



PRESS RELEASE

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Clerot earns maiden win in Madrid as Campos Racing seal Teams' title



Pedro Clerot impressively earned his first ever victory in Formula 3 with a dominant performance in the Madrid Feature Race 1. After starting in P2, the Rodin Motorsport driver took the lead off the line and led every lap to take the win ahead of Taito Kato for ART Grand Prix and MP Motorsport's Tuukka Taponen.

With Ugo Ugochukwu in fourth, Ernesto Rivera and Théophile Nael in eighth and ninth, Campos Racing sealed the 2026 Teams' title – while the former went level with Freddie Slater in the Drivers' Championship.

AS IT HAPPENED

It was a great start for Clerot from P2, taking the lead from Kato on the run to Turn 1. Behind them, Taponen held off Ugochukwu to keep third. But a Red Flag was soon waved following a multi-car collision that started between Van Amersfoort Racing teammates Bruno Del Pino and Enzo Deligny at the entry of Turn 8.

This caused several other drivers to hit each other with Maciej Gladysz going into the rear of Fionn McLaughlin, while Fernando Barrichello, Woohyun Shin and José Garfias were also caught up in the incident. TRIDENT's title hopeful Slater also had slight contact with Hiya Yamakoshi at Turn 1. The team used the stoppage to change his and his teammate Noah Stromsted's front wing.

After the pause, Clerot led the field away in a rolling start on Lap 3. Ugochukwu started by putting pressure on Taponen for third place. The race leader was showing great pace and with the fastest lap, put 1.4s between himself and Kato at the start of Lap 5.

Taponen was struggling and was over two seconds away from P2, with Ugochukwu right on the rear on the MP driver. While his title rival was fighting up ahead, Slater locked up into Turn 1 while battling with Yamakoshi for P14. This put Kanato Le on alert, but the British driver held on.

Lap 8 saw a battle for P6 begin with Alessandro Giusti having a look at Rivera at the Turn 5 chicane, but the Campos driver held on. Taponen looked to have steadied the ship with Ugochukwu two seconds behind and coming under pressure from Jin Nakamura.

There was a huge twist in the title fight on Lap 10 as Slater spun and hit the barrier at Turn 19, putting him out of the race and onto the sidelines. Up ahead, Ugochukwu and Nakamura went wheel-to-wheel into Turn 5. The Campos driver narrowly escaped a hit the wall, while the Japanese driver gave the position back after going off track.

The Safety Car was called upon and once Slater's car was cleared, racing resumed on Lap 12, with Clerot and Kato moving away from Taponen once again. The ART driver was within DRS range on the next lap, while Ugochukwu was once again coming under pressure from Nakamura for P4.

Clerot had done well to extend his lead to 1.2s on Lap 17, while Taponen, having set the fastest time of the race, was starting to drop back and into the clutches of Ugochukwu. In the battle for third in the championship, Rivera and Théophile Nael went wheel-to-wheel into Turn 5 on the final lap, with both drivers going off the track.

But at the front, Clerot was untroubled and crossed the line to earn his maiden victory in Formula 3. Kato took P2 ahead of Taponen, while Ugochukwu, by finishing fourth, ties Slater on points heading into Sunday's Feature Race. Nakamura finished fifth ahead of Giusti, Alex Powell and Rivera, with Nael ninth and Wharton taking the final point in P10.

This result also meant Campos Racing sealed the 2026 Teams' Championship, their second consecutive title in Formula 3.

KEY QUOTE – Pedro Clerot, Rodin Motorsport

"I have no words to describe it. We knew it was all about the start, and we nailed it. Thanks to the team for the beautiful car. We were in control since Lap 1, bit of a messy one, glad everyone is okay, it was a big crash. Really happy, cannot thank the team enough. We needed this after Monza, so very happy."

CHAMPIONSHIP STANDINGS

In the Drivers' Championship, Ugo Ugochukwu and Freddie Slater are tied on 141 points, although the former is on top having won more races. Taito Kato moves up to third on 91 points, ahead of Théophile Nael on 88 points and Ernesto Rivera on 85.

In the Teams' Standings, Campos Racing sealed the title on 314

points, with TRIDENT second on 213. ART Grand Prix are up to third on 177, with Van Amersfoort Racing fourth on 162, and tied on points with MP Motorsport.

UP NEXT

The Drivers' Championship will come down to Sunday's Feature Race, the final piece of action in the 2026 season. Lights out is set for 09:55 local time.

There is plenty to play for in the fight for the championship podium and also funding for the top five drivers that will graduate to Formula 2 in 2027.

FIA Formula 3 - Madrid - Provisional Classification - Feature Race 1

	DRIVER	TEAM
1	Pedro Clerot	Rodin Motorsport
2	Taito Kato	ART Grand Prix
3	Tuukka Taponen	MP Motorsport
4	Ugo Ugochukwu	Campos Racing
5	Jin Nakamura	Hitech
6	Alessandro Giusti	MP Motorsport
7	Alex Powell	PREMA Racing
8	Ernesto Rivera	Campos Racing
9	Theophile Nael	Campos Racing
10	James Wharton	PREMA Racing
11	Yevan David	AIX Racing
12	Mattia Colnaghi	MP Motorsport
13	Kanato Le	ART Grand Prix
14	Matteo De Palo	TRIDENT
15	Hiyu Yamakoshi	Van Amersfoort Racing
16	Noah Stromsted	TRIDENT
17	Brando Badoer	Rodin Motorsport
18	Niccolo Maccagnani	Rodin Motorsport
19	N. Bhirombhakdi	DAMS Lucas Oil
20	Nicola Lacorte	DAMS Lucas Oil

NOT CLASSIFIED

DNF	Freddie Slater	TRIDENT
DNF	Fionn McLaughlin	Hitech
DNF	Enzo Deligny	Van Amersfoort Racing
DNF	Bruno Del Pino	Van Amersfoort Racing

DNF	Maciej Gladysz	ART Grand Prix
DNF	Jose Garfias	PREMA Racing
DNF	Woohyun Shin	Hitech
DNF	Fernando Barrichello	AIX Racing

OVERALL FASTEST LAP

Tuukka Taponen	MP Motorsport
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1:51.762

OVERALL FASTEST LAP FOR POINTS

Tuukka Taponen	MP Motorsport
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1:51.762

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.