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F3 driver William Alatalo scores again in Monza!

Alatalo drove his best qualifying and race in the last race of the season, in Monza, Italy. In Sunday's race Alatalo was third in the results, but dropped to seventh due to a time penalty.

William had high expectations for the final weekend of the season. The Monza circuit is one of Alatalo's favourites, where he took his first win back in the Italian F4 series.

- The last race of the season in Monza. A track close to my heart, and one that I really like. My first win in the Italian F4 series came at Monza. I hadn't set myself any high expectations for the weekend. Mainly just to wrap up the season with the team and get some good points finishes, says Alatalo.

Friday morning's practice was held on a wet track. And the afternoon qualifying session was dry, which caused headaches for many drivers.

- Most of the practice sessions took place on a wet track. The track dried out towards the end, but I didn't get any clean laps on dry tyres, so I didn't get the best time.

- There was a lot of traffic in the qualifying. I only managed 3 clean laps. At the end I set the best time and finished 7th. Best time trial of the season. The lap was not perfect, but it was good. The car felt good to drive and the position shows that. I was very happy.

Saturday's race was challenging, and although expectations were high after a good qualifying session, the overall result was a big disappointment.

- The first race was really difficult. The pace in the race was probably the worst of the season. It just felt like the tyres were slipping in all directions. No grip underneath. My driving was not very good, I made stupid mistakes and drove badly. Before the finish I broke my front wing and finished 14th. A lot to improve for the next race.

On Sunday it was a completely different man on the line. Alatalo showed that he belong to the top drivers of the series and one of the best overtakers. Alatalo was third in the results for a while, but was dropped to seventh in the rankings by the time penalty.

- The second race was much better. After a few laps I dropped to eighth, but during the race I was already up to fourth. There I fought as long as I could. Shortly before the end the race was stopped because of a crash. Everyone came to the pitlane and we were waiting to see when the race would start again. After about 10min the race was finally stopped. That was it. I thought I was fourth at the finish.

- A few minutes more and I was told I was 3rd. Someone ahead of me had been given a time penalty. Then we waited a while, and I dropped to 7th place. I got a 5s penalty for breaking the track limits. There was no warning during the race, only after the race I was informed about the track limit violation. I didn't understand how that was even possible. Without the time penalty I would have been third and on the podium. Usually during the race, a warning is given that you have exceeded the track limits. Then I know that I have to drive more carefully now. This time the information came after the race. It doesn't make sense, but I couldn't help it. It would have been nice to get on the podium in the last race, but then it got out of hand, Alatalo regrets.



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Summary for 2022 season

The FIA F3 series is now wrapped up for this season. Alatalo scored 24 points and was 18th in the series. The target of finishing in the top 12 was not achieved, but proved more than realistic in terms of pace. Competing in a series that is only one series away from the F1 series is tough and does not forgive a single failure.

- It's hard to say anything about the season as a whole just yet. So much has happened in the last 6 months. It all started with the Bahrain test, and the first lap there felt so good already, it's hard to describe in words. There have been good and bad moments. And some really bad moments. Many times I've thought about whether I should quit this whole sport. Sometimes I did everything I could, and even that wasn't enough to fight for points. The small successes during the season gave me hope for the future.

- Many times I made my own mistakes, and many times the team did. My own mistakes still weigh on my mind. Ever since Bahrain, I remember all the little mistakes I've made. They have made me sleep badly.

It was known beforehand that Jenzer Motorsport would not necessarily fight for the top of the series against the big teams like ART, Prema, Trident, MP Motorsport - but there were successes as the season progressed and at his best Alatalo consolidated his place in the top ten.

- The best memories from this season are Spa and Monza. (6th and 7th in Spa, 7th in Monza) In Monza we were even close to the podium. We also had a good start to the season in Bahrain, 11th and 9th.

- The positive thing was, of course, that I was the best driver in the team. This season I lost only one race to a team mate, where I finished without a crash or technical problem. Otherwise I was always ahead. Of course, that is some kind of achievement. Throughout the season, it was quite difficult to improve myself because there was no driver to compare the data/video with. I was usually faster, so my teammates weren't much help.

The future for William is still completely open. His main goal is of course to continue in formula series, which would mean a second season in FIA F3 or step up to FIA F2. But it all depends on the budget. Before season 2023, Alatalo also has military service to complete.

- As for the future, I can't say anything yet. Hopefully I'll get to drive something. It depends on the budget. That's how it is in motorsport in general. What is certain and known is that I'll be in Santahamina from October to March for military service. Otherwise, it remains to be seen what 2023 will bring, Alatalo concludes.