The background is a collage of Formula 1-related images, including drivers in team uniforms, race cars on a track, and a driver in a helmet. The entire image has a yellow tint. The text is overlaid in a dark blue color.

2023

DRIVER-BY-DRIVER

ACADEMY

REVIEWS:

THE E-BOOK

Written by Finjo Muschlien, Grégoire Devaux, Daniele Spadi, Laura Anequini, Martin Lloyd & Steven Walton

Edited by Michael McClure, Avantika Singh & Sean McKean

Produced by Michael McClure



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In 2023, seven Red Bull juniors competed in F2 and Super Formula, but none of them advanced to F1 for the following year. This conspicuous difficulty in stepping up to the highest class of motorsport raises questions about whether the drivers' performances meet the standards required for this promotion.

A deeper look at each member of the Red Bull Junior Team shows, however, that most Red Bull juniors did perform well in 2023. Some may even have deserved to step up to F1, but they were simply unlucky not to find open spots on the grid.



The year 2023 was a great one for the Mercedes Junior Team. With seven drivers competing in series from F2 to karting, the German marque's junior programme once again expanded its trophy cabinet, proving that it had one of the strongest driver pools among junior teams. The programme is also unique in its focus on karting, a discipline in which four of its drivers competed.



Despite high promise entering the 2023 season, only one of the academy's eight members, Australia's James Wharton, won a title in 2023. On 20 December, Wharton was confirmed to be leaving the programme for 2024 along with 2023 F2 driver Arthur Leclerc, who is set to "remain part of the Ferrari family" outside the purview of the academy.

The academy also concurrently announced that Marco Matassa, who had been with the academy since 2018 and led it since 2019, would leave the programme. Jock Clear – who has worked at Ferrari since 2015 and served as FDA driver coach – will replace him at the helm.



In April 2023, the team launched the rebranded McLaren Driver Development Programme, which is geared towards not only the F1 team but also McLaren's IndyCar and Formula E squads.

McLaren's programme differs from other teams' junior academies by having drivers across all racing ranks. Those currently in the programme are Ugo Ugochukwu, Gabriel Bortoleto, Bianca Bustamante, Ryō Hirakawa and Pato O'Ward. Additionally, Brando Badoer, who raced in Italian F4 this year, signed a one-year deal with the team as an optioned driver and could officially join the programme in the coming years.



The Alpine Academy programme has been extremely successful in recent years, if not for the works Formula 1 team itself. While the team has not (against its wishes) used any of its own talent, Oscar Piastri and Zhou Guanyu have both seen success in Formula 1, having spent multiple years each in the academy.



Williams juniors have had a relatively high F1 placement rate over the years, with Lance Stroll in 2017, Nicholas Latifi in 2020 and Logan Sargeant in 2023 all stepping up to race seats with the team. The programme has welcomed four new members over the past year as well as new leadership in James Vowles, and several of its members achieved notable successes in 2023 as they look to emulate the likes of Sargeant in graduating to F1.



The four-person Sauber Academy had a memorable year in 2023. Three new members joined the roster; academy veteran Théo Pourchaire won the F2 championship at the third time of asking; and the academy's first female driver, Léna Bühler, starred in F1 Academy.



RED BULL JUNIOR TEAM

by Finjo Muschlien

Liam Lawson
Ayumu Iwasa
Enzo Fittipaldi
Dennis Hauger
Zane Maloney
Jak Crawford
Isack Hadjar
Pepe Martí
Oliver Goethe
Sebastián Montoya
Tim Tramnitz
Souta Arao
Kacper Sztuka
Arvid Lindblad
Enzo Deligny
Enzo Tarnvanichkul

Photo credit: Dutch Photo Agency / Red Bull Content Pool

Photo credit: Dutch Photo Agency / Red Bull Content Pool



LIAM LAWSON

MEMBER SINCE 2019 | NEW ZEALAND | 21

2023 IN BRIEF

Super Formula
Team Mugen
P2, 106.5 points

F1
AlphaTauri
P20, 2 points

New Zealand's brightest motorsport prospect, Lawson had a brilliant season in the Japanese Super Formula championship with Team Mugen in 2023. Having taken three race wins and one second-place finish, he ended the year second in the overall standings, missing out on becoming the series' first rookie champion since 1996 by only eight points.

Lawson, who has been a member of the Red Bull Junior Team since 2019, also got his first F1 racing experience when he replaced the injured Daniel Ricciardo at AlphaTauri for the Dutch, Italian, Singapore, Japanese and Qatar grands prix. In those five race weekends, Lawson showed a consistently high level of performance, outqualifying world champion Max Verstappen in Singapore and scoring two points come race day.

As of 2024, he will not race on a full-time basis in any championship, focusing instead on his duties as a reserve and test driver for Red Bull and AlphaTauri.

2024 PLANS

F1 reserve driver
for Red Bull Racing
and Scuderia
AlphaTauri

AYUMU IWASA

MEMBER SINCE 2021 | JAPAN | 22

2023 IN BRIEF

F2
DAMS
P4, 165 points

This year, Iwasa completed his second full season with DAMS in F2, finishing fourth in the overall standings. He took three victories and was a title contender for much of the season, though he fell behind rivals Théo Pourchaire and Frederik Vesti as the year wore on and ultimately dropped out of the running following qualifying for the Abu Dhabi finale.

A few days later, however, the 22-year-old got his first taste of F1 machinery when he tested for Red Bull in the young drivers' test in Abu Dhabi.

Iwasa's 2024 plans, announced in November, will see him return to his home country to race in Super Formula with Mugen, replacing Lawson. In the post-season and rookie test two weeks ago, he got his first taste of the SF23 car and topped the timesheets on the final day of testing.

2024 PLANS

Super Formula with
Team Mugen



Photo credit: Dutch Photo Agency / Red Bull Content Pool



Photo credit: Dutch Photo Agency / Red Bull Content Pool

ENZO FITTIPALDI

MEMBER SINCE 2023 | BRAZIL | 22

2023 IN BRIEF

F2
Rodin Carlin
P7, 124 points

After a strong first full season in F2 in 2022 with underdogs Charouz Racing System, Fittipaldi was approached by Red Bull to join their junior team for 2023. Making the switch to Rodin Carlin alongside fellow Red Bull junior Zane Maloney, he started the season well in Bahrain, securing a double points finish. He won the Spa sprint and achieved four more podiums, finishing seventh in the drivers' championship after finding more consistency later in the year.

2024 PLANS

F2 with Van Amersfoort Racing

For 2024, Fittipaldi will join Van Amersfoort Racing in F2. He announced on Instagram in November that he would continue with Red Bull sponsorship for 2024, though whether that entails remaining part of the junior team remains unclear.

DENNIS HAUGER

MEMBER SINCE 2018 | NORWAY | 20

2023 IN BRIEF

F2
MP Motorsport
P8, 113 points

In his second season of F2, 20-year-old Hauger raced with MP Motorsport. The 2021 F3 champion achieved two sprint race victories and two more podiums and scored almost twice as many points as teammate and former Red Bull junior Jehan Daruvala.

Hauger announced in October that for the 2024 season, he would no longer be part of the Red Bull Junior Team after six years of affiliation with the programme. The Norwegian will, however, remain on the F2 grid with MP Motorsport.

2024 PLANS

F2 with MP Motorsport; leaving Red Bull Junior Team

Photo credit: Dutch Photo Agency / Red Bull Content Pool



ZANE MALONEY

MEMBER SINCE 2023 | BARBADOS | 20

2023 IN BRIEF

F2
Rodin Carlin
P10

Having joined the Red Bull Junior Team for 2023, Maloney scored four podium finishes for Rodin Carlin in his first full F2 season. The 2022 F3 runner-up also participated in the F3 World Cup in Macau this year with the team, finishing eighth.

For 2024, Maloney will stay with Rodin Carlin, but it's uncertain if he will remain part of the Red Bull Junior Team. Team owner David Dicker stated in October that he expected Maloney to be dropped by Red Bull.

2024 PLANS

F2 with Rodin Carlin; reserve driver for Andretti in Formula E

Along his F2 duties next year, he will also be the reserve driver for the Andretti Formula E team for the upcoming season. Maloney already tested FE machinery when he took part in the rookie tests this year.

Photo credit: Dutch Photo Agency / Red Bull Content Pool



JAK CRAWFORD

MEMBER SINCE 2020 | UNITED STATES OF AMERICA | 18

2023 IN BRIEF

F2
Hitech GP
P13, 57 points

Crawford, 18, had his F2 debut season in 2023 with Hitech GP, the team with which he raced in FIA F3 in 2021. The American finished 13th overall after winning the sprint race in Spielberg and achieving four more podiums during the season, three of which were in sprint races.

Before his F2 campaign, he began the season in Dubai, participating in the first round of the Formula Regional Middle East Championship. His best result was eighth in the third race of that weekend.

