

Spanish heat brings STIPA-Molenaar Racing GP no top results

The first free practice for the Gran Premi Aperol de Catalunya was held this afternoon under tropical temperatures of 36 degrees in the shadow. Randy Krummenacher clocked this afternoon the ninth time on the timesheets and teammate Luis Salom ended the session on the fourteenth place.

Under the tropical weather the STIPA-Molenaar Racing GP team could not impress. Both riders had a tough first session under these circumstances with temperatures of 36 degrees in the shade. Even the Aprilia's needed more cooling but this was also tough for the bikes because the riders slipstreamed a lot on the long back straight of Catalunya.

Randy Krummenacher was still able to ride his Aprilia to a good ninth position in the final stage of the session. The Swiss was not entirely satisfied with the setup of the suspension and visited the pit box regularly. Krummenacher will use the second free practice session on Saturday to maximize the set-up of his bike so the Swiss can ride a good qualification session on Saturday afternoon.

Luis Salom runs a home race this weekend. Although Salom lives on the island of Mallorca, the Spaniard considered this Grand Prix as his home race. Salom was not really happy today despite the small gap of 0.7 seconds to the fifth place. The Spaniard desires a good result this weekend and will push even harder tomorrow to get a top 10 result.

Randy Krummenacher (9th, 1:53.534):

"The Catalunya circuit is one of my favourite tracks, and every year I ride a good result here. Given my performance of the previous races this season, I can't be satisfied with a ninth position. The gap to the fifth position is minimal but fortunately I had to be around this position this session. The engine runs well but I still miss the traction in the rear of the bike. On the gas the bike runs too much wide and I can't hold the racing line. We will have to work on this tomorrow and I expect a big improvement in my lap times. "

Luis Salom (14th, 1:53.952):

"A fourteenth place during the first session of my home race wasn't the expectation I had. I have been riding a lot at this track and I was hoping that I was at least in a top 10 spot. It was not going well today and I think I pushed too much. During this session, we were able to set-up the bike better and better and my lap times were faster than in the beginning of the session. However, just like Randy I'm struggling to hold the racing line. Tomorrow we will spend more attention to this problem and I hope I will do better tomorrow. "

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