

Formula 1: The GOAT

#Chapter 101: Race Weekend | Saturday | Qualifying II - Read Formula 1: The GOAT Chapter 101: Race Weekend | Saturday | Qualifying II

Chapter 101: Race Weekend | Saturday | Qualifying II

"He has improved in the first two sectors by more than two-tenths from his previous lap, and as he goes into the first of the triple hairpins.....OOOOOOHHHH! There is a yellow flag on the track, and Fatih has to lift or risk a penalty, killing his final lap of the qualifying session and not allowing him to improve. Wow, what bad luck for the young driver who made a high-risk bet and was about to place himself in a position where he could benefit from it, but something out of his control interfered and killed his final attempt.

He had fallen to the seventeenth overall position after a few drivers in his group improved. To add insult to injury, his teammate, Max Fewtrell, improves his position and drops Fatih down to eighteenth. With a few more drivers still in their final sectors but spared of the yellow flag, which has cleared a few seconds after Fatih was affected as the driver who spun managed to rejoin the track, would they improve and drop Fatih further down? Yes, and yes again, but a third driver fails to improve on Fatih's lap time. Fatih has now fallen all the way to twentieth overall.

What a bad day to be in his shoes, as his workload has now doubled. Depending on how the heats go today, he might have the worst week of his karting career ever," Gianni commented with excitement in his tone. Although it was not something to feel excited about from Fatih's perspective, Gianni didn't care.

As a commentator who is supposed to be neutral, this was a very exciting situation for the young driver, as it would show what type of driver he was depending on how he performed following such a bad qualifying session. Depending on how he deals with such a first in his career, it could make an even better impact than him qualifying on pole. Although scouts were looking for talented drivers, they would try to avoid a prodigy who couldn't deal with unfortunate situations with a calm mind, since the moment they faced difficulty, they risked stagnating and not regaining their confidence to perform at the same level as they did in the past.

"But isn't that what the qualifying heats are for? To allow these young drivers to have an opportunity to recover from mistakes they make, unfortunate situations they find themselves in, or if they are affected by things out of their control by giving them more than two chances to try and reduce the effects of such events. So I don't think his weekend is solidified as the worst, but only has the potential to be one if he fails to deliver during the heats," Martina countered Gianni's slightly negative-leaning

commentary. She highlighted the structure implemented in karting in order for it to fit its status as a training and learning ground for young children who aim for motorsport in the future by avoiding cutthroat qualifying sessions like professional motorsports have.

"Although I agree with you, you have to keep in mind that he will only have a competitive pace once the track fully dries and his dry setup enters its optimal window. Before those periods arrive, the first two heats will still be driven under conditions similar to these in just half an hour from now, compared to the final two that will be driven in the evening.

Also, the forecast data shows that there is a possibility of rain during the evening where the remaining two heats will be taking place, which was not in the previous day's forecast. So it means there is a possibility of rain in the evening as well, and the performance gain he expected to have during the evening heats when the track is fully dry might not arrive. He might even find himself falling down further and starting even further back in the pre-final and the finals," Gianni said, providing a counterpoint to the optimistic-sounding Martina as the karts returned to the pit lane. Fatih showed no different expression or even lowering of his head, as if all that had happened was not much of a problem.

.....

"It's alright, mate. You still have the opportunity to recover in the heats," RFM's mechanic, Tommy, said in his British accent as he tapped Fatih on the shoulder once he came to a stop.

Fatih raised his visor before turning to look at Tommy and said, "I'm fine. I actually look forward to it," with a smile on his face, not showing a hint of disappointment or sadness for qualifying twentieth overall. Rather, he was looking forward to something finally being on the line that forced him to be prepared to fire on all cylinders.

"Are you sure? I'm pretty sure I wouldn't be this excited if I came last on the whole team," Tommy asked, raising his eyebrow, wondering if Fatih was just acting to hide his embarrassment.

"Yep, constantly winning is fun, but doing so without competition becomes stale after a while. Plus, it becomes even more enjoyable when you win after carving through the pack against competitive drivers," Fatih said, his eyes being the only visible part of his face, and they showed no hint of it being a coping mechanism at all. He meant every part of it.

For Fatih, it was a one-plus-one deal, one that he had experience achieving in his career. Although it was going to be enjoyable to carve through the field once his setup regained its advantage, it also increased the number of overtakes he would have to do over the four heats, meaning for every overtake, that was one additional system point, and if the overtake was good, that was five points. And although he couldn't spend them

to upgrade his abilities, there was nothing against accumulating as much SP as possible.

