

Saturday 4 March 2023

Martí prevails over Colapinto to claim maiden F3 win

Biding his time to make the move stick on reverse pole-sitter Franco Colapinto, Josep María Martí's took home the glory in the first Sprint Race of the season and claimed his maiden victory in the Championship.

In a frenetic opening race to the year, the Campos Racing driver kept close to the Argentinian early on, as the field navigated two Safety Car restarts. With only six laps to go, Martí's patience paid off, swooping around the outside of the MP Motorsport car to take the lead and finish a comfortable 1.8s clear by the chequered flag.

After battling with Martí over second during the opening stages, Caio Collet kept himself out of trouble to take third in his first race for Van Amersfoort Racing.

AS IT HAPPENED

As the lights went out, Colapinto and Martí immediately went toe-to-toe into Turn 1, with Colapinto's defence holding firm against the Spaniard's attempts to go around the outside. Sweeping into Turn 2, the Campos Racing driver then lost out to Caio Collet, who leaped ahead of him into second.

Trident's Oliver Goethe nailed his getaway to move up from ninth to sixth. Meanwhile, MP Motorsport's Jonny Edgar was making overtakes left right and centre, climbing up to 10th from 15th.

Further back in the pack, Rafael Villagómez's race soon came undone. Battling Gabriel Bortoleto, the pair made contact, pitching the #18 Van Amersfoort Racing car into the wall and bringing out the first Safety Car on Lap 2.

The Safety Car peeled into the pits at the end of Lap 6 and Colapinto left it right to the last second to restart things, catching the field off guard and going clear into Turn 1. Behind him, Martí tried to put the pressure on Collet, but found himself vulnerable to PREMA Racing rookie Paul Aron. The Spaniard eventually got the job done on Collet for second into Turn 4.

Hitech Pulse-Eight's Luke Browning suffered an early end to his race, getting tagged from behind in the first corner which triggered another Safety Car appearance. Colapinto held the lead ahead of Martí on the restart. With DRS activated, the Campos driver wasted no time putting the Williams junior under pressure. Sailing around the outside of Turn 4, Martí made the move stick and began to pull himself slowly out of Colapinto's reach.

The time behind the Safety Car meant that tyre degradation was less of a concern. PREMA's Aron and Dino Beganovic continued to chop and change in the battle for fourth, with the Mercedes junior eventually losing out to the Swede.

CONTINUES

Out of DRS range by the final lap, Martí crossed the line to take the victory, as Colapinto had to settle for second. Collet rounded out the podium in third, ahead of rookies Beganovic and Aron. Goethe finished sixth, as Grégoire Saucy secured seventh for ART and Leonardo Fornaroli made it two Tridents in the top eight. Edgar and Hitech Pulse-Eight's Sebastián Montoya fought back to bring home the final points paying positions in ninth and 10th.

KEY QUOTE – Josep María Martí, Campos Racing

“Really, really happy, I did a great race. Obviously on the first lap, I lost a position to Caio, but then I was able to re-overtake him on the first Safety Car restart. Then it took me some laps to overtake Franco, but in the end, I managed to get through. Obviously took the fastest lap as well on that lap, so I’m really, really happy.

“First win in F3, first podium, so just really, really happy and I’m really proud of the team. We did a really good job over the winter and I’m really proud of everyone who’s been on this journey with me to finally get here.”

THE CHAMPIONSHIP VIEW

Receiving the 10 points for the victory and the one point available for the fastest lap, Martí leads the Drivers’ Championship ahead of Colapinto, Collet, Beganovic and Aron, who rounds out the top five.

With two drivers finishing inside the top five, PREMA Racing head to the top of the Teams’ Standings. Campos Racing sit in second, tied with MP Motorsport on 11 points. Van Amersfoort Racing are fourth, ahead of Trident.

WHAT’S NEXT?

Gabriele Minì will line up on pole for his first F3 Feature Race on Sunday, with fellow rookie Gabriel Bortoleto alongside him. The race will get underway at 11:50 local time.

CONTINUES

2023 FIA FORMULA 3 CHAMPIONSHIP – ROUND 1 SPRINT RACE PROVISIONAL CLASSIFICATION

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

NOT CLASSIFIED

DNF	Luke Browning	GBR	Hitech Pulse-Eight
DNF	Rafael Villagómez	MEX	Van Amersfoort Racing

Fastest lap Josep María Martí | ESP | Campos Racing | 1:50.867 (Lap 14)

BORTOLETO PENALISED FOLLOWING SAKHIR SPRINT RACE

4 March 2023



Gabriel Bortoleto has received a 10-second time penalty for causing a collision with Rafael Villagómez during today's Sprint Race in Sakhir.

On the opening lap of the race, the **Trident** driver was behind Villagómez heading into Turn 4. After taking a tighter line than the Van Amersfoort Racing driver into the corner, Bortoleto caught up alongside him at the exit of the turn. With the Mexican driver remaining ahead approaching Turn 5, Villagómez moved over to the right-hand side, following the racing line into the corner.

As a result, Bortoleto's front left wheel made contact with the right rear wheel of the #18 VAR car, causing Villagómez to lose control and spin. The Stewards found that the Trident driver failed to anticipate that Villagómez would move towards him to follow the racing line. Additionally, they deemed that Villagómez had left ample room to his right-hand side for Bortoleto to move to avoid the collision.

The Brazilian racer had finished the opening race of the season in 12th but drops to 19th in the final classification.