FRMEC
Hitech GP
P28, 4 points

Crawford parted ways with the Red Bull Junior Team after the Abu Dhabi F2 round. Nevertheless, he will continue his F2 journey next year with DAMS, the team for which Red Bull junior Iwasa raced in 2023.

2024 PLANS

F2 with DAMS; leaving Red Bull Junior Team



ISACK HADJAR

MEMBER SINCE 2022 | FRANCE | 19

2023 IN BRIEF

F2
Hitech GP
P14, 55 points

Frenchman Hadjar, who was selected to participate in free practice sessions for AlphaTauri and Red Bull in 2023 alongside Lawson and FE champion Jake Dennis, surprisingly scored the fewest points among Red Bull juniors in F2 this year.

Despite being only 14th in the standings, Hitech's Hadjar had a decent rookie season, winning the sprint race in Zandvoort – which awarded no points after heavy rain forced its abandonment two laps in – and securing another podium in the Spielberg sprint race. He also competed in the F3 World Cup in Macau, finishing in the top 10 in both the qualifying race and main race.

2024 PLANS

F2 with Campos
Racing

In 2024, Hadjar will contest his second F2 season alongside newly signed Red Bull junior Pepe Martí at Campos Racing.

PEPE MARTÍ

MEMBER SINCE 2023 | SPAIN | 18

2023 IN BRIEF

F3
Campos Racing
P5, 105 points

Martí was announced as part of the Red Bull Junior Team at the end of the 2023 F3 season following his solid performances in the series this year. He finished the season fifth in the drivers' standings, taking three wins and one more podium finish for Campos.

He also finished seventh in FRMEC, winning two races, and took fifth place in the F3 World Cup main race in Macau.

In 2024, 18-year-old Martí will have his first full season with Red Bull backing, racing in F2 with Campos.

FRMEC
Pinnacle VAR
Motorsport
P7, 79 points

2024 PLANS

F2 with Campos
Racing



Photo credit: Dutch Photo Agency / Red Bull Content Pool

OLIVER GOETHE

MEMBER SINCE 2023 | GERMANY | 19

2023 IN BRIEF

F3
Trident Motorsport
P8, 75 points

Last year's Euroformula Open champion Goethe completed his first full season in FIA F3 with Trident, securing a win and another podium, both in feature races. These results helped him finish eighth in the drivers' championship, with his highlight being the win at Silverstone.

He was signed by the Red Bull Junior Team at the end of the 2023 season and will contest his second full season of F3 with Campos next year. Goethe already raced with them – and with Red Bull backing – at the F3 World Cup in Macau, where he finished ninth in the main race.

2024 PLANS

F3 with Campos
Racing

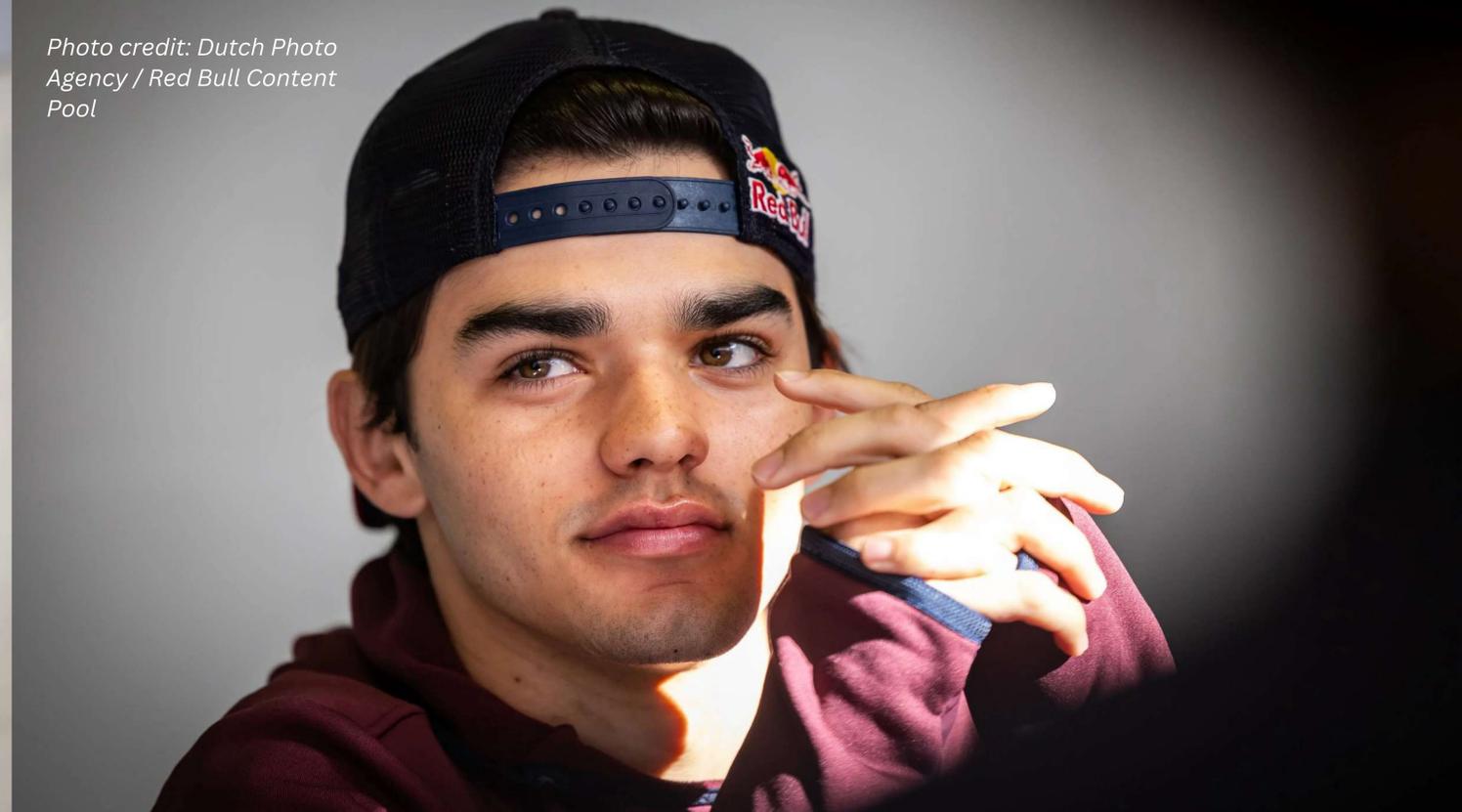


Photo credit: Dutch Photo Agency / Red Bull Content Pool

SEBASTIÁN MONTOYA

MEMBER SINCE 2020 | COLOMBIA | 18

2023 IN BRIEF

F3
Hitech GP
P16, 37 points

FRMEC
Hitech GP
P21, 12 points

Montoya, the son of former F1 driver Juan Pablo Montoya, completed his first full season of FIA F3 with Hitech GP this year. He secured a best result of second in the sprint race in Melbourne and scored a total of 37 points, which put him 16th in the drivers' championship.

He also participated in FRMEC with Hitech and in the F3 World Cup in Macau with Campos this year, though neither yielded noteworthy results.

In 2024, Montoya will stay in FIA F3, this time with Campos, the team with which he also raced at Zandvoort in 2022 as a substitute for the injured Hunter Yeany. It is not yet clear if he will retain Red Bull Junior Team backing.

2024 PLANS

F3 with Campos
Racing



Photo credit: Dutch Photo Agency / Red Bull Content Pool



Photo credit: Dutch Photo Agency / Red Bull Content Pool

TIM TRAMNITZ

MEMBER SINCE 2023 | GERMANY | 19

2023 IN BRIEF

FRECA
R-ace GP
P3, 239 points

FRMEC
R-ace GP
P20, 14 points

Euroformula Open
CryptoTower
Racing Team
P12, 55 points

2024 PLANS

Unconfirmed;
rumoured F3 with
MP Motorsport

Tramnitz took three race wins and a total of 13 podiums across 29 races in three championships in 2023. His performances caught the attention of the Red Bull Junior Team, to which he was signed towards the end of the 2023 season.

Tramnitz's year had its low points, for example when he collided with R-ace GP teammate Martinius Stenshorne in the second Formula Regional European Championship race at Imola. But there were plenty of high points, including his three podium finishes at Portimão in his Euroformula Open debut and his three FRECA wins – two at Barcelona and one at his home race at Hockenheim in the season finale.

Like Maloney, Tramnitz also took part in the FE rookie test with Abt Cupra in Berlin this year. For 2024, the Hamburg-raised racer is expected to step up to F3 with MP Motorsport after ending his second FRECA campaign third in the standings.

SOUTA ARAO

MEMBER SINCE 2022 | JAPAN | 18

2023 IN BRIEF

GB3
Hitech GP
P17, 146 points

Arai, the 2022 French F4 third-place finisher, participated in GB3 this year following his solid performances in his debut single-seater season. However, 2023 was a challenging season in which he struggled to meet expectations and had multiple setbacks. The Japanese racer finished 17th in GB3 for Hitech GP with a best result of fifth, secured at both Zandvoort and Donington Park.