"Is that so? Then I look forward to your drive in the heats," instead of Tommy answering, it was Ricky Flynn who spoke.

Instead of answering, Fatih just gave him a thumbs up as he got off the kart and took off his helmet and balaclava, looking refreshed instead of the expected tiredness from the qualifying session's intensity he had just gone through.

"Good. Debrief in five," Ricky said before turning around and walking back to the team's tent. As he took each additional step, a smile formed on his lips, quite satisfied that Fatih was not discouraged by the situation he had faced, including the unlucky yellow flag that killed his lap, which would have at least improved him to the top ten overall.

He had been worried that someone like Fatih, who had experienced nothing but good fortune and dominance in his national karting scene, would be feeling down and maybe even embarrassed from the arrogance and steadfastness he had shown yesterday in arguing back and forth with him. This made the reason he had come for, which was to comfort and motivate him, moot. A talented driver who could argue for and believe in his intuition was very rare these days, as a majority of them were being coddled and were very dependent on data.

"I'm looking forward to the heats," he said before entering the tent.

Chapter 102: Race Weekend | Saturday | GROUP B & C Heats

"Any improvements on the track?" Steve asked the moment Fatih took a seat in the tent, waiting for the rest of the group to join them for the post-qualifying debrief.

"The track has only improved between two-tenths and a quarter of a second from the initial pace," Fatih said as a side remark, placing his helmet on the table before bending down to pick a water bottle from the carton underneath.

When no one said anything, the room fell into what could only be described as an unnatural silence. He raised his head, peeking above the table to see what was going on. Everyone was staring at him with looks of utter surprise.

"What have I done?" he asked, his eyes scanning the room for clues.

"Did Burak tell you about it?" John asked, looking down at his notes.

"I was here the whole time preparing for this debrief," Burak answered instead of Fatih, causing everyone to turn back to Fatih, their surprise undiminished.

"Where did you get that number from? Did you guess it or something?" Steve asked, his tone laced with disbelief.

"No, I was counting in my mind during the session," Fatih answered bluntly, as if it were the most normal thing in the world.

"Why do you enjoy messing with people?" Apollo asked amidst a fit of laughter, looking at the deer-in-the-headlights reaction from the others.

"I have to squeeze everything from the system if I'm going to be using it," Fatih answered him, enjoying the looks on their faces but maintaining an innocent expression. "Plus, it increases the reason for them to trust my hunches if I show I have the mental capacity to think about things like these during a session."

Fatih's innocent look only increased their disbelief. It seemed as if this was the norm for him, and he had no idea how scary it was for someone to differentiate such a tiny improvement and be right on the mark, just by counting in his head without any reference to timing equipment.

Karting, unlike the downforce-reliant formula ladder, cannot generate helpful aerodynamic downforce to press water out of the way. With a small ride height due to the chassis sitting extremely close to the ground, water tends to pool around the kart instead of spreading outwards. Paired with small tires that reduce the amount of water they can displace, it is nearly impossible for a track to dry during a session if it starts wet. This reality requires the drivers to maintain full focus; it is a true test of skill where a driver must read and understand the surface lap by lap and manage grip without relying on mechanical or aerodynamic aid.

When all of that was taken into consideration, the fact that Fatih still had enough mental bandwidth to count in his mind, accurate to the tenth of a second, showed just how much of a monster he was.

"Let's get back to the main topic," Ricky said, tapping the table to refocus everyone's attention away from Fatih.

It took a few seconds for everyone to recollect themselves. The drivers wondered how they couldn't do it, the mechanics wondered how you even **could** count it, and the coaches and telemetry staff wondered what the heck was going on in Fatih's mind to have that much bandwidth. Finally, they all joined him at the table to start the post-qualifying debrief and prepare for the qualifying heat that was about to start in twenty-five minutes.

...

"Ladies and gentlemen, welcome to the first Qualifying Heat of the KF Junior category, a battle between group B and C. This was changed in order to compensate for Group A

being the first to go on the wet track for the qualifying session, as a means of leveling the field," Gianni announced as the drivers got into their Karts just a few minutes before the first heat started.

"On pole position, we have Tommaso Mosca, who qualified second overall, but since group A is not in this qualifier, he is now sitting on pole. Locking out the front row is Giuliano Alesi, taking the P2 position, followed by Enaam Ahmed on the second row..." Martina started, going through the list of the thirty-six drivers in the heat one by one.

"On P12, we have Fatih Yıldırım, who is quite a few positions up compared to where he qualified. That is one of the perks of heats with more than two groups, as he is now as close to the top ten as he could be, and it gives him an opportunity. On P13, we have Mick Junior (Schumacher)..."

