

Sunday, 29/07/2018

P4 in Hungary: Best result in GP3 so far for David Beckmann

- **Race debut for new team Trident: Beckmann narrowly misses podium**
- **Best haul of points to date in his rookie season in GP3**
- **David: "A podium would have been the icing on the cake, but I've seen the outfit's potential"**

New team, new personal best in the GP3 series. On his debut for Trident, 18-year-old David Beckmann delivered an outstanding performance during the race weekend in Hungary, achieving the best result of his rookie GP3 season with fourth place in Saturday's race. Beckmann also did well in Sunday's second round with seventh place in Budapest.

He secured a total of 14 points towards the championship in the two races at the Hungaroring. This was his best result to date on his fifth race weekend in the junior series which is staged as support to Formula 1. As a result, Beckmann improved to twelfth place in the overall standings.

Beckmann was the most successful driver for Italian team Trident in Hungary. Pedro Piquet and Giuliano Alesi, both sons of ex-Formula 1 drivers, and experienced American driver Ryan Tveter are also with the outfit.

Beckmann showed his talent at the very start of the weekend in Hungary. He went out and posted the fastest time straightaway in practice on his first outing for Trident. Later in qualifying, Beckmann secured P7 on the grid in an international field of 19 drivers.

He made a strong start in Saturday's race, moving immediately up into sixth place. His pace was strong over the laps that followed, and he overtook ART drivers, Jakes Hughes and Callum Iltott, on Lap 8 and 14 respectively. On taking the chequered flag after 22 laps, Beckmann was only 1.269 seconds down on the driver in third place on the podium. Coming home in P4, he achieved his best result since the season opener in Barcelona where he was sixth.

The Top Eight from the first race started Sunday's race in reverse order. Beckmann lined up in fifth position on the grid. He dropped down into seventh place initially but fought his way back up over the ensuing laps and was knocking on the door of P5 for a time. In an action-packed race, Beckmann crossed the finish line in seventh place after seventeen laps, racking up more points towards the championship.

GP3 will take a break now for the summer following its successful meeting in Hungary. Racing will start up again with a real classic when Beckmann will be at Spa-Francorchamps in Belgium for the sixth meeting of the 2018 season (24th - 26th August). Races eleven and twelve will be staged there on the challenging, historic circuit under the banner of Formula 1.

Four questions for David Beckmann**David, how did your first race weekend go with your new team?**

It was great. I'm very pleased! I never expected to achieve such a good result on my first weekend. I noticed straightaway in practice that the car sits really well on the track. I had to adjust my driving style quite a bit, as I didn't really know the car, which is why pushing it to the limit proved quite tricky. Seventh place in qualifying was OK under the circumstances. On my second hot lap, I found a way to tackle the problem of understeer. However, the tyres were already past their best at that point.

You improved during the race from seventh place to P4...

Yes, I achieved my best result to date in GP3. The first race went really well. In Turn 1, I pulled off a terrific overtaking manoeuvre on Jake Hughes, which he didn't see coming. A little later, I forced the driver in front of me, Callum Iott, into making a mistake and went past him in the last corner. I was almost in third place but was running out of time and my tyres were no longer at their best towards the end. My pace was awesome. I was easily the fastest driver out on track by the middle of the race. I practically flew past the other cars.

You achieved another points-scoring finish in the second race. Can you tell us what happened from your perspective?

I got away really well off the line at the start. Unfortunately, I had four cars directly in front of me and couldn't outbrake them at any point and had to hit the brakes a little earlier than I would have liked. I was forced wide over the kerbs on the exit from the turn and lost a position. Two cars outflanked me in Turn 2 in a pincer movement, which cost me another place. I was later able to overtake my team-mate Ryan and was sixth. My pace was excellent initially but I couldn't find a way past Juan Manuel Correa. That's very typical of Budapest where overtaking can be a problem even with your DRS. I put too much stress on my tyres while trying to catch up, so Ryan was able to go by again in the end. He has much more experience than me, whereas I'm still learning from situations like these.

Racing will start up again at Spa after the summer vacation. How do you expect to do there?

I'm already really looking forward to the next couple of races! I was very pleased with the guys from Trident this weekend. The team did a great job. My car was immaculately prepared every time. Many thanks for that! A podium finish on my debut would have been the icing on the cake, but I've seen the potential of both team and car, so I feel very confident about Spa. We intend to attack again there. I'll use practice to get more accustomed to the car. If we can do well in qualifying, then anything is possible.

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