His plans for 2024 haven't been announced yet, but considering his membership to the Honda Formula Dream Project, a move back to Japan is a possibility.

2024 PLANS

Unconfirmed



Photo credit: Massimo Bettiol via ACI Sport



Photo credit: Dutch Photo Agency / Red Bull Content Pool

KACPER SZTUKA

MEMBER SINCE 2023 | POLAND | 17

2023 IN BRIEF

Italian F4
US Racing
P1, 315 points

Formula Winter Series
US Racing
P1, 151 points

Euro 4
US Racing
P8, 74.5 points

2024 PLANS

Unconfirmed;
rumoured F3 with
MP Motorsport

In his second full season of F4 racing, Sztuka took a total of 16 race wins in 33 races across the Formula Winter Series, Euro 4 and Italian F4.

Remaining with Gerhard Ungar and former F1 driver Ralf Schumacher's US Racing outfit after having competed with them in 2022, Sztuka first won the FWS title with a round to spare. He then made the pendulum swing his way towards the end of the Italian F4 season by winning eight of the final nine races to usurp title rivals Arvid Lindblad and Ugo Ugochukwu.

As a result of his performances in 2023, Sztuka has been signed by the Red Bull Junior Team. He is expected to race in FIA F3 next year.

ARVID LINDBLAD

MEMBER SINCE 2021 | UNITED KINGDOM | 16

2023 IN BRIEF

Italian F4
Prema Racing
P3, 263.5 points

Euro 4
Prema Racing
P4, 124 points

F4 UAE
Hitech GP
P5, 107 points

2024 PLANS

F3 with Prema
Racing; rumoured
FRMEC

In his first full season of single-seater racing, Lindblad teamed up with Prema to race in the Italian F4 championship, in which he won six races in total. He took a hat-trick of race wins at Monza partway through the season after a strong start, but having failed to score a podium thereafter, he came third in a breathtaking three-way title fight with McLaren junior Ugo Ugochukwu and newly announced Red Bull junior Sztuka.

However, his impressive performances in F4 meant that Prema re-signed him and promoted him to F3 for 2024.

Lindblad also participated in F4 UAE with Hitech, finishing fifth with one victory, and in Euro 4 with Prema, in which he finished fourth with a win and three podiums. A late highlight was the F4 SEA non-championship round in Macau, where he took pole position and won both the qualifying race and the main race.



Photo credit: Dutch Photo Agency / Red Bull Content Pool

ENZO DELIGNY

MEMBER SINCE 2023 | FRANCE | 15

2023 IN BRIEF

Spanish F4
Campos Racing
P4, 205 points

Italian F4
AKM Motorsport
P22, 8 points

Euro 4
AKM Motorsport
P19, 1 point

2024 PLANS

Unconfirmed;
rumoured FRECA
with R-ace GP

Deligny, 15, completed his debut single-seater season with Campos in Spanish F4 after joining the Red Bull Junior Team that winter. In just his second round at Aragon, the Frenchman won the first race and finished second in the other two races.

Deligny won two races and took eight more podiums in total. His consistent scoring wasn't enough to put him in the championship conversation, but he finished fourth overall and with that became top rookie. In the final race of the year, he made headlines for a controversial defending manoeuvre on Valerio Rinicella at the start and for subsequently ignoring black flags.

Deligny's 2024 plans haven't been announced yet, though it is thought he is likely to move up to FRECA with R-ace GP.



Photo credit: Dutch Photo Agency / Red Bull Content Pool

ENZO TARNVANICHKUL

MEMBER SINCE 2023 | THAILAND | 14

2023 IN BRIEF

Karting
FIA Karting World Championship, OK, P4; Champions of the Future, OK, P4; FIA Karting European Championship, OK, P9; WSK Euro Series, OK, P16; WSK Super Master Series, OK, P17; IAME Winter Cup, X30 Senior, P49

2024 PLANS

Unconfirmed;
rumoured Spanish
F4 with Campos
Racing

Last year's OK Junior world champion Tarnvanichkul, 14, stepped up to the OK class of karting this year, finishing fourth in the world championship at Franciacorta. He also finished ninth in the FIA Karting European Championship, fourth in the Champions of the Future series and 17th in a partial WSK Super Master Series campaign.

In October, two weeks after the conclusion of the world karting championship, Tarnvanichkul announced on Instagram that he would be leaving karting. His destination for 2024 is expected to be an F4 race seat, for which he will become eligible after turning 15 on 22 February. Campos in Spanish F4 is thought to be his most probable landing spot.

MERCEDES JUNIOR TEAM

Frederik Vesti
Paul Aron
Andrea Kimi Antonelli
Alex Powell
Yuanpu Cui
Luna Fluxá
Kenzo Craigie

*Photo credit:
Mercedes Junior Team*

**by Grégoire
Devaux**





Photo credit:
Prema Racing

FREDERIK VESTI

MEMBER SINCE 2021 | DENMARK | 21

2023 IN BRIEF

F2

**Prema Racing
P2, 192 points**

After an impressive F2 rookie season with ART Grand Prix, Vesti moved to Prema Racing for 2023, competing alongside the highly rated Ferrari Driver Academy member Ollie Bearman. The least we can say is that the Dane did the job. Finishing second behind his former ART teammate Théo Pourchaire in a season that kept viewers on their toes until the very last race of the campaign, Vesti solidified his status as a fan favourite.

On his way to that second-place finish, the Prema driver took six wins and four further podiums. Vesti couldn't hide his disappointment about missing out on the title, having topped the standings for most of the season. However, a troubled end of the season in which he failed to score points in three consecutive feature races helped Théo Pourchaire make a late comeback to clinch the title.

2024 PLANS

Unconfirmed

Although the Danish driver hasn't yet announced where he will drive in 2024, a third F2 season is not in his plans.



Photo credit:
Mercedes Junior Team

PAUL ARON

MEMBER SINCE 2019 | ESTONIA | 19

2023 IN BRIEF

F3

**Prema Racing
P3, 112 points**

F2

**Trident Motorsport
P24, 0 points**

Another Mercedes Junior Team driver working with Prema in 2023 was F3 driver Aron, who finished third in his rookie season with the Italian team. It showed solid progression for the Estonian driver after he finished third in FRECA last year, also with Prema.

While Trident's Gabriel Bortoleto dominated the season, Aron fought with experienced drivers like Zak O'Sullivan, Franco Colapinto and Pepe Martí, who were all in their second seasons in the championship. This season, the Estonian claimed a win and three further podiums. He also earned a drive in the F2 season finale with Trident at Yas Marina, where he finished 16th and 18th in the sprint race and the feature race respectively.

Although he had a good season, Aron will be ending his association with Mercedes, a partnership that started in the Estonian's first single-seater season in 2019. Aron had already competed without Mercedes branding at the Macau Grand Prix in November and the F2 Abu Dhabi round. Though the end of this association represents a big change in the Estonian's career, it will not have any direct consequence for his 2024 racing plans, as he has been confirmed for a full-time F2 seat with Hitech GP.

2024 PLANS

**F2 with Hitech GP;
leaving Mercedes
Junior Team**



Photo credit:
Mercedes Junior Team



Photo credit: Mercedes Junior Team

ANDREA KIMI ANTONELLI

MEMBER SINCE 2018 | ITALY | 17

2023 IN BRIEF

FRECA
Prema Racing
P1, 300 points

FRMEC
Mumbai Falcons
Racing
P1, 192 points

Having clinched the Italian F4 and ADAC F4 titles in 2022, Antonelli once again matched the expectations set for him this season. The Italian driver won the Formula Regional Middle East Championship in the winter in preparation for the Formula Regional European Championship by Alpine, which he also ended up winning.

With five wins and six further podiums in FRECA, the Prema driver stayed on top of the standings for most of the season, resisting any lingering pressure from second-place finisher Martinius Stenshorne, who led early in the season.

As if his meteoric rise through the junior-single seaters ladder wasn't already astonishing enough, the Italian driver was announced to be staying with Prema but moving up to F2 for the 2024 season. Antonelli will skip F3, going from regional racing to international racing in the span of a few months, and enters the second tier as one of the most highly rated drivers on the grid.

2024 PLANS

F2 with Prema
Racing

ALEX POWELL

MEMBER SINCE 2019 | JAMAICA | 16

Born in Jamaica in 2007, Powell has slowly a name for himself in international karting. Partnered with Mercedes since he was 11, Powell finished second in the OK class of the FIA Karting European Championship in 2022. Staying in the same class in 2023, he found consistency en route to third, though perhaps his most notable accomplishment was winning the OK class of RGMMC's Champions of the Future series in September.

