



PRESS RELEASE

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Nael flies to Monte Carlo pole ahead of Badoer



Campos Racing's Théophile Nael secured his second Aramco Pole Position Award of the season, finishing P1 in Group B on a 1:24.471. Brando Badoer was fastest in Group A, but the Rodin Motorsport driver's time was just over a tenth shy of Nael's best effort, leaving the Campos driver with the most coveted pole of the season.

GROUP A

The even-numbered cars headed out for the first segment of the session and Championship leader Ugochukwu set the early pace on a 1:31.081 as the built laps continued. A 1:26.367 from the Campos driver brought the time to beat down, and Noah Stromsted was able to displace him despite an error in the penultimate corner by 0.018s. Tuukka Taponen went up to third for MP Motorsport, leaving the top three split by just 0.041s at the halfway stage.

Taito Kato delivered a 1:25.988 to become the next driver to take top spot provisionally, until Ugochukwu and then Badoer bettered that time. The Italian laid down a 1:25.287 to take top spot going into the final five minutes. Kato improved on his next lap to cut the deficit to 0.190s as the track continued to improve. Ugochukwu got to within 0.060s of the Rodin driver, who abandoned his next lap after an error.

Taponen then found a personal best in sectors one and two to go up to provisional pole on a 1:25.242 with less than two minutes remaining. With the chequered flag waving, Ugochukwu found one final improvement to go P1 but that was usurped by Badoer as he returned to provisional pole setting a 1:24.612, three-and-a-half tenths quicker than the rest.

GROUP B

While the majority of Group B headed straight out onto circuit, TRIDENT opted to hold Freddie Slater in order to get some clear air. The second set of drivers chose to run more preparation laps before serious attempts were made, and it was Théophile Nael that led the way with half the session to go on a 1:25.729.

Maciej Gladysz was the first to bring the times down, going to P1 on a 1:25.575 until Slater bettered that as he dipped underneath the 1:25s on a 1:24.986. Slater improved in the first sector with three minutes to go, but slight contact with the barriers at Turn 7 left him with front wing endplate damage and he had to abandon the lap.

Behind the Briton, Nael was flying heading towards the final two minutes, and despite his own contact with the barriers at the final corner, set provisional pole on a 1:24.552. With the clock at zero, Slater delivered a purple middle sector, but an untidy final section left him second in Group B.

Nael found even more time to take pole in Monaco on a 1:24.471. Campos teammate Ernesto Rivera wound up third in Group B on his F3 Qualifying debut to cap off a positive day for the Spanish team. With the grid aggregated together, Nael will have Badoer alongside him on the front row on Sunday, with Slater going from third ahead of Ugochukwu in P4, and Rivera fifth.

The Monte Carlo Sprint Race is scheduled to get underway at 10:45 local time on Saturday, with Hiyu Yamakoshi set to start from reverse grid pole.

FIA Formula 3 - Monte Carlo - Provisional Classification - Qualifying

GROUP A

	DRIVER	LICENCE	TEAM	LAPTIME
1	Brando Badoer	ITA	Rodin Motorsport	1:24.612
2	Ugo Ugochukwu	USA	Campos Racing	1:24.963
3	Tuukka Taponen	FIN	MP Motorsport	1:25.242
4	Bruno Del Pino	ESP	Van Amersfoort Racing	1:25.308
5	Noah Stromsted	DEN	TRIDENT	1:25.332
6	Hiyu Yamakoshi	JPN	Van Amersfoort Racing	1:25.352
7	Taito Kato	JPN	ART Grand Prix	1:25.477
8	Louis Sharp	NZL	PREMA Racing	1:25.693
9	Nandhavud Bhirombhakdi	THA	DAMS Lucas Oil	1:25.878
10	Brad Benavides	USA	AIX Racing	1:25.890
11	Kanato Le	JPN	ART Grand Prix	1:26.014
12	Matteo De Palo	ITA	TRIDENT	1:26.208
13	Jose Garfias	MEX	PREMA Racing	1:26.293
14	Fionn Mclaughlin	IRL	Hitech	1:26.387
15	Fernando Barrichello	BRA	AIX Racing	1:26.820

GROUP B

	DRIVER	LICENCE	TEAM	LAPTIME
1	Theophile Nael	FRA	Campos Racing	1:24.471
2	Freddie Slater	GBR	TRIDENT	1:24.877
3	Ernesto Rivera	MEX	Campos Racing	1:24.882
4	Alessandro Giusti	FRA	MP Motorsport	1:25.028
5	Pedro Clerot	BRA	Rodin Motorsport	1:25.129
6	Gerrard Xie	CHN	DAMS Lucas Oil	1:25.212
7	Maciej Gladysz	POL	ART Grand Prix	1:25.214
8	Jin Nakamura	JPN	Hitech	1:25.271

	9	Nicola Lacorte		ITA	DAMS Lucas Oil		1:25.308	
	10	Christian Ho		SGP	Rodin Motorsport		1:25.479	
	11	Enzo Deligny		FRA	Van Amersfoort Racing		1:25.480	
	12	Yevan David		SRI	AIX Racing		1:25.520	
	13	James Wharton		AUS	PREMA Racing		1:25.649	
	14	Mattia Colnaghi		ARG	MP Motorsport		1:25.919	
	15	Woohyun Shin		KOR	Hitech		1:26.223	

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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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