

Sunday 23 July 2023

O'Sullivan flawless in Budapest to ignite title challenge

From lights out to the chequered flag, Zak O'Sullivan was in complete control throughout the 19 laps of action at the Hungaroring. Nailing his getaway and extending his lead lap-by-lap, the Briton secured his third win of the 2023 campaign, elevating him up five places into the Championship hunt and second in the Standings.

Dino Beganovic ran his own race, finishing comfortably in second to complete a 1-2 finish for PREMA Racing. MP Motorsport's Franco Colapinto got the move done in the opening phase from fourth on the grid to complete the podium in third.

AS IT HAPPENED

O'Sullivan wasted no time breaking clear out front, bolting off the line to cover off his teammate Beganovic on the run down into Turn 1. The Swede's attention was on his mirrors to keep Leonardo Fornaroli at bay.

Oliver Goethe tried to swoop around the outside of Colapinto, but the MP Motorsport driver fought back to cling on to fourth. Having lost P6 off the line, Paul Aron muscled his way past Jonny Edgar through Turn 3.

Gabriel Bortoleto found himself in a DRS train early on but utilised the slipstream to breeze past Jonny Edgar for seventh on Lap 6.

After a disappointing Qualifying, Josep María Martí was on a redemption charge from 13th on the grid. The Spaniard moved up into the points, quickly dispatching Campos Racing teammate Christian Mansell along with Edgar on Lap 8 to move up into eighth.

Colapinto wrestled the final spot on the podium away from Fornaroli on Lap 9, sending a move up the inside and forcing the Italian to defend from fellow Trident driver Goethe.

One lap later and the #6 car got the job done, as Goethe swept around the outside at Turn 2, with Fornaroli then dropping further back behind Aron and into sixth on Lap 12.

Championship rivals Bortoleto and Martí squared off against each other for seventh. The #23 Campos tried to pass the Brazilian at Turn 1, but a huge lock-up send him sailing wide across the run-off. Eventually able to get through later that lap, he then cleared a second Trident in quick succession, stealing the apex at Turn 2 to relieve Fornaroli of sixth.

CONTINUES

Edgar began hounding Mansell at the tail end of the points. Mansell suffered a lock up into Turn 1 on Lap 18, allowing the Briton to breeze through, with his MP teammate Mari Boya taking advantage to demote him out of the top 10.

With just three laps remaining, Bortoleto didn't face a hard fight as he overtook teammate Fornaroli for seventh.

Out front, O'Sullivan had been in a league of his own, extending his advantage lap-by-lap to take the win by 2.3 seconds to Beganovic and equal the all-time winning record in Formula 3, with his third victory of the season and fourth in F3. Colapinto finished 6.8 seconds clear of fourth-placed Goethe.

Aron claimed back-to-back top five finishes, as Martí's storming charge was rewarded with sixth ahead of Bortoleto. Edgar wrestled eighth away from Fornaroli on the final lap, as Boya rounded out the top 10 points scorers.

KEY QUOTE – Zak O'Sullivan, PREMA Racing

"A really good race, tyre degradation has been really high all weekend, so it was kind of a race of management. As a team we've had really good pace all weekend, so I built a gap early on. It got a bit tricky towards the end as the tyres started to fall off, but an awesome weekend for myself and the team with a 1-2. Looking forward to Spa."

THE CHAMPIONSHIP STANDINGS

Gabriel Bortoleto stands on the cusp of Championship glory as his 13th consecutive points-scoring finish moves him up to 144 points. Zak O'Sullivan is now his nearest rival, with victory increasing the PREMA Racing driver's tally to 101, nudging one point ahead of Josep María Martí. Paul Aron remains in fourth, tied with teammate Dino Beganovic on 94.

PREMA Racing have taken back control of the Teams' Standings with a 15-point advantage on 289. Trident drop to second on 274, whilst Hitech Pulse-Eight extend their stay in third on 154.

UP NEXT

The 2023 Formula 3 grid are straight back into action next weekend, as the Championship heads to Spa-Francorchamps for Round 9 from 28-30 July.

CONTINUES

2023 FIA FORMULA 3 CHAMPIONSHIP – ROUND 8 FEATURE RACE PROVISIONAL CLASSIFICATION

	DRIVER	LICENCE	TEAM
1	Zak O'Sullivan	GBR	PREMA Racing
2	Dino Beganovic	SWE	PREMA Racing
3	Franco Colapinto	ARG	MP Motorsport
4	Oliver Goethe	DEU	Trident
5	Paul Aron	EST	PREMA Racing
6	Josep María Martí	ESP	Campos Racing
7	Gabriel Bortoleto	BRA	Trident
8	Jonny Edgar	GBR	MP Motorsport
9	Leonardo Fornaroli	ITA	Trident
10	Mari Boya	ESP	MP Motorsport
11	Christian Mansell	GBR	Campos Racing
12	Luke Browning	GBR	Hitech Pulse-Eight
13	Hugh Barter	AUS	Campos Racing
14	Taylor Barnard	GBR	Jenzer Motorsport
15	Grégoire Saucy	CHE	ART Grand Prix
16	Gabriele Minì	ITA	Hitech Pulse-Eight
17	Rafael Villagómez	MEX	Van Amersfoort Racing
18	Sophia Floersch	DEU	PHM Racing by Charouz
19	Caio Collet	BRA	Van Amersfoort Racing
20	Roberto Faria	BRA	PHM Racing by Charouz
21	Maxwell Esterson	USA	Rodin Carlin
22	Ido Cohen	ISR	Rodin Carlin
23	Nikita Bedrin	ITA	Jenzer Motorsport
24	Sebastian Montoya	COL	Hitech Pulse-Eight
25	Nikola Tsolov	BGR	ART Grand Prix
26	Alejandro García	MEX	Jenzer Motorsport
27	Oliver Gray	GBR	Rodin Carlin
28	Woohyun Shin	KOR	PHM Racing by Charouz
29	Tommy Smith	AUS	Van Amersfoort Racing

NOT CLASSIFIED

DNF	Kaylen Frederick	USA	ART Grand Prix
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OVERALL FASTEST LAP

Zak O'Sullivan	GBR	PREMA Racing
1:35.685 (Lap 3)		

FASTEST LAP ELIGIBLE FOR POINTS

Zak O'Sullivan	GBR	PREMA Racing
1:35.685 (Lap 3)		



MEDIA RELEASE

ENDS

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