



PRESS RELEASE

26.07.2026

Slater holds off Ugochukwu to take victory and championship lead in Budapest



Freddie Slater and Ugo Ugochukwu went wheel-to-wheel for the win and the championship lead in the Budapest Feature Race, with the TRIDENT driver holding on to claim his first FIA Formula 3 victory. The Briton took the lead early on once Tuukka Taponen pitted with damage, and controlled the race out front, resisting pressure from Ugochukwu. The Campos Racing driver went from sixth to second, while Rodin Motorsport's Brando Badoer took the final spot on the

podium in third.

AS IT HAPPENED

It was a clean start from pole for Taponen keeping the lead ahead of Slater, while Mattia Colnaghi retained P3 despite pressure from Badoer. Slater was keen to take the lead early on and looked to go the inside of Taponen at Turn 12. But the two made slight contact, leaving the TRIDENT driver with front wing damage.

The Safety Car was called upon moments later with Maciej Gladysz and Gerrard Xie in the barrier at the exit of Turn 13. The DAMS Lucas Oil driver collided with Jin Nakamura which sent him into the ART Grand Prix rookie, with all three out of the race. Taponen used the opportunity to come into the pitlane having suffered a right rear puncture, and with the other drivers following him in, he only dropped to P6.

The incident between Slater and Taponen was under investigation as the Briton led the field away at the restart on Lap 6. But the Virtual Safety Car was signalled moments later with Salim Hanna having stopped on track at Turn 13.

With the AIX Racing car cleared from the track, racing resumed on Lap 7 and Colnaghi was under pressure from Badoer and Ugochukwu. The Campos driver was showing great pace and went around the outside of both Badoer and Colnaghi at Turn 2 to get up to second with one of the moves of the season.

At the same time, the Stewards ruled that there was No Further Action for the incident between Taponen and Slater. But the Briton had new problems with Ugochukwu right on his gearbox on Lap 12, and he went defensive into Turns 1 and 2 to keep his race lead.

The Virtual Safety Car was called upon on the next lap with Kanato Le having stopped at Turn 12. Racing resumed on Lap 14 and Ugochukwu resumed his attack on Slater, but the top two were not alone, with Badoer, Colnaghi and Théophile Nael all right behind.

The Safety Car was out on the next lap following a three-car collision at Turn 1 between the AIX cars of Fernando Barrichello and Yevan David, as well as Enzo Deligny. Barichello was left on the side of the road with a broken rear left suspension, while David and Deligny continued on – although the Van Amersfoort Racing driver retired in the pitlane. The Sri Lankan driver was later given a 10-second time penalty for the incident.

Slater led the field to green on Lap 18 of 24 as Nael and Taponen went wheel-to-wheel at Turn 1. The MP driver was not pleased, believing he had been run off the track by his Campos rival. On Lap 19, the Briton extend his lead out front to 1.1s, breaking the DRS barrier to Ugochukwu.

The American fought back on Lap 21 but was too far behind to make a move. Ugochukwu was closer to his title rival on the penultimate lap, even looking up the inside at Turn 9, but once again Slater held on. On to the final lap and Ugochukwu once again had his DRS wing open but was still not close enough to Slater to make a move.

The British driver had done enough and took his first ever victory in FIA Formula 3 and with that the championship lead going into the summer break. Ugochukwu settled for P2 ahead of Badoer, while Colnaghi ended up in fourth. Nael held on to fifth ahead of Taponen, while Ernesto Rivera was seventh. Nicola Lacorte finished eighth, while PREMA Racing duo James Wharton and Louis Sharp rounded out the points.

KEY QUOTE – Freddie Slater, TRIDENT

“Just finished the Feature Race here in Budapest, finally got the win on the board, seven podiums in seven rounds, it’s been an incredible rookie season so far and we are fighting hard. Massive thank you to the team for working really hard overnight to improve the pace, yesterday was a bit of a struggle, today was even better. So massive thank you to them for digging deep overnight and giving me a car that could do that.”

