



PRESS RELEASE

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Yamakoshi earns maiden F3 win in Monte Carlo after Red Flag



Hiyu Yamakoshi converted reverse grid pole into a first victory in FIA Formula 3, winning the Monte Carlo Sprint Race.

After an early Red Flag, the Van Amersfoort Racing driver controlled the race from the front to lead home Gerrard Xie of DAMS Lucas Oil, and teammate Bruno del Pino in P3.

AS IT HAPPENED

Yamakoshi got the start he needed to retain the lead into Turn 1 ahead

of Xie. Pedro Clerot went through the run-off and maintained third ahead of del Pino. Into the hairpin and there was contact involving several cars, with Brad Benavides, Tuukka Taponen, Christian Ho and Brando Badoer left on the sidelines.

With multiple cars in need of recovering, the Safety Car was called upon before the end of the opening lap before a Red Flag was thrown on Lap 2 to clear the track. Once the circuit was clear, the race was now running to time, with 21 minutes of action on the clock.

Clerot's skip across Turn 1 at the original race start meant he was told to hand the position over to del Pino at the restart, and he obliged on the exit of the first corner. Yamakoshi retained P1 but Xie remained in touching distance, less than half a second back from the leader.

With 17 minutes left of the Sprint, there was more contact at the hairpin to bring out another Safety Car. Ernesto Rivera, Freddie Slater and Théophile Nael came to blows after an overtake attempt from the TRIDENT driver tipped Rivera into a spin, leaving Nael nowhere to go. All three were able to rejoin the action but down the back of the pack and Slater was subsequently handed a 10-second time penalty for causing the collision.

Yamakoshi got racing back underway once more with 14 minutes left on the clock, the Japanese driver able to keep Xie and teammate del Pino at bay. With seven minutes to go, there was a brief Virtual Safety Car to recover some debris on the exit of the swimming pool chicane.

Race leader Yamakoshi established an almost two-second gap as racing went back to green flag conditions, as the DAMS driver faced pressure from del Pino to keep hold of P2. With the top four locked in a DRS train, overtaking was at a premium, leaving Yamakoshi to take his maiden victory in FIA Formula 3 and Van Amersfoort's first in Monaco.

Xie held on for his first F3 podium ahead of del Pino who ensured VAR had two drivers on the podium for the second successive Sprint in

2026. Clerot wound up fourth ahead of Alessandro Giusti, Noah Stromsted, Ugo Ugochukwu, Jin Nakamura, Maciej Gladysz and Kanato Le in the points and top 10.

KEY QUOTE – Hiyu Yamakoshi, Van Amersfoort Racing

“So special to win here. Even if it’s a Sprint Race, it feels great. A win’s a win! Now I’m a Monaco winner, which is such a special thing. It’s a dream come true and I’m so happy about this result.”

THE CHAMPIONSHIP STANDINGS

Ugo Ugochukwu remains at the head of the Drivers’ Championship, going onto 30 points. Bruno del Pino is P2 after another podium, going onto 26 points. Freddie Slater remains third on 18 points, with Taito Kato fourth on 16 and Enzo Deligny fifth with 12.

Having arrived in Monaco with the lead of the Teams’ Standings for the very first time, Van Amersfoort Racing extend their advantage at the top. The Dutch squad lead on 48 points, with Campos Racing second on 32. ART Grand Prix are third on 29, TRIDENT fourth on 25 and Rodin Motorsport complete the top five with 14.

UP NEXT

The FIA Formula 3 Feature Race is scheduled to get underway at 07:45 local time on Sunday morning, with Théophile Nael going from pole position.

FIA Formula 3 - Monte Carlo - Provisional Classification - Sprint Race

	DRIVER	LICENCE	TEAM	
1	Hiyu Yamakoshi	JPN	Van Amersfoort Racing	
2	Gerrard Xie	CHN	DAMS Lucas Oil	
3	Bruno Del Pino	ESP	Van Amersfoort Racing	
4	Pedro Clerot	BRA	Rodin Motorsport	
5	Alessandro Giusti	FRA	MP Motorsport	
6	Noah Stromsted	DEN	TRIDENT	
7	Ugo Ugochukwu	USA	Campos Racing	
8	Jin Nakamura	JPN	Hitech	
9	Maciej Gladysz	POL	ART Grand Prix	

10	Kanato Le	JPN	ART Grand Prix	
11	Nicola Lacorte	ITA	DAMS Lucas Oil	
12	Matteo De Palo	ITA	TRIDENT	
13	Louis Sharp	NZL	PREMA Racing	
14	Woohyun Shin	KOR	Hitech	
15	Enzo Deligny	FRA	Van Amersfoort Racing	
16	Jose Garfias	MEX	PREMA Racing	
17	Mattia Colnaghi	ARG	MP Motorsport	
18	Nandhavud Bhirombhakdi	THA	DAMS Lucas Oil	
19	Fernando Barrichello	BRA	AIX Racing	
20	Yevan David	SRI	AIX Racing	
21	Fionn McLaughlin	IRL	Hitech	
22	James Wharton	AUS	PREMA Racing	
23	Taito Kato	JPN	ART Grand Prix	
24	Freddie Slater	GBR	TRIDENT	
25	Theophile Nael	FRA	Campos Racing	

NOT CLASSIFIED

DNF	Ernesto Rivera	MEX	Campos Racing	
DNF	Tuukka Taponen	FIN	MP Motorsport	
DNF	Brando Badoer	ITA	Rodin Motorsport	
DNF	Christian Ho	SGP	Rodin Motorsport	
DNF	Brad Benavides	USA	AIX Racing	

OVERALL FASTEST LAP

	James Wharton	AUS	PREMA Racing	
			1:25.227 (Lap 16)	

OVERALL FASTEST LAP FOR POINTS

	Ugo Ugochukwu	USA	Campos Racing	
			1:25.428 (lap 15)	

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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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