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David Beckmann secures another top-ten result: Instructive weekend in FIA Formula 2 in Russia

- David Beckmann finishes tenth in main race at Sochi
- Young talent from Germany in the points on second appearance for Campos Racing
- David Beckmann: "I'm quite happy with the point, but we definitely haven't exhausted our full potential yet"

The sixth FIA Formula 2 race meeting of the season in Russia once again provided 21-year-old David Beckmann with plenty of fresh challenges, competing in the feeder series to Formula 1. Wearing Campos Racing colours, the young talent had to face tricky conditions because of Sochi's poor weather. Still, neither the rain nor the cancellation of one of the two sprint races or a grid penalty could put a dampener on his series of points-scoring finishes, as he went out and secured his sixth result of the year in the Top Ten in the main event.

Racing in Russia, he was competing for only the second time for Spanish talent factory Campos Racing, with whom he had scored points at his first attempt just two weeks earlier in Monza. His previous good showing was not the only reason why his weekend at the Sochi Autodrom stood under a particularly good star. Beckmann has achieved success before at the 5.84 km racetrack on the Black Sea coast, securing a win in GP3 on his last appearance there back in 2018.

On Friday, after a long absence, the first thing on his to-do list was to familiarise himself again with the race track in the Formula 2 racing car which is new to him this year. The focus during practice was on gaining experience and on tweaking setup. In qualifying, Beckmann then went on to secure P14 in the field of 22 young talents. However, he had to line up five places down the grid following a penalty for an incident at Monza.

Heavy rain on Saturday morning led to the cancellation of the first of the two 120-kilometre sprint races. The second round took place later in the afternoon in conditions that were still wet. There were further delays at the pre-start when a fellow competitor had an accident, as a result of which Beckmann had to tackle the sprint round from the pit lane. Right from the start, he steadily worked his way forwards as the race progressed. His lap times were the fastest in the entire field on several occasions and he crossed the finish line in 15th place after 18 laps.

Beckmann started the main 28-lap race from 13th position. His only option during the first stint was to push forwards as he had done on the previous day. He went for the undercut at an early stage on Lap 7 while in heavy traffic after having worked his way up into ninth position already by then. However, he had pitted early and was forced to nurse his tyres during the second stint. He managed to claim one championship point for tenth place by using his racing intelligence to pace himself over the second half of the race.

Beckmann is still 13th in the overall standings with two weekends to go before the end of the season. The next FIA Formula 2 race meeting is calendared for December 3rd-5th in Saudi Arabia where the series will debut on the newly constructed Jeddah Street Circuit before the final round takes place in Abu Dhabi the following week.

Three questions for David Beckmann

Rain led to the cancellation of the first race. Was that the right decision as far as you're concerned?

It's a real shame that the first sprint event never took place. Particularly for me as a rookie, every session in the car is still very important so that I can gain experience and become more practised. However, the steward's decision was perfectly understandable. The rain was just too heavy and the main problem was you never knew what it was going to do. There was no point in starting the race when conditions could take a dramatic turn for the worse at any moment.

Were you satisfied with your performance in the two races at Sochi?

Overall, I expected more from this weekend. We could have done much better in the first race, but the Monza penalty and the start from the pit lane put us in a tricky position. We made the best of the situation in the main race, though. I'm quite happy with the point, but we definitely haven't exhausted our full potential yet.

There's a long break now before the next event. What's on your agenda in the run-up to Saudi Arabia?

It's obviously not great to have such a large gap in the proceedings. On the other hand, it gives us the chance to put together a package for the last two rounds of the season. At the moment, we don't know whether I'll be able to compete in December, so until then, we'll be working hard on the budget to allow me to put in an appearance at the season finale. I would be very happy if we could reach an agreement.

Media Contact:

adrivo
+49 89 189 6592 60
office@adrivo.com

Further information:

Website: www.david-beckmann.de
Facebook: www.facebook.com/david.beckmann.5
Twitter: www.twitter.com/d_beckmannf2
Instagram: www.instagram.com/david_beckmann