CHAMPIONSHIP STANDINGS

For the first time this season, Freddie Slater leads the Drivers' Championship on 130 points, with Ugo Ugochukwu down to second on 122. Théophile Nael is third on 85 points, while Brando Badoer moves up to fourth on 71, as Ernesto Rivera rounds out the top five with 70.

In the Teams' Standings, Campos Racing continue to lead the way on 277 points, with TRIDENT 196. Van Amersfoort Racing with 131 points are third, while Rodin Motorsport sit fourth on 120, as ART Grand Prix round out the top five on 119.

UP NEXT

The drivers will now get a few weeks to rest before hitting the track in Madrid for a two-day test on August 24-25. After that is Round 8 in Monza from 4-6.

FIA Formula 3 - Budapest - Provisional Classification - Feature Race

	DRIVER	LICENCE	TEAM
1	Freddie Slater	GBR	TRIDENT
2	Ugo Ugochukwu	USA	Campos Racing
3	Brando Badoer	ITA	Rodin Motorsport
4	Mattia Colnaghi	ARG	MP Motorsport
5	Theophile Nael	FRA	Campos Racing
6	Tuukka Taponen	FIN	MP Motorsport
7	Ernesto Rivera	MEX	Campos Racing
8	James Wharton	AUS	PREMA Racing
9	Louis Sharp	NZL	PREMA Racing
10	Christian Ho	SGP	Rodin Motorsport
11	Hiyu Yamakoshi	JPN	Van Amersfoort Racing
12	Jose Garfias	MEX	PREMA Racing
13	Noah Stromsted	DEN	TRIDENT
14	Taito Kato	JPN	ART Grand Prix
15	Bruno Del Pino	ESP	Van Amersfoort Racing
16	Pedro Clerot	BRA	Rodin Motorsport
17	Fionn McLaughlin	IRL	Hitech
18	Alessandro Giusti	FRA	MP Motorsport
19	Nicola Lacorte	ITA	DAMS Lucas Oil

	20	Nandhavud Bhirombhakdi		THA	DAMS Lucas Oil	
	21	Matteo De Palo		ITA	TRIDENT	
	22	Woohyun Shin		KOR	Hitech	
	23	Yevan David		SRI	AIX Racing	

NOT CLASSIFIED

	DNF	Maciej Gladysz		POL	ART Grand Prix	
	DNF	Jin Nakamura		JPN	Hitech	
	DNF	Enzo Deligny		FRA	Van Amersfoort Racing	
	DNF	Fernando Barrichello		BRA	AIX Racing	
	DNF	Kanato Le		JPN	ART Grand Prix	
	DNF	Salim Hanna		COL	AIX Racing	
	DNF	Gerrard Xie		CHN	DAMS Lucas Oil	

OVERALL FASTEST LAP

		Matteo De Palo		ITA	TRIDENT	
					1:36.064 (Lap 8)	

OVERALL FASTEST LAP FOR POINTS

		Freddie Slater		GBR	TRIDENT	
					1:36.481 (Lap 24)	

ENDS

About FIA Formula 3:

2019 marked the launch of the FIA Formula 3 Championship. An ambitious new project from the FIA and the former GP3 Series Organisation to form an official third rung of the Road to F1 ladder. Combining GP3 and European F3, the idea was to create a defined entry point for young and ambitious drivers to join the Formula 1 circus, and to give them the chance to take the path to join their heroes in the main paddock. With some of the world's best racing teams on board, and the hottest junior motor racing talent from across the globe filling their race seats, Formula 3 promised to be one of the most exciting championships in motorsport.

Designed as the perfect training ground for both F2, and ultimately, F1, our young drivers must showcase their skills both in speed and in tyre management, just like they will have to do when they move up the motorsport ladder. Notable F3 alumni include 2020 Champion Oscar Piastri, F1 rookie Arvid Lindblad and of course the F1 rookie class of 2024 that included F3 Champion Gabriel Bortoleto, Oliver Bearman,

Franco Colapinto and Isack Hadjar. The Championship benefits from the FIA's excellence in the scrutineering of cars and the overseeing and running of events, while FOM's (Formula One Management) unparalleled expertise in broadcasting and marketing ensures that the Championship has a truly global reach and appeal. 2026 promises to be a thrilling spectacle from start to finish.

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