The Jamaican driver notably made his single-seater debut in Italian F4 in September, competing with Prema – as has become custom for Mercedes Junior Team members – in the last two rounds of the season at Mugello and Vallelunga. He scored his first point by finishing 10th in the last race of the season. He also raced in the non-championship F4 UAE round at Yas Marina in November, finishing seventh and sixth in the two races.

In early December, it was announced that Powell would make a full-time switch to F4 for 2024, racing with Prema in both Italian F4 and Euro 4.

2023 IN BRIEF

Italian F4
Prema Racing
P24, 1 point

Karting

FIA Karting World Championship, KZ2, P2, OK, P28; Champions of the Future, OK, P1; FIA Karting European Championship, OK, P3, KZ2, P5; WSK Euro Series, OK, P9; WSK Open Series, KZ2, P8; WSK Super Master Series, KZ2, P49; IAME Winter Cup, KZ2, P24

2024 PLANS

Italian F4 and Euro 4 with Prema
Racing



Photo credit:
Mercedes Junior Team

YUANPU CUI

MEMBER SINCE 2021 | CHINA | 15

2023 IN BRIEF

Karting

WSK Super Master Series, OK, P26; Champions of the Future, OK, P45; FIA Karting European Championship, OK, P73; IAME Winter Cup, X30 Senior, P17

2024 PLANS

British F4 with Argenti Motorsport

Cui, a member of the Mercedes Junior Team since 2021, competed in European karting this season. It was, however, a season to forget results-wise for the Chinese driver, who failed to score any points in the OK class of the European championship with Prema.

However, the Mercedes protégé achieved much more consistency in the WSK Super Master Series and the Champions of the Future series.

Next year will be pivotal for Cui, who was recently announced to be joining Argenti for the 2024 British F4 season.



Photo credit: Alexandros
Vernardis / The RaceBox

LUNA FLUXÁ

MEMBER SINCE 2022 | SPAIN | 13

2023 IN BRIEF

Karting

FIA Karting World Championship, OKJ, DNQ; Champions of the Future Academy Program, OK-NJ, P4, Champions of the Future, OKJ, P71; FIA Karting European Championship, OKJ, P30; WSK Champions Cup, OKJ, P4; WSK Super Master Series, OKJ, P31; WSK Euro Series, OKJ, P56

2024 PLANS

Unconfirmed; rumoured OKJ class in karting

Fluxá built on her 2022 IAME Euro Series X30 Mini title by jumping to the OK-J category for 2023. It was a season of discovery and progress for the 13-year-old as she competed with Prema in the OK junior class of the FIA Karting European Championship, in which she finished 29th. She also finished fourth in the WSK Champions Cup with KR Motorsport and 80th in the World Karting Championship, also both in the OK Junior class.

Fluxá, who joined the Mercedes Junior Team in February 2022, has not announced plans for 2024 yet, but it is expected that the Spanish karter will stick to the OKJ class for one more year in order to develop herself even more.

Photo credit:
Mercedes Junior Team



KENZO CRAIGIE

MEMBER SINCE 2023 | UNITED KINGDOM | 13

2023 IN BRIEF

Karting
Rotax Max Euro
Trophy, Rotax
Junior, P2; Rotax
Challenge Grand
Finals, Rotax
Junior, P20

The latest addition to the Mercedes Junior Team, Kenzo Craigie joined the German outfit after an impressive 2022 season in which he finished second in the British Kart Championship and won the Ultimate Karting Championship.

As part of his partnership with Mercedes, the 13-year-old driver signed with Argenti Motorsport to compete in both UK and international karting series. With Argenti, the English driver finished second in the Junior Rotax Euro Trophy Championship, earning him a qualification for the Rotax Max Grand Finals in Bahrain earlier this month, in which he represented the UK and finished 20th.

2024 PLANS

Unconfirmed

Craigie's plans for 2024 haven't been announced yet.

2023 ACADEMY MEMBER EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEWS



Arvid Lindblad: 'A huge honour to be driving for Prema'

by Daniele Spadi | 4 January

FDA's Aurelia Nobels: 'I will do everything to chase my dreams'

by Maria Clara Castro | 9 January



Who is Red Bull's new superstar Enzo Deligny?

by Perceval Wolff | 18 January

How Pierre Gasly's manager got Enzo Deligny to join Red Bull

by Perceval Wolff | 20 January



2022 GB3 champion Luke Browning: 'All my dreams came true this year'

by Gemma Cockrell | 21 January

Jamie Chadwick: F1 is 'definitely' still on my mind

by Jeroen Demmendaal | 22 January



Dennis Hauger: 'Discipline and preparation' key to winning F2 title

by Tyler Foster | 1 March

Sztuka: lower-cost FWS 'a good option for drivers like me who can't go to the UAE'

by Grégoire Devaux | 27 March



Bianca Bustamante: F1 Academy 'prioritised track time and growth'

by Pierre Gorce | 24 April

FRECA's Tramnitz on Barcelona: 'One of the best weekends I've ever had'

by Jim Kimberley | 23 May



Behind the scenes of Léna Bühler's race-winning F1 Academy weekend

by Jim Kimberley | 24 May

FERRARI DRIVER ACADEMY

by Daniele
Spadi

Ollie Bearman
Arthur Leclerc
Dino Beganovic
Rafael Câmara
Maya Weug
James Wharton
Tuukka Taponen
Aurelia Nobels

Photo credit: Formula Regional
Middle East Championship



Photo credit: Prema Racing

OLLIE BEARMAN

MEMBER SINCE 2022 | UNITED KINGDOM | 18

2023 IN BRIEF

F2
Prema Racing
P6, 130 points

Having missed out on the F3 drivers' title to Victor Martins in the final race of the 2022 season, Bearman was regarded as a dark horse for the 2023 F2 title. Staying with Prema Racing for his step up, Bearman faced high expectations, but the 2021 ADAC F4 and Italian F4 champion initially struggled to get acquainted with the car and had only three points to his name after the first six races.

The Briton's talent shone through mid-season, however, once he got more familiar with the car. A spectacular weekend in Baku saw him take an unlikely pole position with a broken suspension and win both races, becoming the first driver in modern F2 history to complete a clean sweep. But inconsistency plagued Bearman's season, with impressive feature race wins in Barcelona and Monza complementing scoreless weekends in Monaco and Abu Dhabi.

Ultimately, Bearman ended the season sixth in the drivers' standings with four wins and one additional podium, putting him as the second among the rookies. He will return to F2 with Prema next year and could well be a championship contender with more consistent performances.

2024 PLANS

F2 with Prema Racing



Photo credit: Dutch Photo Agency

ARTHUR LECLERC

MEMBER SINCE 2020 | MONACO | 23

2023 IN BRIEF

F2
DAMS
P15, 47 points

If Bearman can be happy with his rookie F2 season, it is slightly more difficult to say the same for Leclerc. Joining forces with DAMS for his 2023 campaign, the Monégasque driver looked to have adapted quickly to the new car, scoring his maiden podium in the series in Australia along with three other points finishes in the first three rounds.

Despite his promising start, Leclerc failed to finish in the top five in any other race in 2023 amid misfortune, mechanical issues, poor strategic calls and a sheer lack of pace. Sixth in the final feature race of the year in Abu Dhabi was a sign of promise, but it was ultimately too little, too late.

Leclerc finished his maiden F2 season 15th in the drivers' standings, well over 100 points behind second-year teammate Ayumu Iwasa. He is rumoured to be heading to sports cars in 2024.

2024 PLANS

Unconfirmed; leaving Ferrari Driver Academy; rumoured Ferrari GT3 drive

Photo credit:
Prema Racing

Photo credit: Sebastiaan
Rozendaal / Dutch Photo
Agency



DINO BEGANOVIC

MEMBER SINCE 2020 | SWEDEN | 19

2023 IN BRIEF

F3

Prema Racing
P6, 96 points

FRMEC

Mumbai Falcons
Racing
P11, 62 points

Beganovic, the 2022 FRECA champion, stepped into 2023 as a clear-cut favourite to win the F3 title. After winning two of the six races he contested in Formula Regional Middle East over the winter, the Prema driver showed good pace in F3 pre-season testing and finished in the top five in his first three races.

His championship hopes, however, faded in the middle part of the season as he lost consistency. On the one hand, he took podiums in both the Monaco and Barcelona feature races, but on the other there was a technical failure in qualifying at Silverstone that put him last on the grid for both races. He also endured a poor end to the season, with only two points in the last four races, as well as a crash in the Macau Grand Prix main race in November just after passing Gabriele Minì for second.

2024 PLANS

F3 with Prema
Racing

Sixth in the drivers' standings with four trips to the podium was by no means a bad result for Beganovic, but both driver and team would have expected more out of 2023. He will have another chance to fight for the title in 2024 as he remains with Prema.

RAFAEL CÂMARA

MEMBER SINCE 2022 | BRAZIL | 17

Making the step up from Italian F4, Câmara had a very busy 2023 season. The Brazilian first competed in FRMEC, taking home six podiums en route to third in the standings behind former Italian F4 rival Andrea Kimi Antonelli and F3 driver Taylor Barnard.

