

Sunday 31 July 2022

Smolyar victorious from pole in Budapest

Alexander Smolyar kept a cool head to win the Feature Race in Budapest, maintaining his advantage from pole position. Zane Maloney and Oliver Bearman were his closest pursuers but ended as they started in second and third places respectively.

Zak O'Sullivan was the driver of the day though as the Carlin man made the most of the changeable conditions to make a pit stop and swap to slicks work to immense effect, ending up fourth by the end. Jak Crawford made it into the top five for PREMA Racing.

AS IT HAPPENED

Maloney got a great launch but was immediately covered off by the pole sitter. The Trident driver tried a move around the outside at Turn 1 but was unsuccessful. It allowed Bearman to get a great drive on corner exit to make it three-wide into Turn 2. The PREMA Racing man got too deep on the brakes and had to settle back into third.

Behind that trio, Maini climbed up to fourth but was closely watched by Crawford after the pair had cleared Grégoire Saucy off the line. The red and white PREMA claimed P4 on the run to Turn 4 while Reece Ushijima was on the move too, rising up to ninth after Lap 1 from P19 on the grid.

Championship leader heading into the Feature Race Isack Hadjar meanwhile was going backwards. He dropped down to 18th after being forced to take avoiding action at Turn 2 on the outside of the corner.

Arthur Leclerc retook ninth position following a slow start, passing Campos Racing's David Vidales at the final corner on Lap 8 after the Spaniard ran wide and off the circuit. By Lap 10, the wet patches of track were few and far between and the field was seeking out any damp sections to cool the wet tyres.

Hadjar's race went from bad to worse as Juan Manuel Correa relegated the Hitech driver down to 19th at Turn 12, diving down the inside of the Frenchman to seize the position.

Ushijima was desperate to pass Vidales for P10, but the Van Amersfoort Racing driver couldn't work out a route through. In trying so many different lines, he lost momentum out of Turn 1 on Lap 13 and Roman Stanek behind took full advantage, taking 11th at Turn 2 on the inside.

Leclerc continued his comeback at the expense of Collet on the exit of Turn 1 with 10 laps to go while Francesco Pizzi was the first driver to opt for slick tyres. Correa followed him in on Lap 16 while there were still fastest sector times coming in from Leclerc on his full wets.

The fight for 10th continued and Stanek took the place from Vidales, albeit after running out of room on the exit of Turn 1 and completing the move as he rejoined the circuit. He ultimately handed back the position but crucially kept Ushijima behind him.

Leclerc was up to seventh, benefitting from Saucy running off the road at Turn 5 after being unsighted by Jonny Edgar who had fitted the slick tyres but was struggling to fire them up as that gamble appeared to be a step too far on the yet-to-dry track.

The PREMA driver wasn't done yet, and with five laps to go he took 6th from Championship rival Victor Martins after setting up a great switchback through the middle sector. Having started the move three corners earlier, Leclerc made a dive down the inside of Turn 12 work and avoided contact to seal the position. Hadjar meanwhile pitted from 19th and fitted the slick tyres on Lap 20 just as the crossover point arrived.

Correa was flying on his slick tyres and lapping seconds quicker than the race leaders. Edgar displayed just how much quicker the dry tyres were by unlapping himself from Maloney, Bearman and Crawford as they fought for second.

O'Sullivan was another to have swapped the wets for dry tyres down in 17th and was 10 seconds quicker than race leader Smolyar on Lap 22. He passed the ART Grand Prix car of Correa to be the highest-placed driver on the slick tyres. The Carlin cleared the VAR trio to move up to 12th in the space of a single sector. He made it into the top 10 on the penultimate lap and was quickly catching those ahead. He then dispatched both ARTs of Martins and Saucy in one corner and wasn't finished yet.

Smolyar was far enough clear of anybody that he could afford to coast home and take the victory with a triumphant 5.560s lead. Maloney just about held on to second after a drag race with Bearman out of the final corner, but O'Sullivan was the star, finishing fourth by the chequered flag after dispatching Maini and both of the PREMAs of Leclerc and Crawford on the final lap.

Crawford held onto a top five finish and was followed by Correa in sixth, who also made great use of his slicks. Maini was seventh ahead of Leclerc, Saucy and Collet to round out the top 10.

KEY QUOTE – Alexander Smolyar, MP Motorsport

"A win in the main race in Hungary. I'm very happy, we started on wet tyres but finished in dry conditions. It was important to manage them, I think I did a good job and very happy with the points I gained today."

THE CHAMPIONSHIP VIEW

Isack Hadjar continues to lead the Championship despite his difficult race by virtue of one more race win than rival Victor Martins, with the two Frenchmen now tied on 104. Meanwhile, Arthur Leclerc is third on 95, leading PREMA Racing teammates Jak Crawford and Oliver Bearman who are on 80 points apiece, the American ahead on countback.

In the Teams' Standings, PREMA still leads with its total rising to 225. ART Grand Prix holds onto second with 153 while MP Motorsport is third with 146 points.

UP NEXT

Following the summer break, Formula 3 returns with part one of a triple-header that takes us to the iconic Spa-Francorchamps circuit on August 27-29 for Round 7 of the 2022 season.

CONTINUES

2022 FIA FORMULA 3 CHAMPIONSHIP – ROUND 6 FEATURE RACE PROVISIONAL CLASSIFICATION

	DRIVER	TEAM
1	Alexander Smolyar	MP Motorsport
2	Zane Maloney	Trident
3	Oliver Bearman	PREMA Racing
4	Zak O'Sullivan	Carlin
5	Jak Crawford	PREMA Racing
6	Juan Manuel Correa	ART Grand Prix
7	Kush Maini	MP Motorsport
8	Arthur Leclerc	PREMA Racing
9	Caio Collet	MP Motorsport
10	Victor Martins	ART Grand Prix
11	Grégoire Saucy	ART Grand Prix
12	Roman Stanek	Trident
13	David Vidales	Campos Racing
14	Reece Ushijima	Van Amersfoort Racing
15	Franco Colapinto	Van Amersfoort Racing
16	William Alatalo	Jenzer Motorsport
17	Ido Cohen	Jenzer Motorsport
18	Isack Hadjar	Hitech Grand Prix
19	Enzo Trulli	Carlin
20	Kaylen Frederick	Hitech Grand Prix
21	Rafael Villagómez	Van Amersfoort Racing
22	Brad Benavides	Carlin
23	Christian Mansell	Charouz Racing System
24	Jonny Edgar	Trident
25	Federico Malvestiti	Jenzer Motorsport
26	Nazim Azman	Hitech Grand Prix
27	Francesco Pizzi	Charouz Racing System
28	Oliver Goethe	Campos Racing
29	Josep María Martí	Campos Racing

NOT CLASSIFIED

DNF	László Tóth	Charouz Racing System
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Fastest lap	Zak O'Sullivan	Carlin
		1:38.070 (Lap 21)



MEDIA RELEASE

Notes to editors

A selection of high-resolution images from this session is now available via our [media platform](#), along with a variety of driver interviews, press conference transcripts and the FIA Formula 3 media kit.

About the FIA Formula 3 Championship™

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