

FELIX ROSENQVIST FORCED TO RETIRE FROM MACAU VICTORY CHARGE



"An incredible disappointment – but overall, a very strong season."

Felix Rosenqvist was forced to retire from the 2013 Formula 3 world finale at Macau (China) after becoming the victim of an opening lap clash while battling for the early lead.

Rosenqvist returned to Macau one year on from having finished second at the challenging street venue in 2012, and once again featured frequently at the top of the timesheets throughout the weekend. The Swede got things off to a promising start by topping Thursday's opening qualifying session, and later finished second in Saturday's Qualification Race (in which he also recorded the fastest lap) to set himself up on the front row for Sunday's finale. Once there, the Mücke Motorsport man was then fighting for the lead when he was hit from beside on the approach to the ultra-fast Mandarin Bend on the first lap, ending up in the barriers and retiring with broken suspension just seconds after the start.

"An incredibly sad ending to this weekend," says **Felix Rosenqvist**. "I'm obviously massively disappointed right now, but fact is that there was nothing I could have done. I was involved in the battle for the lead when I suddenly got caught up in an incident and was hit from the side – it was a classic Macau thing, and this time around, I was the one to suffer. I came here to win and definitely had the pace to do so, and that's why this outcome feels even worse – it was a genuine lost opportunity. Still, there is nothing we can do, and I'll try to bounce back from this as an even stronger driver in the future."

The race was won by Britain's Alex Lynn, who had shared the front row of the grid with Rosenqvist. The Swede will now fly straight from Macau to Spain, where he will take part in next week's official World Series by Renault test as he seeks to overcome Sunday's disappointment.

"Today might be one of the toughest days I've had for a while, but overall this season has been fantastic," **Rosenqvist concludes**. "I really want to take this opportunity to thank all the guys at Mücke Motorsport for a couple of great years together. I currently don't know what next season will bring, but we're working hard to get something good together and I'm already looking forward to the World Series by Renault test next week. It will help me to take my mind off this weekend – or at least off this very day!"

World Series by Renault is regarded as the final step on the ladder towards Formula 1. The cars produce approximately 530 bhp. - **ENDS** -

Felix Rosenqvist, 22, 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 competed successfully on the international stage until 2007 when he stepped up into 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 the transition to Formula 3 with an assault on the German championship, winning two races and finishing on the podium eight times before ending the season on a high by coming home ninth on his debut in the prestigious Macau Grand Prix in China. For 2011, Rosenqvist progressed into Formula 3 Euro Series with German outfit Mücke Motorsport, racking up ten podiums and one win. 2011 also saw Felix become the first Swede ever to win the classic Masters of Formula 3 event at Zandvoort – a feat he later repeated in emphatic fashion in 2013, winning comfortably from pole position and throwing in the fastest lap of the race.

In 2012, Rosenqvist dovetailed a second season of Formula 3 Euro Series racing with an attack on the revived FIA European Formula 3 Championship, in which he finished third overall after winning four out of the final six races. At the end of the campaign, he underlined his status as one of the fastest F3 drivers on the globe by finishing a close second in the Macau Grand Prix, becoming the first Swede in over ten years to take to the podium in the legendary street race. In 2013, the FIA Formula 3 European Championship gathered all the leading F3 teams and drivers on one combined arena of activity, with Rosenqvist once again racing for Mücke Motorsport and finishing second overall with ten wins and 18 podiums from 30 races. Felix Rosenqvist is part of the Swedish national motor racing team and is supported by the same Mercedes-Benz young driver development programme that propelled Scot Paul di Resta into Formula 1. Rosenqvist currently holds the F3 lap record at Hockenheim, Norisring, Zandvoort, the Red Bull Ring and Valencia's Circuit Ricardo Tormo.

Felix Rosenqvist: www.felixracing.se

FIA Formula 3 European Championship: www.fiaf3europe.com

Mücke Motorsport: www.muecke-motorsport.de



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