Eventual champion Antonelli would then be Câmara's teammate and main reference point throughout his maiden FRECA campaign, though the Brazilian driver was by no means unimpressive. Câmara started the year with a podium in his first race at Imola and grabbed his maiden win in the fourth round at Spa. He won again at the Red Bull Ring and nearly did so in the second Monza race after a battle with Antonelli, but a premature red flag put the results on countback to when the Mercedes junior still had the lead.

Poor qualifying performances and misfortune prevented Câmara from maximising his points tally, yet he managed to finish the championship in fifth place, just one point behind Kas Haverkort in fourth. Prema has already announced that Câmara will be staying with the team for a second season in FRECA, and the Brazilian will be among the favourites for the 2024 title.

2023 IN BRIEF

FRECA

Prema Racing
P5, 173 points

FRMEC

Mumbai Falcons
Racing
P3, 131 points

2024 PLANS

FRECA with Prema
Racing



Photo credit: Sebastiaan Rozendaal / Dutch Photo Agency

MAYA WEUG

MEMBER SINCE 2021 | SPAIN & NETHERLANDS | 19

2023 IN BRIEF

**FRECA
KIC Motorsport
P17, 27 points**

Weug stepped up to FRECA from Italian F4 and joined KIC Motorsport, which failed to score points in 2022. The team struggled to provide her with a competitive car at first, but things looked to have changed at Spa, where the Spanish-Dutch-Belgian driver took home two top-seven finishes.

Three further top 10 finishes in the two subsequent rounds at Mugello, where she took a season-high fifth in qualifying, and Le Castellet put her on the fringes of the top 10 in the standings. She took a further points finish in Monza but dropped back to 17th in the standings, though crucially having scored all of KIC's 27 total points.

For 2024, Weug is expected to move to F1 Academy with Prema. Having made an impression in FRECA, she would be amongst the favourites to follow in the footsteps of reigning champion Marta Garcia, who also raced for Prema.

2024 PLANS

F1 Academy; team unconfirmed, rumoured Prema Racing



Photo credit: Paolo Pellegrini

JAMES WHARTON

MEMBER SINCE 2021 | AUSTRALIA | 17

2023 IN BRIEF

**F4 UAE
Mumbai Falcons Racing
P1, 232 points**

**Italian F4
Prema Racing
P4, 205.5 points**

**Euro 4
Prema Racing
P2, 169 points**

2024 PLANS

Unconfirmed; rumoured FRECA with Prema Racing; leaving Ferrari Driver Academy

Australia's Wharton was set to lead Prema in F4 thanks to the experience he gathered in 2022 with the team. It looked as though that would be the case at the start of the year after he took home the F4 UAE drivers' title after a titanic battle with soon-to-be teammates Tuukka Taponen and Ugo Ugochukwu, but this run of form did not continue into Italian F4.

Two non-scores in the season opener in Imola and a technical issue in race three in Misano put him on the back foot from the start. The picture improved massively in Spa, where Wharton won two races and finished third in race three. Though he scored more consistently in the second half of the season, the 17-year-old struggled to keep up with his teammates and only took home three additional podiums on his way to fourth in the standings. He also challenged for the title in the newly formed Euro-4 Championship but lost out to Ugochukwu in the final race of the season in Barcelona.

Wharton's departure from the Ferrari Driver Academy appears to be no obstacle to his 2024 plans, which he confirmed today were "already in place". A step up to FRECA with Prema has been widely rumoured.

Photo credit: Formula
Regional European
Championship by Alpine



TUUKKA TAPONEN

MEMBER SINCE 2023 | FINLAND | 19

2023 IN BRIEF

F4 UAE
Mumbai Falcons
Racing
P2, 212 points

Italian F4
Prema Racing
P5, 196 points

Euro 4
Prema Racing
P5, 102 points

2024 PLANS

FRECA and FRMEC
with R-ace GP

Having won the 2022 FDA Scouting World Finals, Taponen joined the academy over the winter and moved to F4 UAE for his first single-seater races outside of Finland. His 2023 programme mirrored Wharton's, and after losing the title to the Australian in F4 UAE despite a phenomenal effort in his first full championship campaign, expectations were high for the Finn.

However, Taponen struggled to get going in Italian F4. Despite an early win in Misano, he made rookie mistakes and crucially failed to deliver in qualifying in the first half of the season. He eventually found his footing in the last three rounds of the championship, stepping on the podium five times and dropping out of the top five on just one occasion in the last nine races. This late surge put the Finn fifth for his rookie season, only 9.5 points behind Wharton. He obtained the same placement in his maiden Euro 4 campaign, in which he took two podium finishes.

Although many thought Taponen might stay in Italian F4 for 2024 as a clear title favourite, the 17-year-old instead signed a deal with R-ace GP for the 2024 FRECA season.

Photo credit: Paolo
Pellegrini



AURELIA NOBELS

MEMBER SINCE 2023 | BRAZIL | 16

2023 IN BRIEF

Italian F4
Prema Racing
P26, 0 points

Euro 4
Prema Racing
P22, 0 points

2024 PLANS

F1 Academy; team
unconfirmed,
rumoured ART
Grand Prix

Nobels, the 2022 FIA Girls on Track – Rising Stars winner, joined the Ferrari Driver Academy for the 2023 season. Unlike some of her teammates, she did not take part in any winter championships and went straight to Italian F4, missing out on points by less than three tenths of a second in race two at the opening round in Imola. However, her season was abruptly interrupted by an injury to her wrist after a pit lane incident at the next round at Misano, which meant that Nobels missed two races around the Italian racetrack as well as the whole race weekend in Spa.

In the last four rounds of the Italian F4 season, Nobels scored no points, leading her to finish in 26th in the drivers' standings and third in the women's championship, 20 points behind champion Tina Hausmann. Her Euro 4 campaign panned out similarly, and she finished that season 22nd with zero points.

In 2024, the Brazilian is set to join F1 Academy, with ART Grand Prix believed to be her destination.

MCLAREN DRIVER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

by Laura Anequini

Ryō Hirakawa
Gabriel Bortoleto
Ugo Ugochukwu
Bianca Bustamante





Photo credit:
McLaren Racing

RYŌ HIRAKAWA

MEMBER SINCE 2023 | JAPAN | 29

2023 IN BRIEF

Super Formula
Team Impul
P5, 58 points

Driving for Team Impul, Hirakawa, who also competes in WEC for Toyota Gazoo Racing, faced some challenges in Super Formula this year. The 29-year-old driver finished the season fifth in the standings with 58 points, but despite his strong race pace, he was held back by Impul's struggles in qualifying.

After nine years in Super Formula, Hirakawa will bid farewell to the Japanese single-seater championship. Now part of the McLaren Driver Development Programme, Hirakawa is set to continue in WEC while also assuming the McLaren F1 reserve driver role for the coming year.

2024 PLANS

F1 reserve driver for McLaren; World Endurance Championship with Toyota Gazoo Racing



Photo credit: Sebastiaan
Rozendaal / Dutch Photo
Agency

GABRIEL BORTOLETO

MEMBER SINCE 2023 | BRAZIL | 19

2023 IN BRIEF

F3
Trident Motorsport
P1, 164 points

Bortoleto's season caught many by surprise. Having finished sixth in FRECA last year, Bortoleto was the first F3 driver to be confirmed for the 2023 season. The Brazilian showed from the start that he was a contender for the title, winning the first feature race of the year in Bahrain and doing so again from pole position at the next round in Australia.

Although he did not take any more race wins, Bortoleto had four podiums and 10 consecutive points finishes and entered the final round in Monza with 38 points in hand over Paul Aron and 39 over Pepe Martí, who were second and third respectively in the championship. After neither of his rivals took pole position, Bortoleto secured the title in qualifying, becoming the first Brazilian champion in modern FIA F3.

Already a part of the A14 Management programme overseen by two-time F1 champion and former McLaren driver Fernando Alonso, Bortoleto was announced as a new McLaren junior in October. He will join Virtuosi Racing for next year's F2 season and has already left an impression on the grid by topping the afternoon session on the second day of post-season testing.

2024 PLANS

F2 with Invicta Racing (formerly Virtuosi Racing)



Photo credit:
Massimo Bettiol
via ACI Sport

UGO UGOCHUKWU

MEMBER SINCE 2021 | UNITED STATES | 16

2023 IN BRIEF

Euro 4
Prema Racing
P1, 193 points

Italian F4
Prema Racing
P2, 280 points

F4 UAE
Prema Racing
P3, 185 points

2024 PLANS

FRECA with Prema
Racing

A member of the McLaren programme since 2021, Ugochukwu had a busy 2023 season. The American driver started the year in F4 UAE with Prema, finishing in third place. Following that, Ugochukwu went straight to Italian F4, and his results were no less impressive.

