



PRESS RELEASE

19.07.2026

Rivera wins with charging drive at Spa



Ernesto Rivera was unstoppable on Sunday, claiming the Feature Race victory with an impressive drive to the top step. The Campos Racing driver started from fourth on the grid, but was patient in the early stages before picking off his rivals to move into the lead past halfway, and was uncatchable from there.

Hiyu Yamakoshi claimed P2 for Van Amersfoort Racing, while Freddie Slater wound up third in the TRIDENT, as he cut the gap to Ugo Ugochukwu down to a single point in the Championship.

AS IT HAPPENED

Slater got a poor start from pole and it was Tuukka Taponen that led the field by Turn 1. Yamakoshi followed the Finn through to take second, while the polesitter recovered enough momentum to emerge from the first corner in third. Yamakoshi then went wheel-to-wheel with Taponen approaching Les Combes and the Japanese driver swept into the lead of the race at Turn 5.

Ugochukwu ran into the gravel on the exit of Turn 7 after contact with teammate Theophile Nael. The Frenchman sustained front wing damage following earlier touch with ART Grand Prix's Taito Kato approaching Turn 5, and that caused him to understeer towards the Championship leader. Nael subsequently pitted for repairs, while Ugochukwu was left down in 10th position. The Safety Car was deployed at the end of the first lap with AIX Racing's Yevan David in the gravel.

Racing resumed entering Lap 4 and Yamakoshi suffered a big slide at the penultimate corner to leave him under pressure from Taponen. But it was Slater on the move, diving to the inside of the Finn at La Source, though the MP driver was able to hold onto second with a better exit. With DRS re-enabled on Lap 6, Ugochukwu completed a pass on Rodin Motorsport's Christian Ho, claiming P9 ahead of Turn 5 with the slipstream.

Lap 7 and Slater reproduced his title rival's move, taking P2 from Taponen on the run to Turn 5. One lap later and the TRIDENT driver was back into the lead of the race with a move into Les Combes on Yamakoshi.

Onto Lap 9 and behind the leaders, Rivera dived to the inside of Taponen to claim third place at Turn 5. However, there was slight contact with the right-rear tyre of Yamakoshi, leaving the Campos with a missing front wing endplate. Taponen was wide out of Turn 1 at the start of Lap 10, allowing Mattia Colnaghi to move ahead for fourth place on the run to Eau Rouge.

Fellow Red Bull Junior Team driver Rivera was up to second at Turn

5, repeating his move from the previous lap on Yamakoshi. Lap 11 and Taponen was down to P6 as a charging Maciej Gladysz put himself into the top five at Turn 5. Ugochukwu dropped out of the points as Brando Badoer put a move on the American.

Bruno Del Pino and Jin Nakamura completed moves on the Campos driver at the start of Lap 12, while Rivera was on the attack with DRS up front. He cleared Slater on the run to Turn 5 to claim the lead of the race. One lap later and Yamakoshi was attacking, clearing Slater after the Briton dropped out of DRS range to Rivera ahead.

Entering the penultimate lap and the fight for the lower points places was hotting up, as Alessandro Giusti, Jin Nakamura and Badoer exchanging places in eighth, ninth and 10th positions. After taking the lead, nobody could catch Rivera, who claimed his maiden Feature Race victory and second win overall in his rookie season.

Yamakoshi claimed P2, while Slater was able to remain in the podium positions to take third. Conaghi held Gladysz at bay on the final tour in the fight for fourth, while Kato finished P6. Nakamura won the three-car fight with Giusti and Badoer, with the trio rounding out the points down to 10th place.

KEY QUOTE – Ernesto Rivera, Campos Racing

"In the end we managed to win it. A super fun race, a lot of overtaking, a lot of degradation but we managed to fight well, so super happy with this result."

THE CHAMPIONSHIP STANDINGS

Ugo Ugochukwu remains the Championship leader on 104 points, but Freddie Slater is right behind him now on 103. Theophile Nael remains third on 65 points with Noah Stromsted fourth on 58. Ernesto Rivera's win moves him into the top five with 56 points.

Campos Racing lead the Teams' Standings on 225 points ahead of TRIDENT on 168 and Van Amersfoort Racing on 131. ART Grand Prix is fourth on 110 points with Rodin Motorsport fifth on 99 points.

UP NEXT

FIA Formula 3 is back in action right away with a trip to the Hungaroring for Round 7 of the 2026 campaign. Join us in Budapest from July 24-26.

FIA Formula 3 - Spa-Francorchamps - Provisional Classification - Feature Race

1	Ernesto Rivera	MEX	Campos Racing	
2	Hiyu Yamakoshi	JPN	Van Amersfoort Racing	
3	Freddie Slater	GBR	TRIDENT	
4	Mattia Colnaghi	ARG	MP Motorsport	
5	Maciej Gladysz	POL	ART Grand Prix	
6	Taito Kato	JPN	ART Grand Prix	
7	Tuukka Taponen	FIN	MP Motorsport	
8	Jin Nakamura	JPN	Hitech	
9	Alessandro Giusti	FRA	MP Motorsport	
10	Brando Badoer	ITA	Rodin Motorsport	
11	Noah Stromsted	DEN	TRIDENT	
12	Nicola Lacorte	ITA	DAMS Lucas Oil	
13	Bruno Del Pino	ESP	Van Amersfoort Racing	
14	Pedro Clerot	BRA	Rodin Motorsport	
15	Fionn McLaughlin	IRL	Hitech	
16	Theophile Nael	FRA	Campos Racing	
17	Louis Sharp	NZL	PREMA Racing	
18	James Wharton	AUS	PREMA Racing	
19	Kanato Le	JPN	ART Grand Prix	
20	Woohyun Shin	KOR	Hitech	
21	Ugo Ugochukwu	USA	Campos Racing	
22	Gerrard Xie	CHN	DAMS Lucas Oil	
23	Jose Garfias	MEX	PREMA Racing	
24	Enzo Deligny	FRA	Van Amersfoort Racing	
25	Christian Ho	SGP	Rodin Motorsport	
26	Ricardo Escotto	MEX	AIX Racing	

NOT CLASSIFIED

DNF	Fernando Barrichello	BRA	AIX Racing	
DNF	Matteo De Palo	ITA	TRIDENT	
DNF	Yevan David	SRI	AIX Racing	
DNF	Nandhavud Bhirombhakdi	THA	DAMS Lucas Oil	

OVERALL FASTEST LAP

Ugo Ugochukwu	USA	Campos Racing	
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2:06.762 (Lap 6)

OVERALL FASTEST LAP FOR POINTS

| Taito Kato

| JPN

| **ART Grand Prix**

2:07.055 (Lap 6)

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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