



PRESS RELEASE

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Sensational Lacorte takes emotional maiden victory on home soil



Nicola Lacorte put in an outstanding performance to take victory on home soil at the Monza Feature Race, DAMS Lucas Oil's first in the FIA Formula 3 Championship. The Italian came through from P3 to take the lead and could not be caught once he did. Lacorte went on to win ahead of MP Motorsport's Tuukka Taponen and Taito Kato for ART Grand Prix.

In the title fight, Freddie Slater retired with an issue, while Ugo Ugochukwu went from the back of the field to eighth, with 15 points now separating the top two going to the final round in Madrid.

AS IT HAPPENED

It was a great start for polesitter Slater, while Kanato Le held Lacorte off in the opening few corners to maintain second place. Behind them, Ernesto Rivera overtook Kato for P5, with Alessandro Giusti right on the back of the Sprint Race winner.

Further back, Ugochukwu was spun around at Turn 1 after being hit in the rear by Campos Racing teammate Théophile Nael. This dropped the American from P19 to P29. With the DRS activated, Le was right on the back of Slater on Lap 3, but the Safety Car halted his hopes of an overtake. Fionn McLaughlin collided with Nandhavud Bhirombhakdi at the opening corner, bringing an end to the Hitech driver's race.

Racing resumed on Lap 5 and Slater led the field away, with Kato going around the outside of Lacorte at Turn 1 to take P4. Pedro Clerot then did the same move on Taponen for P7. ART were flying once again, as Le used the DRS to get ahead of Slater. Kato then did the same on Rivera for P3, with Lacorte following him through.

The Championship leader lost a lot of time to Le, and going into the Roggia chicane, Kato took second place from him, as Lacorte relegated him to fourth a few corners later. Campos' day was going from bad to worse as Rivera, having hit the rear of Lacorte at the Ascari chicane, had a damaged front wing, with the team bringing him in on Lap 8.

Lacorte was now the driver on the move, overtaking Kato for second, and closing the gap to Le to 0.7s. Slater's struggles continued as Taponen got ahead of the TRIDENT at Turn 1. On to Lap 9, and Nael was given a 10-second time penalty for the incident with Ugochukwu. Moments later, he came into the pitlane to change a damaged front wing after hitting the rear of Noah Stromsted at the second chicane.

Lap 10 saw another change for the lead as Lacorte took P1 from Le,

with Kato then relegating his teammate to P3 at Turn 1. Taponen was next to charge through, as he made a double overtake on Le and Kato to get up to second. His MP teammate Alessandro Giusti then overtook Slater down the main straight, with Hiyo Yamakoshi relegating the TRIDENT to seventh.

In the title fight, the British driver was on the radio saying he had to retire the car with an issue, as Ugochukwu, having been spun to the back of the field, was up to P14 at the start of Lap 13. The American gained a position after Jin Nakamura ran through the gravel and spun at the final corner. The hitech driver was able to continue on but dropped to P22.

Slater's fears of an issue were true as his rear right tyre came off at the Ascari chicane, causing him to stop on track. Rivera also parked his car at Turn 1 with an issue. With both cars needing to be cleared, the Safety Car was brought out. Racing was back underway on Lap 17 as the leading drivers maintained position, while Ugochukwu gained two places, going from 13th to 11th – and on the edge of the points.

Lacorte had done a great job, as he was 0.7s clear of Taponen, who was 1.4s ahead of Kato going on to Lap 18. Yevan David was once again flying and got up to fifth at Parabolica after overtaking Giusti at the final corner.

Ugochukwu was into the top 10 on Lap 20, overtaking Enzo Deligny, while Lacorte was 0.9s clear of Taponen, with the MP driver struggling to stay within DRS range. But with Fernando Barrichello having stopped on track at Turn 1, the yellow flags were out, with the DRS now disabled.

On to the final lap, and Taponen was struggling to reel in Lacorte, as David overtook Le for P4 at the final corner. But at the front, it was a first FIA Formula 3 victory for Lacorte – who became the first Italian to win on home soil and the 13th different winner of the season to set a new F3 record.

Taponen achieved MP's first podium of the season in P2, while Kato followed up his Sprint victory with a third place. David was fourth ahead of Le, with Yamakoshi sixth ahead of Stromsted. Ugochukwu put in a sublime drive from last to finish in eighth, as Deligny took P9 ahead of James Wharton.

KEY QUOTE – Nicola Lacorte, DAMS Lucas Oil

"I knew I was going to be fast here in Monza but I didn't expect to win. The race was just perfect, good pace, that's we deserve, since the beginning of the year, to show what the team and I are capable of."

CHAMPIONSHIP STANDINGS

Freddie Slater continues to lead the Drivers' Championship on 141 points, while Ugo Ugochukwu closes the deficit in second, going onto 126 points. In third is Ernesto Rivera with 76 points, one ahead of teammate Théophile Nael while Brando Badoer and Taito Kato are level on points in fifth and sixth places with 71 apiece.

In the Teams' Standings, Campos Racing remain at the top with 277 ahead of TRIDENT with 213. ART Grand Prix and Van Amersfoort Racing are level on 155 points, while MP Motorsport complete the top five with 131.

UP NEXT

The drivers will now head to Madrid for the final round of the season, with the Spanish venue hosting an extra race from September 11-13. .

FIA Formula 3 - Monza - Provisional Classification - Feature Race

1	Nicola Lacorte	ITA	DAMS Lucas Oil
2	Tuukka Taponen	FIN	MP Motorsport
3	Taito Kato	JPN	ART Grand Prix
4	Yevan David	LKA	AIX Racing
5	Kanato Le	JPN	ART Grand Prix
6	Hiyu Yamakoshi	JPN	Van Amersfoort Racing
7	Noah Stromsted	DNK	TRIDENT

8	Ugo Ugochukwu	USA	Campos Racing
9	Enzo Deligny	FRA	Van Amersfoort Racing
10	James Wharton	AUS	PREMA Racing
11	Jose Garfias	MEX	PREMA Racing
12	Bruno Del Pino	ESP	Van Amersfoort Racing
13	Christian Ho	SGP	Rodin Motorsport
14	Alex Powell	USA	PREMA Racing
15	Ricardo Escotto	MEX	AIX Racing
16	Matteo De Palo	ITA	TRIDENT
17	Theophile Nael	FRA	Campos Racing
18	N. Bhirombhakdi	THA	DAMS Lucas Oil
19	Maciej Gladysz	POL	ART Grand Prix
20	Mattia Colnaghi	ITA	MP Motorsport
21	Jin Nakamura	JPN	Hitech
22	Pedro Clerot	BRA	Rodin Motorsport
23	Woohyun Shin	KOR	Hitech
24	Brando Badoer	ITA	Rodin Motorsport

NOT CLASSIFIED

DNF	Alessandro Giusti	FRA	MP Motorsport
DNF	Fernando Barrichello	BRA	AIX Racing
DNF	Freddie Slater	GBR	TRIDENT
DNF	Ernesto Rivera	GTM	Campos Racing
DNF	Fionn McLaughlin	IRL	Hitech
DNF	Gerrard Xie	CHN	DAMS Lucas Oil

OVERALL FASTEST LAP

Bruno Del Pino	ESP	Van Amersfoort Racing
1:39.525 (Lap 8)		

OVERALL FASTEST LAP FOR POINTS

Enzo Deligny	FRA	Van Amersfoort Racing
1:39.636 (Lap 8)		

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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