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## David Beckmann ready for his first season in GP3 Series

- First race weekend in GP3 Series for David Beckmann in Barcelona
- Successful test outings: Beckmann totally at ease in the 400-bhp racing car
- David: "I was very quick on the long runs during testing. I should be up there with the best provided I can get the tyres warmed up properly in qualifying"

David Beckmann will be starting a new chapter in his motorsport career at the Circuit de Catalunya this weekend, May 11th - 13th. He will be the only German in the entire field as he contests his first race GP3 Series weekend.

Young 18-year-old Beckmann intends to finally put knowledge gained from testing into practice while racing under the banner of Formula 1 which is now commencing its season in Europe. From mid-February to mid-April, the Jenzer Motorsport driver took part in a total of six official test days at Le Castellet, Jerez and Barcelona in order to be well prepared for this fresh challenge.

Following numerous successes in karting, the Deutsche Post Speed Academy protégé has been a racing driver since 2015 and is used to driving fast cars on the limit. The GP3 Series is another big step up, as the V6-racing cars produce some 400 bhp, can reach top speeds of over 300 km/h and use DRS just like in Formula 1.

The first race weekend at the 4.655-km Circuit de Catalunya near Barcelona will get underway at 9:30 am on Friday, 11th May with free practice to be followed by qualifying at 5:50 pm. The races will be on Saturday at 10:15 am and Sunday at 10:25 am.

### Four questions for David Beckmann

#### **You've racked up a huge number of kilometres in testing. Are you ready now for your maiden race in the GP3 Series?**

Yes, for sure! I can't wait to get started. It's not easy to assess during testing where exactly you stand as compared to the other drivers. I've made consistent progress but will only find out how much that's worth during the actual race weekend itself. Overall, the test runs went very well. I've got an excellent working relationship with my engineer and get on very well with the team.

#### **What did you learn while testing?**

Well, I really have to give the tyres a mention at this point. GP3 cars run Pirellis which are quite different in the way they behave compared to the racing slicks I've come across so far. They give you grip much faster but also degrade much more quickly, very much like the tyres used in Formula 1. I had to practise warming them up in particular, so as not to drive too aggressively and to keep tyre degradation well under control on the long runs.

**How has the switch from the Formula 3 EM to GP3 Series gone generally speaking?**

I have to say that it was easier than expected. The car is really excellent to drive and the balance is not too dissimilar to that of an F3 car. Obviously, you are immediately aware of the 400 bhp on tap and the increased weight. I had to learn not to push too hard on the approach to turns in order to get a good exit. That can gain you a lot of time. The GP3 cars are also much faster on the straights, but the braking points are the same as in an F3 car thanks to the more powerful brakes. I had to learn that first, but it only took a day or so to get used to and then it became routine. The increased physical demands were not a problem at any rate, since I'm very fit and exercise a lot.

**What goals have you set yourself for your first GP3 Series race weekend?**

I'm not hung up on positions or results. I want to drive first and see how fast I am in qualifying and when racing. I was very quick on the long runs during testing. I should be up there with the best provided I can get the tyres warmed up properly in qualifying. Of course, as a racing driver, I always aim to be out in front, but at the same time, everything is new to me and I can't really set myself a goal for the season until after a few weekends at the earliest.

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