

BECOME PART OF THE MYTH OF ENDURANCE RACING!

**Formula
LE MANS** 



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Natacha Gachnang on pole !



Free practice was run mainly in the wet, but the track was dry when the drivers began qualifying. Dimitri Enjalbert, of whom great things were expected on the German circuit, soon confirmed his talent by topping the time sheets on his first flyer.

The Boutsen Energy Racing driver set a baseline time in 1m 54.694s. He then improved on several occasions and got down to 1m 52.354s. Despite all his dash, Nico Verdonck was unable to snatch the quickest time by the Frenchman. Behind these two, Mathias Beche and Christophe Pillon put the two Hope PoleVision Racing cars on the second row. Damien Toulemonde had a transmission problem and was never really in the hunt, ending up sixth quickest. Mathieu Cheruy and Linus Ohlsson, both newcomers to Formula Le Mans, qualified without problems.

As the second part of the session began, a few timid rays of sun lit up the circuit. Track conditions were much improved in relation to the previous session and times fell.

Valle Mäkela was the first to go for it. The Finn set a time of 1m 57.400s ahead of Cronje. Then Wolfgang Kaufmann went to the top of the time sheets with a lap in 1m 54.496s. The battle continued right down to the chequered flag. Just when Kaufmann looked to have pole sewn up with a lap in 1m 52.430s and Cronje completed the front row for DAMS, Natacha Gachnang put in a blinder and gave Hope PoleVision Racing pole position! Tomorrow, for the first time in the history of the Formula Le Mans Cup, a woman driver will start from pole in the second race.

Natacha Gachnang: *"It's really a surprise as I didn't think I could bag pole today. I like this circuit very much and generally things go well for me here. Christophe Pillon our engineer and myself did a lot of work to have the best possible car setup. The track was pretty slippery today and you had to really watch out not to go off line. At the start, I pushed a little too hard and the car was sliding around a lot. Then I drove in a smoother fashion and that was much better in these conditions. Tomorrow's aim will be to finish on the podium in both races. If we can win one, that'll be really great!"*



CONTACT :
Alain Marguet
amarguet@oreca.fr
Tél : +33 621 502 178

Olivier Loisy
formulalemans@gmail.com
Tél : +33 472 859 376
Mob : +33 613 407 792

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Dimitri Enjalbert: *"I just love this circuit. It's the event I was really looking forward to, and I love driving this car. I was on the pace very quickly today, which wasn't difficult as the car was very good. I think we'll be on the podium in the first race tomorrow if I make a good start and open up a gap during my stint, and hand over to Gary with a good lead. We've been on the podium this year on several occasions, but we haven't won yet: I hope we'll do it tomorrow. And I think we can. I also hope that the weather will be fine especially as I didn't run in the wet this morning in free practice."*

Nico Verdonck: *"I let the drivers go out in front of me to have a little free space. Unfortunately, I soon caught the tail-enders and I couldn't get a clear lap, as I found myself behind a car every time. It's a pity as our car was good enough for pole. At least we're second quickest so it's not a disaster. We're feeling very confident for the race and our aim will be to score the maximum number of points. If it rains tomorrow, I don't mind as it doesn't change anything for me. The car was quick this morning in the rain and also this afternoon in the dry. No worries there!"*

Damien Toulemonde: *"I only managed two flying laps in the first session as we had a gearbox problem. I came here in 2004 and I wanted to memorize the layout, which I wasn't able to do because of the gearbox problems. There was a lag when I downshifted and the gears meshed later than expected. The connectors were damp. Once we'd got rid of this, everything was okay and David did the second session without problems."*

Linus Ohlsson: *"Given the fact that I didn't know the car at all and it rained this morning the first day's gone pretty well even if I spun. When I went out for qualifying I had my first taste of the car on a dry track and I soon felt at home in it. It's great fun to drive and much quicker than what I'm used to. Tomorrow in the race, my aim will be to improve my times and above all to see the flag."*



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CONTACT :
Alain Marguet
amarguet@oreca.fr
Tél : +33 621 502 178

Olivier Loisy
formulemans@gmail.com
Tél : +33 472 859 376
Mob : +33 613 407 792

www.formulemans.com



Qualifying Practice 1

Pos	No	Cl	Ty	Team	Drivers	Veh	Ses.1	Ses.2	L.	Best	Gap	Km/h
1	6	1		Boutsen Energy Racing	ENJALBERT Dimitri	Formula Le Mans	1:52.354		12	1:52.354		164,598
2	8	1		Dams	VERDONCK Nico	Formula Le Mans	1:53.122		11	1:53.122	0:00.768	163,480
3	17	1		Hope Pole Vision Racing	BECHE Mathias	Formula Le Mans	1:54.246		11	1:54.246	0:01.892	161,872
4	18	1		Hope Pole Vision Racing	PILLON Christophe	Formula Le Mans	1:55.754		12	1:55.754	0:03.400	159,763
5	7	1		Dams	MORO Luca	Formula Le Mans	1:57.114		11	1:57.114	0:04.760	157,908
6	3	1		Applewood - LD Autosport	TOULEMONDE Damien	Formula Le Mans	1:57.532		7	1:57.532	0:05.178	157,346
7	5	1		Boutsen Energy Racing	CHERUY Mathieu	Formula Le Mans	1:58.092		11	1:58.092	0:05.738	156,600
8	4	1		Applewood - LD Autosport	OHLSSON Linus	Formula Le Mans	2:02.804		11	2:02.804	0:10.450	150,591
9	9	1		Ibanez Racing Service	MORI Richard	Formula Le Mans	2:05.020		7	2:05.020	0:12.666	147,922

The results are provisional until the end of the time limit for protest and appeals

Nurburgring

Time limit for protest expires 30' at the latest after publication of the results - Time :

Circuit Length = 5,137 km

Results are suspended till the end of scrutineering

Clerk of the course:POISSENOT Daniel	Timekeeper:R.I.S.
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Qualifying Practice 2

Pos	No	Cl	Ty	Team	Drivers	Veh	Ses.1	Ses.2	L.	Best	Gap	Km/h
1	18	1		Hope Pole Vision Racing	GACHNANG Natacha	Formula Le Mans	1:52.262		10	1:52.262		164,733
2	7	1		Dams	KAUFMANN Wolfgang	Formula Le Mans	1:52.430		11	1:52.430	0:00.168	164,486
3	8	1		Dams	CRONJE Gavin	Formula Le Mans	1:52.436		11	1:52.436	0:00.174	164,478
4	17	1		Hope Pole Vision Racing	MÄKELA Valle	Formula Le Mans	1:52.904		11	1:52.904	0:00.642	163,796
5	3	1		Applewood - LD Autosport	ZOLLINGER David	Formula Le Mans	1:53.328		11	1:53.328	0:01.066	163,183
6	5	1		Boutsen Energy Racing	KRAIHAMER Dominik	Formula Le Mans	1:53.600		9	1:53.600	0:01.338	162,792
7	9	1		Ibanez Racing Service	CAVAILHES William	Formula Le Mans	1:55.502		10	1:55.502	0:03.240	160,112
8	4	1		Applewood - LD Autosport	HAEZEBROUK Philippe	Formula Le Mans	1:56.484		10	1:56.484	0:04.222	158,762
9	6	1		Boutsen Energy Racing	CHALANDON Gary	Formula Le Mans	1:57.270		10	1:57.270	0:05.008	157,698

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