Pourchaire becomes first double winner of 2020, taking Budapest Race 1 victory

Formula 3's youngest race winner Théo Pourchaire became the Championship's first double winner of the season, taking a resounding Race 1 victory at the Hungaroring by a mega margin of 11.9s over Championship leader Oscar Piastri.

For the second race in a row, Pourchaire was handed first when the race leaders collided in front of him, but there would be no safety car escort to the chequered flag, as he enjoyed in Spielberg. Polesitter Alex Smolyar and Logan Sargeant came to blows from the front row into Turn 1 on the opening lap of the race.

With more than 20 laps to go, and Championship leader Piastri directly behind him, Pourchaire had to display nerves of steel. Pulling away at a rate of a second a lap, he displayed a maturity well beyond his tender age of 16.

Despite his involvement in the Lap 1 incident, Sargeant was able to cling onto third and kept MP Motorsport pairing Bent Viscaal and Richard Verschoor at bay behind him, with the Dutch duo more focused on squabbling amongst themselves.

Clément Novalak was mightily impressive around the Hungaroring, making the most of the chaos around him to climb 17 positions for ninth place. Behind him, David Beckmann recovered well from a difficult Qualifying session to climb four places and take the final points position, and reverse grid pole.

AS IT HAPPENED

Rain had continued to fall overnight in Budapest, stopping in time for the race, but this left the track in a damp and dusky condition for F3, and it showed at the start.

Polesitter Smolyar had initially made a strong getaway but was thrown out of contention when Sargeant lost the rear of his car at Turn 1. The American just couldn't find the grip as he entered the corner and collided with the front wing of the Frenchman's ART machine.

Calan Williams and Frederik Vesti were caught up in the collision and ended up tangled into one another at the corner as well, ending their races.

<div align="center">**CONTINUES**</div>

Smolyar and Sargeant managed to get going again despite the damage. The American somehow held on to third, but Smolyar fell to the back of the field.

The safety car was deployed as the damage and debris were cleared off the track. When action resumed, Pourchaire kept the lead, but the running was once again halted after the rear of Liam Lawson's car caught fire, leaving a trail of oil from Turn 1 to Turn 2.

The race was red flagged to allow the marshals to clear up the oil and get the race back underway behind the safety car. The added wait allowed the track to dry that little bit more and Pourchaire was able to get away cleanly when the SC headed back in. Piastri did have a look down the inside but opted to air on the side of caution and sat behind.

Pourchaire set two fastest laps in a row to increase his margin at the front of the field to 1.7s, as DRS was enabled.

With the win quickly slipping away from him, Piastri's focus was forced to switch to defending second from his teammate, Sargeant. The American wasn't safe himself: he was stuck in a DRS train with Fernandez, Verschoor and Viscaal. Verschoor made the first move, taking the inside line to pass Fernandez into fourth, and he was followed through by Viscaal.

Sargeant managed to pull away from the battling cars behind, but Piastri was struggling. The Australian had changed two of his tyres during the red flag period and hadn't quite got them up to temperature. Piastri also didn't have the advantage of DRS that those behind him did, with Pourchaire pulling further and further ahead in front of him, increasing the gap to a massive 10s.

Piastri would hold on though, and the only change to the order on the final laps was for fourth, as Viscaal dived ahead of Verschoor at the very last opportunity, on the final lap.

Pourchaire coolly crossed the line first ahead of Piastri and Sargeant, with Viscaal in fourth and Verschoor fifth. Fernandez took sixth ahead of Alex Peroni, Dennis Hauger, Novalak and David Beckmann.

Piastri holds on to the Championship lead with 62 points, ahead of Sargeant in second on 49. Pourchaire's win lifts him to third, six points behind. Vesti and Verschoor complete the top five. PREMA retain P1 in the Teams' Championship, on 148.5 points, ahead of Trident on 68.5. ART are third, followed by MP Motorsport and Hitech Grand Prix.

CONTINUES

KEY QUOTE – THÉO POURCHAIRE (ART GRAND PRIX)

"I am really happy to win my second race in Formula 3 - the second race in a row. It is Race 1 this time, so it comes with more points. I qualified in P3 and had a really good start. I was P1 all of the race, and at the end I was quite fast. I want to thank the team for the car and thank Sauber Academy as well."

WHAT'S NEXT?

Beckmann will be looking to add a race win to his collection of podiums for Trident, when the German starts on reverse grid pole in Race 2 tomorrow, at 9.45am.

ENDS

Doohan handed post-Race 1 penalty

18 July 2020

Jack Doohan has been given a three-place grid drop for Race 2 tomorrow in Budapest, following a collision with Lirim Zendeli in Race 1 this morning.

The stewards considered the matter extensively, and determined that the HWA RACELAB driver misjudged his speed and the track conditions, and was therefore at fault for the collision.

Doohan went on the kerbs inside Turn 8 to overtake Lirim Zendeli, but due to the slippery conditions, and his speed, he lost control on the apex and slid into the Trident driver, who was on the outside of the track.

Both drivers retired from the race and Doohan will now start Race 2 from the back of the grid.

Sargeant loses podium with a post-Race 1 time penalty

18 July 2020

Logan Sargeant has been handed a five-second time penalty following today's Race 1 in Budapest and thus drops from third to P6.

Sargeant went off track at Turn 5 and then overtook Liam Lawson. The stewards have examined video evidence and determined that he gained a lasting advantage by going off track, and should have handed the position back to Lawson.

The PREMA racer's penalty drops him from third to sixth, promoting Bent Viscaal in third for his first ever F3 podium. Richard Verschoor and Sebastian Fernández also all move up a place.

Sargeant loses seven points and falls to third in the drivers' standings behind Race 1 Théo Pourchaire and his PREMA teammate Oscar Piastri.