

CHALLENGING MACAU GRAND PRIX FOR FELIX ROSENQVIST



“An utterly disappointing weekend – but we will be back...”

The 2011 Macau Grand Prix did not go according to plan for Felix Rosenqvist. The 20-year-old – who was one of several pre-event favourites following his RTL GP Masters of Formula 3 victory back in August – ran into trouble already in Thursday’s opening free practice session, where he encountered a long queue of standstill cars on the approach to the Melco hairpin and ran into the back of Estonian Marko Asmer. The Stewards held Rosenqvist responsible for the collision, and sent the Swede to the very back of the grid for Saturday’s Qualification Race. Already heavily compromised by his penalty, the Mücke Motorsport driver then crashed into retirement in Sunday’s finale after making contact with one of the unforgiving walls that line the Guia Circuit.

“This was simply an utterly disappointing weekend; there is no reason to call it anything else,” says Felix Rosenqvist. “My shot at a decent result more or less disappeared already on Thursday, but Macau is a very special venue and it’s never over until it’s over. Unfortunately, though, things didn’t get much better in the races, and although we had an efficient car on the straights, we struggled a bit with the set-up in the mountain section. We were fast enough to battle for a top five result if we would have stayed out of trouble, but at the end of the day things sometimes just don’t turn out the way you want them to.”

Rosenqvist posted the eighth-fastest time in Friday’s qualifying session – just one tenth shy of fifth place and 0.7 seconds adrift of Pole-setter and regular Formula 3 Euro Series rival Marco Wittmann – but had to see his efforts come to nothing due to the penalty from Thursday. The crash in the finale then brought the Swede’s event to a premature end. Victory in the classic street race outside of Hong Kong went to Spaniard Daniel Juncadella – another of Rosenqvist’s Formula 3 Euro Series competitors.

“I am obviously everything but satisfied with the outcome of Macau, but overall it’s still been a very good season,” Rosenqvist concludes. “I continue to learn something new every time I climb into the car, and we’ve been among the quickest in Formula 3 Euro Series more or less all through the campaign. I am now looking forward to a chance of recharging the batteries for an even stronger performance in 2012 – we will definitely be back!”

Felix Rosenqvist can look back at a season which, coupled with the RTL GP Masters of Formula 3 triumph, has seen the Swede claim one victory, ten podiums and five fastest laps in his first Formula 3 Euro Series campaign. - ENDS -

Felix Rosenqvist, 20, 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.

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