



## Sztuka doubles up at Mugello, closing in on Lindblad

**Polish ace Kacper Sztuka of Team US Racing claimed victory in Race 2, reducing the gap with Championship leader Arvid Lindblad, who was halted by a crash. Ugo Ugochukwu secured another second-place finish, while Akshay Bohra finished third**

Mugello, Sunday, October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023 – Race 2 of the Italian F.4 Championship at Mugello Circuit was a thrilling spectacle full of twists and turns. Pole sitter Kacper Sztuka, the Polish star of Team US Racing, won the second race of the weekend, bringing his consecutive victory tally to 5. He further closed the gap on the Championship leader, junior Red Bull driver Arvid Lindblad of Prema Racing, who was halted by an incident involving Italian driver Brando Badoer of Van Amersfoort Racing. The two cars made contact in the final stages of the race, ending up against the barriers in the midst of the battle for the third position, which was then held by the Londoner. Both drivers emerged unharmed from their vehicles. The incident cost Lindblad 4 positions on the starting grid for Race 3, a penalty applied after the race, while the recovery of the two cars led to the conclusion of Race 2 under the safety car.

Ugo Ugochukwu, junior McLaren driver for Prema Racing, delivered another stellar performance with an exceptional start that propelled him into the midst of the battle with Sztuka. This battle continued later, during the restart behind a safety car deployed on the track due to the stop of Aurelia Nobels, Brazilian Ferrari Driver Academy from Prema, who was hit from behind by Diego De La Torre of AKM Motorsport. The Mexican driver received a drive-through penalty following the incident. With Lindblad and Badoer out of contention, it was Akshay Bohra, the American driver originally from Singapore representing US Racing, who capitalized, closing a masterfully conducted race on the third step of the podium, along with the victory in the Rookie class.

Initially in fourth place, Portuguese driver Ivan Domingues of PREMA Racing received a 5-second penalty for a track limits violation, dropping him to nineteenth place. Thus, the fourth and fifth positions in Race 2 went to two Prema Racing drivers, Finnish Ferrari Driver Academy Tuukka Taponen and Emirati driver Rashid Al Dhaheri, who completed the podium dedicated to debutant drivers in the category.

British driver Freddie Slater, making his debut in the Italian F.4 Championship with Van Amersfoort Racing, finished sixth, making his mark in the race after starting from the seventh row and executing spectacular overtaking maneuvers. Gianmarco Pradel, the Australian driver from US Racing, had an excellent race as well, securing seventh place after finishing third in Saturday's race. Following him in eighth place was a teammate from the team led by Gerhard Ungar and Ralf Schumacher, the Maltese-Filipino driver Zachary David. Rounding off the points-scoring positions were two PREMA Racing drivers, Australian Ferrari Driver Academy driver James Wharton and Tuscan driver Nicola Lacorte. During the ACI Racing Weekend at Mugello, PREMA Racing mathematically confirmed their victory in the Italian F.4 Championship Team Trophy for the second consecutive year.

One more race remains before the conclusion of the sixth and penultimate round of the Championship, leading to an exciting final part of the season. At the moment, Arvid Lindblad's advantage, which was dominant in the early part of the year, has reduced to 22.5 points from the second-place driver, Kacper Sztuka, who is now in the midst of his most positive phase. In



Automobile Club d'Italia





Race 3, thanks to his excellent performance in qualifying, it will once again be the Pole driver starting from pole position.

**Kacper Sztuka:** *"Another win. Good pace all the race. The start was good, then the restart from the safety car. It was a good fight with Ugo, definitely it was not a boring race. Then I was just managing the pace after. Finish behind the safety car was quite an easy finish I would say, still, I'm very happy to win. The Championship is going now better as Arvid didn't score points, I heard he is ok and this is the most important. That is getting us closer to the Championship for sure, and we will fight."*

**Ugo Ugochukwu:** *"I had a really good start; I tried to attack Sztuka immediately because I knew he would be very fast during the race. He defended well, and I couldn't get close enough to pass. From there, I tried to keep the tires in good condition, but even today, I couldn't get close enough to challenge him."*

**Akshay Bohra:** *"It's definitely good to have another podium, we gave it all. We were in P5, and then there was an incident in front of us, we just took advantage of that. I'm just happy to walk away with another set of trophies. It's fun to be back in Mugello, this is where I had my first race in the Italian F.4 at the end of last year, and where I had my greatest success in Euro 4 few months ago. It's nice to be back, obviously is a bit cooler than the hot summer, but it's always a pleasure to be here."*

The last race of the weekend is tonight, Sunday, October 1st, live at 16:50 (30 minutes + 1 lap).

The weekend races will be broadcast live with English commentary on the Euro 4 Championship's YouTube and Facebook pages and on Motorsport TV (<https://eu.motorsport.tv/>); Italian commentary will be available on ACI Sport TV (Sky channel 228), on [www.acisport.it](http://www.acisport.it), and on the Facebook page @acisporttv.



Automobile Club d'Italia

**Francesco Di Nicola**  
Press Office – Ufficio Stampa

**ACI Sport**  
[dinicola@acisportspa.it](mailto:dinicola@acisportspa.it)  
[www.acisport.it/it/F4/home](http://www.acisport.it/it/F4/home)

**Social**  
[www.facebook.com/italianf4championship/](https://www.facebook.com/italianf4championship/)  
[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCedPzacBuNSiy\\_kIT7Zt6Wg/videos](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCedPzacBuNSiy_kIT7Zt6Wg/videos)  
[https://www.instagram.com/f4\\_italian\\_championship/](https://www.instagram.com/f4_italian_championship/)  
[www.twitter.com/CIFormula4](https://www.twitter.com/CIFormula4)

