

Naël Triumphs in Macau Grand Prix – FIA FR World Cup

Théophile Naël took victory in the Macau Grand Prix – FIA FR World Cup after pulling off a dramatic third-to-first overtake move on the final lap of racing action.

The early stages had made it look like the fight for the win would be between pole position man Freddie Slater and Mari Boya as they pulled clear of third placed Enzo Deligny and Naël. Boya had muscled his way into the lead off the line but, following a safety car period to clear up a first-lap crash that involved five cars at Lisboa Bend and included Charlie Wurz, Enzo Yeh, and Kiyoshi Umegaki, Slater had retaken the lead from Boya at Lisboa on lap four following a restart.

Slater appeared to have things under control as he pulled out a three-second advantage at the front, before another safety car came out on lap nine following a crash at Lisboa Bend involving Oscar Wurz. At the restart on lap 11, Boya got into the perfect place to pick up Slater's slipstream and retook the lead at Lisboa Bend before then trying to open up an advantage. As Slater tried to not let Boya get away, he made a mistake at R Bend and was out the race after clipping the barrier.

With Slater stopped on track, the safety car was called out again – leaving Boya at the front ahead of Deligny, Naël, Mattia Colnaghi and Taito Kato. At the restart on lap 14, Boya came under attack from Deligny and he tried to disrupt his rival's momentum by lifting off through Mandarin Bend. That tactic did the job in stopping his R-Ace GP rival coming through, but it handed a golden opportunity for third placed Naël who was able to maintain speed and swoop past both of them.

That was enough to secure the victory when a final safety car was called out moments later for incidents involving Rashid Al Dhaheri, Macao driver Charles Leong Hon Chio and Tokiya Suzuki that same lap. With no time for a restart, the race remained under caution until the chequered flag, as Naël came home ahead of Boya, Deligny, Colnaghi and Kato.

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Macau Grand Prix Organizing Committee