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Fresh challenges for David Beckmann in FIA Formula 2 on debut at Monaco

- David Beckmann gaining more FIA Formula 2 experience with Charouz Racing System
- Young German hopeful retires from second race while in promising position
- David Beckmann: "I was pleased with our pace, especially in the last race. We had a bit of bad luck in qualifying, unfortunately. The FIA Formula 2 is extremely competitive, so little things can make a big difference"

David Beckmann had an excellent showing on his debut in the FIA Formula 2 six weeks ago when he achieved a podium finish with Czech outfit, Charouz Racing System. However, he was unable to build on his previous fine performance during this weekend's second meeting of the season held within the context of Formula 1's glamorous stand-out event in Monaco. Overtaking is extremely difficult on Monte Carlo's demanding street circuit as he discovered in the three races there.

The German began his first race around the famous 3.34-km circuit from grid slot 13 on Friday lunchtime. Thanks to his very focused driving style, Beckmann remained in striking distance of the man in front throughout. Despite regularly posting faster lap times, the narrow circuit with its 19 corners meant that he was unable to launch a successful attack. Even the fact that he was much faster in terms of top speed and was the quickest of any of the 22 drivers was of no use, as he was unable to find a way past his opponent. He finished twelfth at the chequered flag, which also determined his position on the grid for the next race.

Round 2, the next race, presented a fresh challenge for Beckmann. Rain had fallen on Saturday night, so the fifth race of the season was held on a damp track the following morning. The Charouz Racing System driver coped perfectly well with the change in track conditions. He was running tenth until shortly before the finish with good prospects of scoring points for the third time this season, but there was a contact on the approach to Turn 1 when another competitor was involved in an unfortunate incident, causing Beckmann to spin and hit the barrier, thus ending his race prematurely.

21-year-old Beckmann started the main and longest race of the weekend from 13th position on Saturday evening. He showed a high degree of racing intelligence in the jockeying for position at Turn 1 by making a cautious start and then keeping a watchful eye on events while the heat was on. Charouz Racing System's crew pulled out all the stops during the mandatory pit stop required by the regulations, so that while changing tyres in the middle of the race, Beckmann was among the drivers spending the least amount of time in the pits and was ultimately classified 13th.

After an instructive weekend in Monaco, Beckmann will be competing next at another street circuit in two weeks' time when the Baku City Circuit hosts Formula 2's third race weekend of this 2021 season, featuring races seven, eight and nine (June 4th-6th). The characteristics of the circuit in Azerbaijan's capital are completely different to Monaco with its long high-speed passage, but this race track will be just like the one in the Principality in that it will also be new to Beckmann.

Three questions for David Beckmann

Did you immediately feel at home again in the racing car after the six-week break?

Yes, indeed. Getting to grips with the car again was no problem at all, as I'd prepared intensively for this weekend in the simulator and was already familiar with some of the circuit's special features, plus, I was able to get accustomed with actual real-life conditions in the practice sessions and quickly found my rhythm in qualifying.

What's your verdict after the Monaco race weekend?

I was pleased with our pace, especially in the last race. We had a bit of bad luck in qualifying, unfortunately. The FIA Formula 2 is extremely competitive so that little things can make a big difference. Had I qualified in the Top Ten, I would have had a decent grid slot for the first race because of the reverse grid regulations which also dictated positions for Race 2. Tenth place in Race 1 would have given me pole position on Saturday morning. Gaining position was tough, as there are practically no opportunities for overtaking in Monaco. What's important now is that we analyse the weekend thoroughly as a team, draw a line under it, and then think about getting ready for the next set of races.

How are you preparing for the next round in Baku?

The next race weekend in Baku is in less than two weeks' time, so preparations will have to step up a gear. I will be spending a lot of time in the simulator again and of course, will keep myself in tip-top shape physically. Only a few of my fellow competitors have ever raced at Baku, so we're all pretty much in the same boat. There are plenty of good overtaking opportunities at the circuit, so I think I'll be able to secure more points and improve my standing in the championship Top Ten.

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