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Sport

# Monaco? That'll do for starters!



It's spray time in Monaco

Photo by GP2 Media



Jolyon Palmer with his Monaco trophy and dad Jonathan

Photo by GP2 Media

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**As maiden wins go, this was about as good as it gets. The iconic street circuit of Monaco, where success is particularly treasured by drivers, was the scene of Jolyon Palmer's first victory in GP2.**

The 21-year-old from Southwater dominated the sprint race on Saturday, adding his name to the list of GP2 Monaco winners including Lewis Hamilton, Sergio Perez, Bruno Senna and Pastor Maldonado.

He said: "It's an incredible track to take my first win on. My first main series podium as well, and I'm really thankful to the team (iSport International). The car has been really quick, finally it's been reliable, and it's really, really paid."

The son of former Formula 1 driver Jonathan had been hit by a reoccurring electrical problem in previous races, cruelly denying him the results his pace and undoubted potential deserved.

But Palmer finished sixth in the feature race on Friday, meaning he started the 30-lap sprint race from third as the top eight places are reversed to form the second grid.

He made a blistering start and stormed into the lead at Turn 1, mak-

ing a brave move up the inside to pass pole-sitter Stéphane Richelmi.

Richelmi then collided with James Calado, leaving Palmer clear to pull away at the front, before several cars were involved in a first-lap crash which forced a three-lap safety car period.

Palmer stretched his lead to 1.8 seconds by the end of the first racing lap and 10 seconds by the halfway point.

*'It's an incredible track to take my first win on'*

Reigate's Max Chilton (Carlin) closed the gap in the closing stages, but Palmer remained in control to take the chequered flag just over a second clear at the most glamorous venue on the calendar.

Palmer added: "We've been really quick over the four GP2 weekends so far, but we've had the worst luck ever in motor racing history and I had only started three races before the weekend."

"With (team-mate) Marcus Ericsson on form as well, it puts us back in the mix for the rest of the season."

Palmer is next in action at Valencia, Spain, on June 22-24.



Jolyon Palmer at the weekend

Photo by Octane Photographic