

EGOR ORUDZHEV (SMP Racing by AVF) FASTEST ON MEXICAN FRIDAY

- › World Series Formula V8 3.5 visits Mexico City for the first time.
- › Local hero Alfonso Celis Jr (Fortec Motorsports) was the quickest in CT02

(1 September 2017) Egor Orudzhev (SMP Racing by AVF) set the fastest lap of the day in the Mexican round of the World Series V8 3.5 at Autódromo Hermanos Rodríguez, making the most out of the morning session held in dry weather. The second session, which started later in the afternoon, was red-flagged for more than 30 minutes due to abundant precipitations. In the end the fastest lap of the afternoon belonged to home hero Alfonso Celis Jr. (Fortec Motorsports) while Alex Palou (Teo Martin Motorsport) set the fifth fastest lap overall and ended up as the best rookie of the day.

In the opening session, Egor Orudzhev (SMP Racing by AVF) set a fast flying lap in the closing stages to end up at the front in front of Sahara Force India Formula 1 third driver Celis Jr (Fortec Motorsports). As well as teammate and fellow countryman Diego Menchaca, Celis saw many local fans swing by in support. This is the second time for World Series in the Americas after their trip to Interlagos and Curitiba back in 2002. Fifteen years later, the series promoted by RPM-MKTG adds another overseas Formula 1 track in a balance that will keep increasing in two weeks with the round at Austin, Texas, and in November, with the series finale in Bahrain.

Just a few minutes after the start of the afternoon session, race control declared it wet and strong precipitations began to hit the area. The running was then interrupted after 9 minutes with only one lap-time on the board, set by Konstantin Tereschenko (Teo Martin Motorsport) in 2:01.547. With eight minutes to go, the green flag was waived again after the standing water issues in turns 7, 11 and 12. Despite the drivers were given five minutes of additional running, two off-track exits for Pietro Fittipaldi and Orudzhev brought the red flag back and effectively ended today's activity. Fastest was Celis in 1:52,383.

Egor Orudzhev (SMP Racing by AVF): "The track is nice, it's interesting to go somewhere new and the feeling is great too. We just went out and we ended up the being the fastest and in front of everybody, so on dry we have good marks. In the evening it was almost difficult to run, as we spent most of the session in the pit-lane due to a red flag. Unfortunately then I spun on some standing water. We'll see how it goes tomorrow".

Alfonso Celis Jr. (Fortec Motorsports)"The session was quite wet at the beginning and we couldn't turn many laps, but the car was good. We managed to put together great lap times both on the dry and on the wet so I'm confident for tomorrow with two qualifying sessions and one race".

Alex Palou (Teo Martin Motorsport): "In the end it was a good day. The track was new for me, as for many of the others. The biggest challenge was to adapt to this beast as I'm coming from Formula 3. In the end it was ok. In the morning we had no rain and it was pretty good for us to complete quality and long runs on a pretty green track. Basically in the afternoon we just did a few laps due to all the rain"