Building on his experience from contesting two rounds in the previous season, the 16-year-old quickly asserted himself as a title contender. With a tally of three wins and a championship-high 13 total podiums, Ugochukwu finished the championship as the runner-up, 35 points behind champion Kacper Sztuka.

Ugochukwu also won the inaugural Euro 4 season by 24 points after overturning a points deficit in the season finale at Barcelona. After finishing fourth in the first race, he ended up second in the second race after a brave move around the outside of Prema teammate Tuukka Taponen into the long right-hander at turn three. Ugochukwu was two points behind race two winner Wharton, though, at this stage, but he won race three from pole to secure the title.

Ugochukwu then joined Trident for the F3 Macau Grand Prix. He qualified as the team's lead car in eighth, but a crash in the qualifying race put him at the back for the main race, which he finished 15th. He will move up to FRECA with Prema next season.



Photo credit:
McLaren Racing

BIANCA BUSTAMANTE

MEMBER SINCE 2023 | PHILIPPINES | 18

2023 IN BRIEF

F1 Academy
Prema Racing
P7, 116 points

F4 UAE
Prema Racing
P27, 3 points

Italian F4
Prema Racing
P44, 0 points

USF Juniors
Exclusive Autosport
P17, 27 points

2024 PLANS

F1 Academy with
ART Grand Prix

One of the newest additions to the team, Bustamante is the first female driver in the papaya team's junior programme. Having raced in W Series last year, Bustamante made her F4 UAE debut this year with Prema, finishing in the top 10 twice. She also competed with Prema in the first season of F1 Academy and ended the year seventh in the standings with two wins and two podiums. Her results helped the Italian outfit to the teams' title by eight points over MP Motorsport.

In addition, Bustamante competed for Exclusive Autosport in the last three USF Juniors races this year. She also made her debut in the F4 SEA invitational round at the Macau Grand Prix, in which she finished ninth in the qualifying race before retiring from the main race because of opening-lap contact.

For next season, Bustamante will represent McLaren in F1 Academy while driving for ART Grand Prix.

ALPINE ACADEMY

by Martin Lloyd

Jack Doohan
Victor Martins
Kush Maini
Gabriele Minì
Nikola Tsolov
Sophia Floersch
Nicola Lacorte
Abbi Pulling
Matheus Ferreira
Kean Nakamura-Berta





Photo credit:
Diederik van der
Laan / Dutch
Photo Agency

JACK DOOHAN

MEMBER SINCE 2022 | AUSTRALIA | 18

2023 IN BRIEF

F2
Virtuosi Racing
P3, 168 points

Doohan's second year at Virtuosi Racing promised a great deal, given an impressive sixth-place finish in 2022, his first full-time year in FIA Formula 2. Doohan had a difficult start to the 2023 season, with just one podium across the opening seven rounds, but he followed this with a wildly different second half of the season.

With seven top-six finishes in the final eight feature races, Doohan shot up the standings to a final spot of third, winning three out of the last five feature races. In finishing just 35 points behind championship winner Théo Pourchaire, Doohan made solid progress from his first year in F2 even if he did not secure the championship win he would have hoped for.

2024 PLANS

Reserve driver for
Alpine F1 Team

For 2024, Doohan has confirmed that he will be leaving F2. A seat in the World Endurance Championship has been rumoured, but no news has been confirmed at the time of writing.



Photo credit: Diederik
van der Laan / Dutch
Photo Agency

VICTOR MARTINS

MEMBER FROM 2018-19, SINCE 2021 | FRANCE | 22

2023 IN BRIEF

F2
ART Grand Prix
P5, 150 points

Martins, the reigning Formula 3 champion, had an inconsistent campaign, but a fifth-place championship finish can still be considered a successful debut season in F2. The Frenchman scored 10 podiums, helping to propel ART Grand Prix to the teams' championship alongside Pourchaire. Amongst his most impressive results was a feature race win at Silverstone, where he built a five-second gap to Zane Maloney to nullify the impact of a penalty he earned earlier in the race.

Martins also accrued five second-place finishes, but fourteen race results outside of the top six rendered a championship challenge unlikely. As a Formula Renault Eurocup and F3 champion, there are high hopes for Martins' second season in F2.

The 22-year-old is expected to remain with the ART squad alongside confirmed rookie Zak O'Sullivan, who will together aim to defend their teams' title.

2024 PLANS

Unconfirmed;
rumoured F2 with
ART Grand Prix



KUSH MAINI

MEMBER SINCE 2023 | INDIA | 23

2023 IN BRIEF

F2
Campos Racing
P11, 62 points

Maini enjoyed a fruitful debut season in F2, leading to a chance to join the Alpine Academy. The Indian moved up from a 14th-place F3 finish in 2022, showing flashes of potential with MP Motorsport. For 2023, Maini stepped up to join the Campos squad in F2, putting in a string of impressive performances.

Again, Maini showed his quality with seven points-scoring finishes in the first 8 races, including a maiden podium in the Melbourne sprint race. Although his form declined in the second half of the season, Maini's 62 points secured him 11th place in the championship, and he comprehensively beat his experienced teammate, Ralph Boschung. In doing so, Maini scored more points than any Campos driver since Jack Aitken in 2019.

For 2024, Maini has confirmed that he is moving to the successful Virtuosi team, which ran Doohan, Maini's Alpine stablemate, for two years.

2024 PLANS

F2 with Invicta Racing (formerly Virtuosi Racing); reserve driver for Mahindra Racing in Formula E



GABRIELE MINÌ

MEMBER SINCE 2023 | ITALY | 18

2023 IN BRIEF

F3
Hitech GP
P7, 92 points

Another driver who showed promise before the 2023 season was Italy's Minì. Having finished fourth in FRECA in 2022, he joined the Alpine Academy and was placed with Hitech in F3. In his debut campaign, Minì finished seventh in the championship with 92 points.

Winning two races in Monaco and Hungary, the 18-year-old finished comfortably clear of his teammates, Luke Browning and Sebastián Montoya, who placed 15th and 16th respectively. Minì also finished third in Australia and second in Austria.

It has been confirmed that Minì will remain in F3 for 2024 and move to the imperious Prema team, who have won four of the five modern teams' championships. With a seat at the reigning teams' champions, Minì will be one of the favourites for next year's championship.

FRMEC
Hitech GP
P22, 10 points

2024 PLANS

F3 with Prema Racing



NIKOLA TSOLOV

MEMBER SINCE 2022 | BULGARIA | 17

2023 IN BRIEF

F3
ART Grand Prix
P22, 6 points

Eurocup-3
GRS Team
P10, 44 points

FRMEC
R&B Racing by GRS
P23, 10 points

After a hugely successful campaign in Spanish F4, winning 13 races and finishing off the podium just three times, Tsolov became a full member of the Alpine Academy in February 2023 having previously been an affiliate of the programme. The Bulgarian, a protégé of two-time F1 champion Fernando Alonso, also jumped up to F3 with ART.

It proved a difficult season for the French outfit, who finished only eighth, their lowest position of the modern Formula 3 era. Of their three drivers, Tsolov finished lowest in the championship, in 22nd, albeit only one place behind teammate Kaylen Frederick. It is difficult to judge Tsolov's debut season, however, as he was the least experienced driver in the championship and it would understandably have taken time before he was comfortable with the Dallara F3 machinery.

The 16-year-old will be hoping for a better year in 2024. His plans are currently unconfirmed.

2024 PLANS

Unconfirmed;
rumoured F3 with
ART Grand Prix

SOPHIA FLOERSCH

MEMBER SINCE 2023 | GERMANY | 23

2023 IN BRIEF

F3
PHM Racing by
Charouz
P23, 6 points

Floersch returned to F3 in 2023 following a two-year absence from the category. Previously, Floersch competed with Campos in 2020, with a best race finish of 12th. Next came stints in ELMS, DTM and even the World Endurance Championship before she rejoined F3 with PHM Racing by Charouz, rebranded from Charouz Racing System in 2022.

Floersch certainly bested her only full-time teammate, Roberto Faria. Floersch finished inside the top 15 four times, including at Spa, where she became the first woman to score points in F3. Those six points crucially ensured that PHM finished four points clear of Rodin Carlin, securing them ninth place in the standings.

Next year, Floersch will compete in F3 with Van Amersfoort Racing, with whom she finished 11th at the F3 Macau Grand Prix last month.

2024 PLANS

F3 with Van
Amersfoort Racing



NICOLA LACORTE

MEMBER SINCE 2023 | ITALY | 16

2023 IN BRIEF

Italian F4

Prema Racing
P9, 75 points

Euro 4

Prema Racing
P9, 57.5 points

F4 UAE

Prema Racing
P24, 5 points

Lacorte is a recent addition to the Alpine Academy. He finished ninth in Italian F4 with Prema this year, winning one race and scoring two podiums. He also finished ninth in the Euro 4 championship.