...

VWOOOM!

A horn blared before the drivers were pushed by their mechanics, starting the karts. They began the formation lap, all the drivers swerving left and right to put some heat into their tires. As they approached the first of the triple hairpins, they compacted into two tight lines. The session leaders took a straight shortcut, skipping the second hairpin and arriving immediately at the third and final corner before the green flag was waved and a horn sounded, indicating the start of the race.

...

"And the green flag is waved as the drivers get on the power! Giuliano Alesi has a great start, but Enaam Ahmed is matching his reactions and slowly closing the gap on the straight! A few drivers in the back go off the track, but the race is allowed to continue without any flag. Into the first corner, Enaam fancies a move but is forced to hold back, choosing a bad entry but a smoother, faster exit heading into turn two! Giuliano Alesi holds firm as he goes wide to defend, and Enaam experiences wheelspin on the exit after being forced onto the wet parts of the track to avoid the race leader! The same can't be said for Tommaso, who has managed to catch everyone by surprise and has already gained a minor but comfortable lead. It continues widening with every fight that takes place behind him! ENAAM MAKES ANOTHER GUTSY MOVE! HE PLACES GIULIANI UNDER PRESSURE, FORCING HIM TO MAKE A MISTAKE! A SWITCHBACK IS ACCOMPLISHED INTO TURN FOUR AS GIULIANO ALESI GOES WIDE AFTER MISSING HIS BRAKING MARK, TRYING TO OUTBRAKE ENAAM! QUITE AN IMPRESSIVE START FOR THE YOUNG DRIVER, WHO IS NOW CHASING THE RACE LEADER!" Gianni commentated with pure excitement as the action on the track warranted nothing less.

That's when Martina, who had been silent, came in. "But the most surprising beneficiary of this start is Fatih Yıldırım! The young driver has made up six positions in just a few

corners by placing his kart perfectly or baiting the defending drivers into making mistakes. It's a scary and efficient performance from the young man, who is now looking to set up another move! He moves to the side, making his intentions clear to the driver ahead, who looks back and moves to cover the position! In doing so, he misses his braking marker into turn five! HE LOCKS UP TRYING TO MAKE THE CORNER AND GOES OFF THE TRACK! Fatih says, 'Thank you very much,' takes the position, and moves into P5! WHAT A GREAT START FOR THE YOUNG DRIVER! He now chases Giuliano Alesi, who fell to P4. There's quite a distance to cover, but Fatih has all the time in the world to catch up. This is only the first lap, and he has already started remedying his mistake while still being on a dry setup on a damp track! Oh my god."

Chapter 103: Race Weekend | Saturday | CLAP! CLAP! CLAP!

"In the lead, we have Tommaso, followed by Enaam, Alex, Giuliano Alesi in P4, and Fatih Yildirim on the chase in P5. He has reduced the distance from the front group by more than two-tenths at the end of the first lap, and he is still on the charge.

This young driver has shown everyone that his free practice consistency was not a fluke. His race IQ is something that surprises me, considering he is at least two years younger than the second youngest driver on the track. It's something many only gain as they become older and go through the trial-and-error learning phase that he seems to have skipped, the same way he skipped categories," Gianni commentated with enthusiasm, now fully focusing on Fatih, who had shown that he was going to hog all the attention in this heat due to his performance.

And he wasn't wrong, as scouts who had reduced their priority of him due to his bad performance in the qualifiers now focused on him to see if the initial comeback was a fluke or something he could do at any time.

.....

Fatih breathed calmly as he went wide on the left, braking slightly before turning the steering fully to take the final hairpin and enter the final start-finish straight to begin his fourth of the thirteen-lap heat. He was now within touching distance of Giuliano Alesi, who was just a few tenths ahead of him, having cut all of Alesi's advantage within just two and a half laps since he started chasing after him in clear air.

He didn't show any impatience as he focused on keeping his lines smooth, the way this track demanded. Alesi constantly looked back as he went through turn one, doing the same in turn two, making sure he was ready to cover all of the bases the moment Fatih showed any intention of making a move, which through the first three corners he did not.

With the knife-edge setup Fatih was driving with, in unsuitable conditions, he was being extremely precise, knowing any over-input would result in him sliding and could even risk causing him to spin. This forced him to reduce the number of daring attempts he

planned to make, which resulted in Alesi thinking that Fatih was going to just wait until he made a mistake, as that was what Fatih did in the first three corners. But everything changed the moment they entered the short straight heading to turn four, which was a full ninety-seven-degree turn warranting heavy braking.

