

Saturday 27 July, 2024

Beganovic holds off Minì to take victory at Spa-Francorchamps

Dino Beganovic saw off the race-long challenge of his PREMA Racing teammate Gabriele Minì to take victory at a damp Spa-Francorchamps Sprint Race.

Minì got ahead of the Swede at the start, but Beganovic was able to take the position back early on, crossing the line to take his second win of the season.

Championship leader Minì came across the line in second place with Van Amersfoort Racing's Noel León making a last lap overtake to finish in third.

AS IT HAPPENED

It was an all-PREMA front row with Beganovic on pole, though it was teammate Minì who made the better start to take the lead into Turn 1.

Just behind them, Tim Tramnitz had gotten ahead of Santiago Ramos for P3, while Arvid Lindblad made a fast start from P27 and was already up to 16th by the end of Lap 1.

But a Safety Car was required with Jenzer Motorsport's Max Esterson having slowly spun into the barrier at Eau Rouge. The American driver was okay, and we returned to racing at the end of Lap 3.

The battles were well and truly on as Beganovic got ahead of Minì at the end of the Kemmel Straight just after the restart, while León took back the P5 spot he had lost to Luke Browning at the original start.

Lap 5 and Tramnitz was coming under pressure from Ramos and León and while he was able to hold on to P3, Browning was struggling and lost sixth position to Sebastián Montoya having ran wide at Turn 4.

The Hitech Pulse-Eight driver then came under pressure from Sami Meguetounif and the two ran wide on the entry to Les Combes, with the Frenchman getting ahead for P7.

The top six from Beganovic to Montoya were covered by just two and a half seconds as they started Lap 9 of 12, with Minì told by his race engineer to keep the pressure on his teammate.

But making the moves was León as he got ahead of Ramos for P4 at the end of the Kemmel Straight, with Lindblad now up to 12th after getting past Rodin Motorsport's Joseph Loake.

CONTINUES

DRS had now been made available, as Minì came under pressure from Tramnitz for second. He was able to hold off the MP driver but as they squabbled, Beganovic was able to pull out a one second gap.

As they started the penultimate lap of the race Minì had closed back in on Beganovic, while Tramnitz had fallen into the clutches of León.

This was playing into the hands of Meguetounif, Browning and Leonardo Fornaroli in seventh, eighth and ninth place, as they closed up to the top six.

The final lap started with Beganovic and Minì having pulled out a two second gap to the rest of the field. But in the battle for the final podium place León got ahead of Tramnitz at the Kimmel Straight.

The fight for places raged on but up ahead it was Beganovic who came across the line to take his second victory of the season, with Minì in second and León in third.

Tramnitz saw off Ramos and several other cars across the line to finish P4, with the Mexican driver taking fifth ahead of his Trident teammate Meguetounif. However, the French rookie would drop down the order to P28 after being penalised for multiple track limit infringements.

This pushed Browning up to sixth ahead of Montoya seventh, with Fornaroli in eighth. Oliver Goethe finished in ninth for Campos Racing, while Callum Voisin took the last point in P10.

KEY QUOTE – Dino Beganovic, PREMA Racing

“P1 in the Sprint Race, very nice to finally be on the top step again, it feels very good. Very tricky conditions today, me and Gabriele had a good fight in the beginning, he got me at the start but I was able to recover it and then after that it was a bit of management and also conditions were very tricky, so it was not easy but I am very happy with this result.”

THE CHAMPIONSHIP STANDINGS

Gabriele Minì moves to 128 points and extends his lead to eight points at the top of the Drivers' Championship, with Hitech Pulse-Eight's Luke Browning second. Leonardo Fornaroli jumps ahead of Arvid Lindblad to third place, the Trident driver now on 115 points, two ahead of the PREMA Racing driver, while Dino Beganovic is up to fifth on 100 points.

CONTINUES



MEDIA INFORMATION

PREMA Racing are closing in on the Teams' Championship and are now on 341 points, while ART Grand Prix went scoreless in the Sprint Race so stay second with 225 points. Trident are third with 192 points, with Campos Racing fourth on 152 and Hitech Pulse-Eight in fifth with 146.

UP NEXT

The drivers will hit the track one more time before the summer break as they return tomorrow morning for the Feature Race which is set to get underway at 08:30 local time.

CONTINUES

2024 FIA FORMULA 3 CHAMPIONSHIP – ROUND 9 SPRINT RACE PROVISIONAL

CLASSIFICATION

	DRIVER	LICENCE	TEAM
1	Dino Beganovic	SWE	PREMA Racing
2	Gabriele Mini	ITA	PREMA Racing
3	Noel Leon	MEX	Van Amersfoort Racing
4	Tim Tramnitz	DEU	MP Motorsport
5	Santiago Ramos	MEX	Trident
6	Luke Browning	GBR	Hitech Pulse-Eight
7	Sebastian Montoya	COL	Campos Racing
8	Leonardo Fornaroli	ITA	Trident
9	Oliver Goethe	DEU	Campos Racing
10	Callum Voisin	GBR	Rodin Motorsport
11	Laurens van Hoepen	NLD	ART Grand Prix
12	Joseph Loake	GBR	Rodin Motorsport
13	Nikita Bedrin	ITA	AIX Racing
14	Alexander Dunne	IRL	MP Motorsport
15	Martinius Stenshorne	NOR	Hitech Pulse-Eight
16	Tuukka Taponen	FIN	ART Grand Prix
17	Arvid Lindblad	GBR	PREMA Racing
18	Tommy Smith	AUS	Van Amersfoort Racing
19	Christian Mansell	AUS	ART Grand Prix
20	Matias Zagazeta	PEU	Jenzer Motorsport
21	Mari Boya	ESP	Campos Racing
22	Sophia Floersch	DEU	Van Amersfoort Racing
23	Kacper Sztuka	POL	MP Motorsport
24	Piotr Wisnicki	POL	Rodin Motorsport
25	Cian Shields	GBR	Hitech Pulse-Eight
26	Charlie Wurz	AUT	Jenzer Motorsport
27	Joshua Dufek	AUT	AIX Racing
28	Sami Meguetounif	FRA	Trident
29	Tasanapol Inthraphuvasak	THA	AIX Racing

NOT CLASSIFIED

DNF	Max Esterson	USA	Jenzer Motorsport
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OVERALL FASTEST LAP

	Noel Leon	MEX	Van Amersfoort Racing	2:08.683 (Lap 12)
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FASTEST LAP ELIGIBLE FOR POINTS

	Noel Leon	MEX	Van Amersfoort Racing	2:08.683 (Lap 12)
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ENDS