. The Brazilian posted the fastest lap of the session late in the running in 1:34.808 to take his fourth pole of the year. Israeli racer Roy Nissany (RP Motorsport) also delivered a late flying lap to take P2, handing his team a front row start at their home race. Also at his home round, Damiano Fioravanti put together an impressive performance by leading the rookie ranking for RP Motorsport in an all-local combination.

It was once again a clean start for the session, with all the drivers running trouble free in the first half. Fittipaldi had the early lead as he confirmed the great pace showed in collective testing. René Binder (Lotus) finished third despite a late crash at the exit of *Parabolica* while rounding out the top-5 were Matevos Isaakyan (SMP Racing by AVF) and Yu Kanamaru (RP Motorsport).

Right after the mid-session point, rain appeared again but did not become a factor, with the track remaining in ideal conditions. In the final part of the session, two more cars driven by championship leader Alfonso Celis Jr. (Fortec Motorsports) and Nelson Mason (Teo Martin Motorsport) ended up off the track leading to a red flag and an early ending with seconds to spare.

The World Series Formula V8 3.5 will be back on-track tomorrow for qualifying 2 (11:35) and Race 1 (15:25).

Pietro Fittipaldi – P1 – 1-34:08 Av Speed(220 km/h)

“Really happy with this Qualifying. Lotus gave me a fantastic car. We knew it was going to be tricky conditions with dark clouds around. We put a pretty good lap early. I was lucky to push for a fantastic lap as it got to rain quiet a lot at the end. I thank all my sponsors and Telmex for this support. Hope you get to watch my race tomorrow!”

Roy Nissany (RP Motorsport)

“It was a strange qualy with uncertain conditions. We were quite sure that the session would not restart after the first run due the rain in Parabolica, but surprisingly it did, so we had more track time, which was a lucky

condition. I was just doing the same job as always, improving on the second set. I' m more than sure we had the potential for a better lap-time, but I couldn' t predict a red flag. I would have acted differently if I knew it was going to be all-in" .

René Binder (Lotus)

"Third in qualifying 1 is a good position for tomorrow' s race. It could have been even a little better with P2, but I spun out in the last lap in the rain. I crashed quite heavily at *Parabolica*. I had a bit of bad luck as it started raining and I could not see the exit of the corner. Two other cars went out there too. Let' s see how it goes tomorrow" .

Damiano Fioravanti (RP Motorsport)

"Qualy was a not as bad as the session before. It' s good for us to be the best rookie and we' ll improve for sure tomorrow in Qualifying 2, valid for Sunday' s starting grid. At the beginning it wasn' t raining and I could manage to run alone the first part of the stint. Then while I was on the second set of tires it started raining at *Parabolica* and many cars went wild there, but I made a decent job in just three laps."