He tucked behind Alesi, gaining distance through the slipstream, and as they neared the end of the short straight, he moved to the right side just as Alesi moved wide to the left, following the racing line in order to take the corner efficiently. Alesi only realized that Fatih had made an attempt to overtake him when Fatih appeared on his right side as the short straight was coming to an end and their braking markers in the rain arrived, leaving him in a dilemma of whether to out-brake Fatih and follow the racing line or just follow the racing line as is. It wasn't an easy decision to make, but one he had to do in a few seconds, and he went with the easiest solution for him, which was to out-brake Fatih.

But to his surprise, Fatih didn't brake early and matched his decision, remaining on power as they neared the no-return zone, forcing Alesi to bite and brake, or else he risked going off the track. To his surprise, Fatih didn't get on his brakes until about five meters after Alesi had.

"Got you," Alesi said under his helmet as a smile appeared on his face. But it only lasted for a moment when he saw Fatih deliberately leaving the racing line and going on the wet patch of the track, drifting into the corner. He had braked just enough to be able to drift, but also avoided locking his tires by modulating the force he applied his brakes with just the right amount, allowing him to take the corner while drifting. Although slow and not recommended, it was enough to keep the position he gained.

Due to drifting, the kart completed the ninety-degree turn earlier than taking the corner usually would, allowing him to get on the power earlier. Alesi went wide with his left tires, driving over the grass at the exit of the corner, which resulted in the opposite happening to him. When he attempted to get on the power, the tires on the grass didn't bite due to the grass being wet, forcing him to wait until he had fully returned to the track before fully applying it. By then, Fatih had already opened a two-tenths gap into the following straight as he was leaning forward to induce a mini DRS effect and gain even more speed, consolidating his position while at the same time chasing his teammate Alex, who was in P3 with more than seven laps to go.

.....

"The Doctor is going to love it," Mark, the Red Bull scout who was responsible for today's monitoring, said as he zoomed in on Fatih, who was now chasing Alex, having already reduced the distance and caught him by the end of the lap. As he tucked behind Alex on the start-finish straight, gaining and closing in more and more before coming out of the slipstream by the end of the straight, they neared turn one, where Alex kept turning and looking at Fatih as the corner got closer to get an idea of what he was going to do. But it seemed like Fatih was content with being side-by-side as they took the first

corner as if one of their karts was mirrored by the other, forcing Alex to leave space for Fatih or risk clashing.

As they came out of turn one and headed into turn two, Fatih's outside line turned into the inside line. Fatih, being strategic, braked earlier than usual, leaving Alex to capitalize on this and move to cover the inside. But in doing so, he clipped the inside curb, which was super wet, resulting in his kart having varying grip on both sides, causing the part with more grip to move forward faster than the slippery one, causing a slight slide that Alex was forced to correct. Only then did he realize that Fatih, who had taken his previous line, had completed an overtake, securing the position before he could even finish correcting for the mistake, finally entering the podium positions.

"Man, he sure is scary," he said, feeling goosebumps after he saw how Fatih had set it all up and executed it as if he had minutes to think about it. This was the type of driver they wanted: aggressive enough to assert their position on the track while at the same time being calculative enough that he wasn't just blindly making aggressive maneuvers. He then added, "William is going to be surprised when he watches this video, but we need to hurry before he makes a name for himself and attracts even more attention from others," remembering that although this event wasn't at the level of the FIA Karting World Championship, it was still a very prestigious one with many drivers who would participate in international FIA events also participating in this one, so his performance against these drivers could directly translate to his performance against drivers in the FIA international events.

While he was thinking about it, Fatih had already completed catching up to the group of race leaders, thanks to them still fighting among themselves, aiding him in catching up to them in just four laps, with three laps of the heat remaining.

.....

"He hasn't placed his foot wrong through the heat and has now caught up to the race leaders in just four laps. What a charge from this young driver, ladies and gentlemen! And just as they come out of the final hairpin and enter the start-finish straight, Enaam tucks behind Tommaso to benefit from his slipstream as Tommaso tries to break the tow, failing to do that as Enaam keeps following him across the straight. Now Fatih joins them in this train as they go through the first corner as if they are connected, doing the same in turn two with turbulent air causing a few problems for those behind the race leader. But they keep control over their karts and remain glued to him, taking turn three flat out! WILL FATIH MAKE THE MOVE INTO TURN FOUR LIKE HE DID A FEW LAPS AGO? WILL ENAAM MAKE A MOVE AS WELL, OR WILL THEY ALL REMAIN FOLLOWING THIS TRAIN FOR THE REST OF THE LAP?