Lacorte will begin 2024 in Formula Regional Oceania for three rounds with M2 Competition before moving to FRECA with Trident.

2024 PLANS

FRECA with Trident
Motorsport

ABBI PULLING

MEMBER SINCE 2022 | UNITED KINGDOM | 20

2023 IN BRIEF

F1 Academy

Rodin Carlin
P5, 175 points

Following two successful seasons in W Series, finishing seventh and fourth, Pulling moved onto F1 Academy with Rodin Carlin for 2023 and became a full member of the Alpine Academy. The Briton had a mixed year in the category but finished fifth in the championship. Pulling scored seven podiums and two pole positions, though she did not win a race. In 2024, she will return to F1 Academy with Rodin Carlin and compete in British F4.

2024 PLANS

F1 Academy and
British F4 with
Rodin Carlin



MATHEUS FERREIRA

MEMBER SINCE 2022 | BRAZIL | 16

2023 IN BRIEF

Italian F4
Van Amersfoort Racing
P18, 15 points

Brazilian F4
Bassani Racing
P11, 57 points

Ferreira joined the Alpine Academy at the start of 2023, and moved from a promising karting career, including 2nd place in the 2021 Junior World Championship, into F4. Ferreira mainly competed in Italian F4 with Van Amersfoort Racing but finished only 18th in the standings with 15 points to his name.

He found more success when making a one-off appearance in Brazilian F4. At the F1 support round at Interlagos, Ferreira won two of the three races, which was enough to put him 11th in the championship despite having only competed in one round.

Ferreira's 2024 plans have not yet been announced.

2024 PLANS

Unconfirmed



KEAN NAKAMURA-BERTA

MEMBER SINCE 2022 | JAPAN & GREAT BRITAIN | 16

2023 IN BRIEF

F4 SEA
Prema Racing
P6, 48 points

Karting

FIA Karting World Championship, OK, P3, KZ2, P26; Champions of the Future, OK, P2; FIA Karting European Championship, OK, P5, KZ2, P6; WSK Euro Series, OK, P19; WSK Open Series, KZ2, P7; WSK Super Master Series, KZ2, P52; IAME Winter Cup, KZ2, P6

The young Japanese racer continued in karts in 2023. Having won the FIA Karting European Championship in 2022, he turned to the FIA Karting World Championship and finished third for Prema. Nakamura also competed in four other karting championships and, given his karting success, is a possible candidate for a full-time step up to single-seaters for 2024. This is especially true given his recent success in the F4 South East Asia Championship, finishing sixth in the standings for Prema, despite having only taken part in the final two rounds of the championship.

2024 PLANS

Unconfirmed;
rumoured Italian F4
with Prema Racing⁵⁹

WILLIAMS DRIVER ACADEMY

by Finjo Muschlien



Franco Colapinto
Zak O'Sullivan
Luke Browning
Ollie Gray
Jamie Chadwick
Lia Block
Oleksandr Bondarev



Photo credit: Sebastiaan Rozendaal / Dutch Photo Agency



Photo credit: Dutch Photo Agency

FRANCO COLAPINTO

MEMBER SINCE 2023 | ARGENTINA | 20

2023 IN BRIEF

F2
MP Motorsport
P25, 0 points

F3
MP Motorsport
P4, 110 points

Argentina's Colapinto, remembered for unexpectedly taking pole position on his and Van Amersfoort Racing's F3 debut in Bahrain in 2022, was signed by the Williams Driver Academy just before the start of the 2023 season. In his second full season of F3, Colapinto, driving for MP Motorsport, consistently finished inside the top 10 and ended fourth in the championship. The highlights of his season were two sprint race victories at Silverstone and Monza, the latter of which he achieved just weeks after breaking his collarbone.

He was set to take part in the F3 World Cup in Macau in November but withdrew a week before the event. However, having recovered from his injury, he got to taste F2 machinery for the first time the week after Macau in Abu Dhabi, where he replaced Jehan Daruvala at MP Motorsport for the final round of the season. He finished 19th in the sprint race, then had to retire from the feature race because of a sensor issue.

2024 PLANS

F2 with MP Motorsport

Colapinto also got his first experience in F1 machinery when he took part in the F1 post-season test, in which he completed 65 laps in this year's Williams FW45.

In 2024, Colapinto will race in F2 with MP Motorsport.

ZAK O'SULLIVAN

MEMBER SINCE 2022 | UNITED KINGDOM | 18

2023 IN BRIEF

F3
Prema Racing
P2, 119 points

The 2021 GB3 champion went into his second full season of FIA F3 this year, making the switch from Carlin to Prema, this year's championship-winning team. It was a rollercoaster year for O'Sullivan, who finished outside of the points as often as he finished inside of them.

He took a series-high four wins – two in sprints and two in feature races – plus a podium in the final race at Monza. This ensured he finished his season on a high and lifted him to second in the drivers' championship behind newly announced McLaren junior Gabriel Bortoletto.

O'Sullivan also got his first taste of F1 driving this year when he took part in free practice 1 for Williams at Abu Dhabi, becoming the first active F3 driver to take part in an FP1 session and the first from the third tier to do so since Charles Leclerc in 2016.

In October, it was announced that O'Sullivan would step up to F2 with ART Grand Prix next year.

2024 PLANS

F2 with ART Grand Prix



Photo credit: Macau Grand Prix Organizing Committee



Photo credit: Williams Racing

LUKE BROWNING

MEMBER SINCE 2023 | UNITED KINGDOM | 21

2023 IN BRIEF

F3
Hitech GP
P15, 41 points

FRMEC
Hitech GP
P26, 8 points

Williams seems to like signing GB3 champions, as Browning, the 2022 GB3 title winner, joined the Grove team's academy earlier this year.

After completing two rounds in Formula Regional Middle East over the winter, Browning had a solid debut F3 season with Hitech GP, albeit one that was by his own admission disappointing. He consistently finished in the points in the first half of the season and made one appearance on the podium in the Barcelona sprint race en route to 15th overall. Browning also took part in the F3 World Cup in November and highlighted his year of improvement by becoming the 70th Macau Grand Prix winner.

Away from junior single-seaters, he took part in the Formula E rookie test with McLaren in Berlin. On top of that, he also got his first taste of F1 when he tested Aston Martin's AMR21 in Silverstone as a reward for winning the BRDC Young Driver of the Year award in 2022.

In 2024, Browning will take on his second year in F3, staying with Hitech.

2024 PLANS

F3 with Hitech GP

OLLIE GRAY

MEMBER SINCE 2022 | UNITED KINGDOM | 18

2023 IN BRIEF

F3
Rodin Carlin
P29, 0 points

The 2022 British F4 runner-up stayed with his team Rodin Carlin when he stepped up to FIA F3 this year. Gray struggled and couldn't live up to expectations, finishing 28th in the overall standings.

Gray's best result was 14th, secured in Melbourne, Spielberg and Budapest, but didn't score any points.

Following an underwhelming season, Gray will take on a new challenge in the LMP2 class of the European Le Mans Series with Inter Europol. It is thought that he will no longer be a part of the Williams programme for 2024.

2024 PLANS

LMP2 class of the European Le Mans Series with Inter Europol Competition



Photo credit: James Black / Indy NXT



Photo credit: Williams Racing

JAMIE CHADWICK

MEMBER SINCE 2019 | UNITED KINGDOM | 25

2023 IN BRIEF

Indy NXT
Andretti Autosport
P12, 262 points

Chadwick was the only woman in the Williams Driver Academy until November 2023, when Lia Block joined the academy. However, she retains the status of being the member who has spent the longest time in the programme.

The 25-year-old previously celebrated lots of successes with Williams backing, taking home the W Series title three times in a row. After the series dissolved following the 2022 season, Chadwick went overseas to the United States to race in Indy NXT in 2023, beginning the next chapter in her career.

Partnering up with Andretti Autosport, Chadwick secured a best result of sixth at Portland International Raceway. She finished 12th in the overall standings and as the fourth-best rookie.

For 2024, Chadwick is expected to remain with the Williams Driver Academy as she takes on a second season of Indy NXT with the team, now renamed Andretti Global.

2024 PLANS

Indy NXT with
Andretti Global
(formerly Andretti Autosport)

LIA BLOCK

MEMBER SINCE 2023 | UNITED STATES OF AMERICA | 17

2023 IN BRIEF

Rally
American Rally Association,
overall, P4, O2WD,
P1, O4WD, N/A

Extreme E
Carl Cox
Motorsport
P14, 27 points

Nitrocross
Group E, P16
(ongoing), NEXT, P5
(ongoing)

Seventeen-year-old Lia Block, daughter of the late rally legend Ken Block, is the newest addition to the Williams Driver Academy and its second female member. The Extreme E racer will join ART Grand Prix for her first season in single-seaters in F1 Academy for 2024.

