



PRESS RELEASE

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Nael heads the field in extended Monte Carlo session



Campos Racing's Théophile Nael hit the ground running in Monte Carlo, finishing fastest of all in Practice on a 1:25.794. TRIDENT driver Freddie Slater was able to split up the Campos cars at the head of the field, ending up second and just over half a tenth off the top spot. Ugo Ugochukwu rounded out the top three for the Spanish outfit.

Following a short Virtual Safety Car test along with preparation laps, PREMA Racing's

James Wharton set the initial benchmark that was quickly beaten by several drivers. Gerrard Xie set a 1:28.109 to lead for DAMS Lucas Oil before a Red Flag was thrown following a crash for Wharton at Turn 14.

With the Australian out of his car and the PREMA cleared away, barrier repairs took place and once completed, the session was extended by 15 extra minutes.

The light went green once more with 28 minutes on the clock, and everyone was eager to get back out on track. Théophile Nael and teammate Ernesto Rivera went to P1 next, before Xie restored DAMS to the top of the times on a 1:27.444. Maciej Gladysz put ART Grand Prix on top with 18 minutes to go, 0.195s clear of the field but with the track continuing to improve. Brando Badoer then logged a 1:27.055 for Rodin Motorsport to become the newest driver to lead the field.

With 13 minutes left, Bruno del Pino set a 1:26.482 to further lower the time to beat for Van Amersfoort Racing. Nael returned Campos to P1 with a 1:26.460, 0.022s quicker than del Pino in second while teammate Ugochukwu filtered into third just over a tenth down on the Frenchman. That was until Slater set the new fastest time of the session, with the TRIDENT going comfortably quickest on a 1:26.135.

Ugochukwu bettered that by a shade, but Nael broke into the 25s on a 1:25.806 to lead a Campos 1-2. Despite traffic in the final corners, Slater was able to move himself up to P2 and cut the deficit to 0.169s.

Nael found one final improvement, setting a 1:25.794 to cap off an impressive session. Slater achieved a personal best on his final lap too, cutting the gap to 0.069s at the chequered flag. Ugochukwu finished up third ahead of del Pino and Pedro Clerot in P5. Louis Sharp was sixth for PREMA ahead of Rivera, Taito Kato, Noah Stromsted and Enzo Deligny, who rounded out the top 10.

Qualifying is scheduled to get underway on Friday morning at 11:05 local time, with Group B following at 11:29. [here](#).

FIA Formula 3 - Monte Carlo - Provisional Classification - Free Practice

	DRIVER	LICENCE	TEAM	LAPTIME	LAPS
1	Theophile Nael	FRA	Campos Racing	1:25.794	24
2	Freddie Slater	GBR	TRIDENT	1:25.853	23
3	Ugo Ugochukwu	USA	Campos Racing	1:26.089	22
4	Bruno Del Pino	ESP	Van Amersfoort Racing	1:26.137	23

5	Pedro Clerot	BRA	Rodin Motorsport	1:26.141	24
6	Louis Sharp	NZL	PREMA Racing	1:26.175	24
7	Ernesto Rivera	MEX	Campos Racing	1:26.291	24
8	Taito Kato	JPN	ART Grand Prix	1:26.452	24
9	Noah Stromsted	DEN	TRIDENT	1:26.496	22
10	Enzo Deligny	FRA	Van Amersfoort Racing	1:26.548	24
11	Alessandro Giusti	FRA	MP Motorsport	1:26.549	23
12	Maciej Gladysz	POL	ART Grand Prix	1:26.594	24
13	Christian Ho	SGP	Rodin Motorsport	1:26.613	24
14	Brad Benavides	USA	AIX Racing	1:26.636	24
15	Gerrard Xie	CHN	DAMS Lucas Oil	1:26.703	24
16	Brando Badoer	ITA	Rodin Motorsport	1:26.739	25
17	Nicola Lacorte	ITA	DAMS Lucas Oil	1:26.747	21
18	Mattia Colnaghi	ARG	MP Motorsport	1:26.899	22
19	Tuukka Taponen	FIN	MP Motorsport	1:27.023	23
20	Woohyun Shin	KOR	Hitech	1:27.220	25
21	Nandhavud Bhirombhakdi	THA	DAMS Lucas Oil	1:27.235	23
22	Fionn Mclaughlin	IRL	Hitech	1:27.248	26
23	Kanato Le	JPN	ART Grand Prix	1:27.374	23
24	Jose Garfias	MEX	PREMA Racing	1:27.403	24
25	Hiyu Yamakoshi	JPN	Van Amersfoort Racing	1:27.405	23
26	Yevan David	SRI	AIX Racing	1:27.475	23
27	Jin Nakamura	JPN	Hitech	1:27.565	26
28	Matteo De Palo	ITA	TRIDENT	1:27.832	22
29	Fernando Barrichello	BRA	AIX Racing	1:28.026	23
30	James Wharton	AUS	PREMA Racing	1:29.145	5

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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