

FELIX ROSENQVIST FINISHES SECOND AFTER VYING FOR MACAU WIN



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Mercedes-Benz
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Felix Rosenqvist brought his 2012 Formula 3 campaign to a strong close by finishing second in the prestigious Macau Grand Prix in China. Rosenqvist took the chequered flag just one and a half second behind race winner António Félix da Costa in Sunday's 15-lap finale, as he became the first Swede to take to the podium at the event – which pitches 30 of the world's most promising single-seater talents against each other – since Björn Wirdheim finished third in 2001. The Mücke Motorsport man ended the race as the highest-placed driver from the ranks of engine supplier Mercedes, completing a weekend that saw him constantly feature at the top of the timesheets.



“A very good conclusion to the year for us,” says Felix Rosenqvist. “We have been as quick as anyone out there this weekend, and a podium at Macau makes the winter break a lot easier; even though I would have loved to win today. António drove a great race, though, and I just couldn't get close enough to him on the straights to overtake. Still, I am obviously happy with the way the weekend went, and I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone at Mücke Motorsport and Mercedes for a great car – this wouldn't have happened without them.”



Rosenqvist showed his intentions already in the opening free practice session on Thursday, going second fastest, and never falling outside the top five in any of the subsequent outings across the weekend. Having topped the second practice session on Friday, Rosenqvist was then on course for a lap that would likely have put him on pole position for Saturday's Qualification Race in the afternoon qualifying showdown, only for a last-gasp red flag to force him to abandon his effort. Once the Qualification Race got underway, however, the 21-year-old quickly established himself in second place, a position he then maintained throughout the finale after having briefly led the event off the line.



“Macau is something truly unique, and I'm thrilled to have made the podium in the most classic F3 race of all,” Rosenqvist concludes. “We've enjoyed a fantastic second half of the year with four wins in the European championship, and this means a lot to everyone who has worked so hard to get us to this level. I am already looking forward to next year, and – regardless of what I end up doing – I am sure it will be something good.”



Felix Rosenqvist adds the Macau Grand Prix podium to his previous victory at the 2011 RTL GP Masters of Formula 3 at Zandvoort, the Netherlands.

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Felix Rosenqvist, 21, lives in the city of Malmö in his native Sweden. Felix began his career in karting, where he finished second in the Nordic Championship in 2005 and successfully competed internationally until 2007 when he made the step to single-seater racing and Asian Formula Renault. After finishing fourth overall and ending his debut season as rookie of the year, Rosenqvist stayed on in the Far East and won 10 out of 15 races to claim the 2008 Formula Asia 2.0 title. In 2009, he returned to Sweden and won both the North European Zone and Swedish Formula Renault championships. At the end of the year, he did two one-offs - resulting in a SEAT Leon Supercopa podium on his touring car debut in France and two victories and a new lap record at the Formula Palmer Audi finale at Snetterton, Great Britain.

2010 saw Rosenqvist make his Formula 3 debut together with Performance Racing in the German championship, winning two races and finishing on the podium eight times before ending the season on a high by finishing ninth on his debut in the prestigious Macau Grand Prix. In 2011, Rosenqvist took the step to the world's premier Formula 3 championship – Formula 3 Euro Series – with German outfit Mücke Motorsport, racking up ten podiums and one win and establishing a new all-time F3 lap record at Hockenheim. 2011 also saw Rosenqvist become the first Swede ever to win the classic Masters of Formula 3 at Zandvoort. In 2012, Rosenqvist dovetails a second season of Formula 3 Euro Series racing with an assault on the revived FIA European Formula 3 Championship, as he once again takes to the wheel of a Mücke Motorsport machine with added support from the Mercedes-Benz young driver development programme.

Felix Rosenqvist: www.felixracing.seFormula 3 Euro Series: www.f3euroseries.comMücke Motorsport: www.muecke-motorsport.de