Block raced in several rally championships like Extreme E before, finishing fourth overall in the American Rally Association national championship in 2023. Her previous career path in rallying is unusual for a driver making such a step, but likewise few drivers have come to junior single-seaters from professional series such as Extreme E.

2024 PLANS

F1 Academy with
ART Grand Prix

Photo credit:
Williams Racing



OLEKSANDR BONDAREV

MEMBER SINCE 2023 | UKRAINE | 14

2023 IN BRIEF

Karting

FIA Karting World Championship, OKJ, P14; FIA Karting European Championship, OKJ, P1; WSK Final Cup, OK, P6; Champions of the Future, OKJ, P5; WSK Champions Cup, OKJ, P7; WSK Super Master Series, OKJ, P8; WSK Euro Series, OKJ, P28

2024 PLANS

Unconfirmed; rumoured F4 programme with Prema Racing

Fourteen-year-old Bondarev raced in several karting championships across the world in 2023, highlighted by winning the CIK-FIA Karting European Championship. In doing so, he added his name to a list of champions that also contains the likes of Max Verstappen and Alex Albon.

As a result of his solid performances and successes, he was signed by the Williams Driver Academy in September 2023 and is expected to move up to F4 with Prema next year. However, he will not be allowed to race until 27 April, when he turns 15.

2023 ACADEMY MEMBER EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEWS



FRECA's Andrea Kimi Antonelli attributes quick adaptation to FRMEC season

by Jim Kimberley | 30 May

Abbi Pulling on how F1 Academy and Alpine saved her career - again

by Jim Kimberley | 1 June



Floersch: Returning to F3 as an Alpine Academy driver 'makes a difference'

by Jim Kimberley | 7 June

Reigning F3 champion Martins wanted 'too much from the start of this season'

by Tyler Foster | 6 July



Pourchaire upbeat despite P8 finish in F2's 'tightest qualifying session of the year'

by Tyler Foster | 8 July

Bearman feels no pressure as 'the highest British driver outside of F1'

by Tyler Foster | 19 July



Ugo Ugochukwu 'feeling very happy' after taking the Euro 4 championship lead

by Daniele Spadi | 20 July

Vesti on F2 title battle: 'This is my year if I want to make it into Formula 1'

by Tyler Foster | 27 July



The heroic recovery behind Bondarev's European junior karting title

by Jake Sanson | 23 August

Franco Colapinto reflects on F3, his future and the support from his fans

by Daniele Spadi | 23 September



Bustamante: F1 Academy 'definitely something we've been needing for the past few years'

by Nida Anis | 20 October

SAUBER ACADEMY

by Steven Walton

Théo Pourchaire
Marcus Amand
Léna Bühler
Taym Saleh



Photo credit: Diederik van der Laan / Dutch Photo Agency



Photo credit:
Alfa Romeo F1
Team Stake



Photo credit:
Sebastiaan Rozendaal /
Dutch Photo Agency

THÉO POURCHAIRE

MEMBER SINCE 2019 | FRANCE | 20

2023 IN BRIEF

F2
ART Grand Prix
P1, 203 points

The 20-year-old French driver, who joined Sauber in 2019 when it was the Sauber Junior Team and stayed on once it rebranded to an academy, returned for his third full F2 season in 2023. He remained with the frontrunning ART Grand Prix squad and was always going to be a favourite for the title given he was the 2022 runner-up behind Felipe Drugovich.

Pourchaire won the 2023 F2 title thanks to an ultra-consistent season. He scored points at all rounds except Jeddah and Zandvoort. He was on pole in Sakhir and Monza and finished with 10 total podiums, tied with Frederik Vesti and teammate Victor Martins for the most in the series. Pourchaire only won a single race – the feature race in Sakhir – but he still beat his main rival Vesti in the championship because he picked up points regularly. Pourchaire's efforts were also integral to ART Grand Prix's victory in the teams' championship too.

Despite winning the F2 crown, Pourchaire did not earn a promotion to the F1 grid for 2024, with Sauber instead opting to rehire Zhou Guanyu for a third season. Pourchaire has now confirmed he will race in Japan's Super Formula series in 2024 with Team Impul.

2024 PLANS

Super Formula with
Team Impul; F1
reserve for Sauber

MARCUS AMAND

MEMBER SINCE 2023 | FRANCE | 17

2023 IN BRIEF

FRECA
ART Grand Prix
P18, 26 points

Seventeen-year-old French-Finnish driver Marcus Amand joined the Sauber Academy in February. After finishing ninth in Italian F4 in 2022, he stepped up to FRECA for 2023, racing with ART Grand Prix. Amand had a difficult time during the first half of the season, but he carved out some excellent results towards the end.

At the eighth round of the year in Monza, he qualified second for the first race and held that position throughout despite several incidents and safety car interruptions. Amand finished second on the road but didn't get a podium because of a 10-second penalty for forcing rival Michael Belov off the road.

During the second race at the next round in Zandvoort, Amand took his maiden pole position. He held the lead at the start but was passed on lap three by Andrea Kimi Antonelli, this year's FRECA champion. Still, amid damp conditions and a red flag, Amand held his nerve and came home second place, scoring his maiden podium.

Amand finished 2023 18th in the overall FRECA standings and fourth in the rookie standings, scoring 26 points from three points finishes.

2024 PLANS

Unconfirmed



Photo credit: Alfa Romeo F1 Team Stake

LÉNA BÜHLER

MEMBER SINCE 2023 | SWITZERLAND | 26

2023 IN BRIEF

F1 Academy
ART Grand Prix
P2, 222 points

F4 UAE
R2Race
P33, 0 points

The 26-year-old Swiss driver joined the Sauber Academy in February this year, just as she wrapped up an F4 UAE campaign with R2Race. In that series, Bühler didn't score any points and ended with a best finish of 15th. She had much more success later in the year, as she raced for ART Grand Prix in the inaugural season of F1 Academy, the all-female racing series using the Tatuus F4-T421 chassis.

Bühler was impressive in all seven F1 Academy rounds and finished second in the championship behind Marta García. Across 21 races, she scored 13 podiums, more than any other driver. Those podiums included a win in Barcelona and a win in the reverse-grid race in Monza. Aside from two retirements, Bühler finished in the points in every race.

Bühler ended the season with 222 points, significantly more than ART Grand Prix teammates Carrie Schreiner and Chloe Grant, who only scored 56 and 34 points respectively.

2024 PLANS

Unconfirmed



Photo credit: Alfa Romeo F1 Team Stake

TAYM SALEH

MEMBER SINCE 2023 | GERMANY | 14

2023 IN BRIEF

Karting
WSK Final Cup, OK, P18; FIA Karting World Championship, OKJ, P32; Champions of the Future, OKJ, P16; FIA Karting European Championship, OKJ, P11; WSK Champions Cup, OKJ, P3; WSK Super Master Series, OKJ, P23; WSK Euro Series, OKJ, P2

Fourteen-year-old German kart driver Taym Saleh joined the Sauber Academy in January and kept himself busy with several karting series in 2023.

His most successful outing was in the WSK Euro Series, in which he finished as the runner-up behind Martinese Iacopo. In the FIA Karting European Championship, Saleh finished 11th with 62 points.

Saleh also raced in the WSK Champions Cup in January, finishing third in the final in the OK Junior category. In October, he raced in the same category at the FIA Karting World Championship in Franciacorta, Italy. There, he started the final from fourth but retired on lap seven after a clash with Lewis Francis.

2024 PLANS

Unconfirmed

2023 ACADEMY MEMBER PODCASTS



Mercedes F1's Junior Star! Meet Andrea Kimi Antonelli

featuring Jim Kimberley & Michael McClure | 2 February

Montoya's Krispy Kreme Addiction & Toothbrush Nightmares

featuring Jim Kimberley & Tyler Foster | 8 February



F2 & F3 Return for 2023! PREMA's Zak O'Sullivan Battles Bahrain

featuring Jim Kimberley | 8 March

Is Ollie Goethe set for 2023 success? Meet F3's German AND Danish Sensation!

featuring Jim Kimberley & Gerren Scapens | 15 March



Frederik Vesti on Mercedes dreams, F2 title hopes... and LEGO!

featuring Jim Kimberley & Tyler Foster | 22 March

Meet Gabriel Bortoleto! F3's Alonso-backed Brazilian Ace!

featuring Jim Kimberley & Daniele Spadi | 29 March



F1 Academy Special! PREMA's Marta García, Bianca Bustamante & Chloe Chong on the FS Podcast!

featuring Jim Kimberley | 3 May

Tramnitz & Zagazeta talk 🤪 (ft. an Antonelli Interview!)

featuring Jim Kimberley & Chris McCarthy | 24 May



Hear From a Monaco Racewinner & an Aussie Ace! 🌟 Wholesome Alert 🌟

featuring Jim Kimberley & Tyler Foster | 1 June

Phenomenal Formula 3 in 2023! Season Review with Drivers!

featuring Jim Kimberley, Chris McCarthy & Daniele Spadi | 20 December



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