

Saturday, 25/08/2018

David Beckmann celebrates maiden GP3 win at Spa

- Lights-to-flag victory in main race of GP3 weekend at Spa-Francorchamps
- First pole position and first victory for the rookie
- David: "To win a main race in this series is really awesome. I am mega happy."

David Beckmann celebrated his first ever victory in the GP3 series on the historic circuit of Spa-Francorchamps. In his eleventh race of the season and only his third for Trident, Beckmann came out on top in a strong field contesting this support series to Formula 1.

The foundations for success were laid in practice and qualifying. Beckmann was fast right from the word go, setting the best time in free practice. He was then unbeatable in qualifying, securing his first pole position in GP3 with a lap that was 0.144 seconds superior to that of the current championship leader.

The 40-minute main race at Spa-Francorchamps got underway on a wet track and in the coolest temperatures experienced so far this season. Beckmann mastered the conditions perfectly and immediately opened up a large gap on the rest of the field. When team-mate Ryan Tveter began to close a few laps later, Beckmann kept his cool while Tveter made a mistake and dropped back again. Beckmann then wrapped the race up in assured fashion.

Trident team manager Giacomo Ricci was full of praise for Beckmann afterwards: "David did a mega job. He has impressed me, the team and the whole paddock with the way he won in wet conditions at Spa. It was tricky, and yet he got off to an incredible start. He opened up a gap and from then on managed the race. As leader, he was unable to benefit from DRS, and there was a lot of pressure on his shoulders. He didn't make a single mistake. He stayed calm and showed just how mature he is. We are proud of David, and we hope that we can carry on like this."

Beckmann has one more race to compete in at Spa-Francorchamps (Sunday 26th August, 9.35am). After that, the 18-year-old from Hagen heads for Monza which will be hosting the seventh race weekend of the 2018 season on the weekend of 31st August - 2nd September.

Four questions for David Beckmann

Congratulations on your first victory in GP3!

Thank you. It's been a great weekend. To win a main race in this series is really awesome. I am mega happy. The team is doing a great job. I am very pleased to have the opportunity to drive for this outfit, and I'm excited to see how the rest of the season will turn out. The car is just great to drive.

The conditions on race day were tricky, with a wet track and cool temperatures. How did you handle the situation?

I'm fine with conditions like these, because I'm familiar with them from my time in karting. That's how I'm able to drive at the limit without ending up in the crash barriers. My start was perfect. I pulled away from the rest of the field, though I took no chances. Then I saw my team-mate Ryan in the rear-view mirror. I watched out for his pace and tried to keep him out of the DRS window. I didn't want to go full

throttle, because then the risk of spinning off track would have been too high. In the first sector, of course, he was able to benefit from slipstream. But then he made a mistake, so I stepped a little harder on the gas and maintained the gap to him. In that way, I was able to really enjoy the last lap.

What makes you so strong at Spa?

I'm actually all right on any track. This time, though, the setup was already perfect in free practice. The car did exactly what I wanted, so it was easy to adjust to the track and build the lap, so to speak. I was able to get even more out of the car in qualifying, because it was always in balance. In GP3, where the best drivers in the world compete, a gap of 0.144 seconds is highly respectable.

Spa is considered to be Michael Schumacher's personal domain. His son Mick has also won here. And now you've added your name to the list...

It's not just the Schumachers. This is a historic track in so many ways. All the world champions have raced here at some stage of their career, so competing on this track is just amazing. You can sense an enormous spirit here. It's a lot of fun driving through the same corners as so many legendary names in the past. This track is unique – just awesome.

Media Contact:

adrivo Content & Media
Tel: +49 (0)89 189 6592 60
Fax: +49 (0)89 189 6592 61
E-mail: presse@david-beckmann.de

Further information:

Website: www.david-beckmann.de
Facebook: www.facebook.com/david.beckmann.official
Twitter: www.twitter.com/davidbeckmannf3
Instagram: www.instagram.com/davidbeckmann