AND WE HAVE OUR ANSWER AS BOTH ENAAM AND FATIH MOVE TO BOTH SIDES OF TOMMASO, COVERING HIM FROM BOTH SIDES AS THEY NOW BARREL INTO TURN FOUR WITH NO ONE GIVING AN INCH OF ADVANTAGE TO THE OTHER! AS THEIR TIRES SCREAM AND FIGHT FOR THE GRIP, THE CORNER

COMES AT THEM! WHO WILL BRAKE LATER THAN ALL OF THEM, AND WHO WILL BRAKE FIRST?

HERE COMES FATIH, TAKING THE DECISION TO STOP FIRST AS THE LEADER PASSES HIM! AND WE HAVE A CRASH! THE RACE LEADERS CRASH INTO EACH OTHER AFTER TOMMASO LOCKED HIS TIRES AND COLLECTED ENAAM ON HIS LEFT! FATIH, WHO MADE A STRATEGIC DECISION TO BRAKE FIRST, TAKES THE LEAD, ENJOYING HIS TIME ALONE AS THE FORMER RACE LEADERS FINALLY REJOIN THE TRACK, BUT THEY ARE NOW MORE THAN FIVE SECONDS BEHIND FATIH WITH ONLY TWO AND A HALF LAPS REMAINING!

THIS WAS AN UNEXPECTED RESULT, ONE THAT SEEMED TO HAVE BEEN PREDICTED BY FATIH, WHO MADE THE DECISION TO BRAKE EARLIER THAN THE REST! WHAT A RUTHLESS AND CALCULATIVE YOUNG MAN WHO COMPLETED HIS CHARGE FROM THIRTEENTH TO FIRST IN TEN LAPS! HE FINALLY LEADS HIS FIRST INTERNATIONAL HEAT OF HIS CAREER IN A SETUP UNSUITABLE FOR THE CURRENT CONDITIONS, BUT HE STILL DROVE AROUND THE LIMITATIONS AND NOW FOUND HIMSELF AHEAD OF EVERYONE!" Gianni commentated with passion, shouting from the moment they entered the turn four straight and keeping the same excitement until Fatih took the lead and opened the gap.

.....

CLAP! CLAP! CLAP! CLAP!

Ricky found himself clapping together with those who were in the tent watching Fatih's superb and marvelous drive from down all the way to leading the heat.

Amidst their claps, the speakers on the track were still broadcasting the Italian commentary: "LA BANDIERA A SCACCHI VIENE ALZATA, AND FATIH SEES IT FOR THE FIRST TIME IN HIS INTERNATIONAL CAREER, ON HIS VERY FIRST HEAT. FATIH YILDIRIM WINS THE FIRST HEAT OF THE 42ND TROFEO DELLE INDUSTRIE AFTER MOUNTING A MAGNIFICENT RECOVERY!"

Chapter 104: Race Weekend | Saturday | The Rest of the Heats

"Why do you look like someone who has just come from the market?" Steve asked when Fatih and Burak returned to the tent after leaving the pit lane.

"Why?" Fatih asked as he picked up a water bottle from under the table.

"I mean, it is your first win on the international scene, so I thought you would at least be celebrating the win."

"This is just one of the long recovery rounds I need to perform well in, and celebrating now would mean I believe this is the best I will be doing for the rest of the week. It risks

setting the wrong mentality for the following sessions. I will celebrate once everything is complete," he said before starting to drink water, as if what he had just said was something a child his age should have in his mind.

"..." Steve just looked at Fatih before turning to John, wanting to see if he had anything to counter that way of thinking.

"Though I agree, not celebrating small victories while in pursuit of a larger one might lead to you forgetting that you only won the large victory through the accumulation of small victories. So, celebrating them is something you shouldn't hold yourself back from," John said, having had enough time to think of a counterpoint.

Due to the maturity Fatih showed, the two engineers quite enjoyed the weird situation that arose when Fatih conversed with them about matters that someone his age shouldn't have an interest in, nor the knowledge capacity to hold such conversations.

"I agree with what he said," Steve said once John was done.

"It is true, but the amount of celebration should be tame enough not to result in a deviation from the goal."

"So you agree that a celebration is in order, right?" Steve said, widening his hands as if to show the scale of his excitement, matching the argument they had just demonstrated.

"Yes," Fatih said, not arguing against it at all, before flashing a mischievous smile as he said, "What makes you think that I haven't celebrated yet?" immediately deflating all the momentum Steve and John had.

"But who said we can't have two little celebrations, eh?" Fatih said in a teasing tone before carefully placing down his bottle and jumping at Steve, who caught him, having been caught off guard, before he started laughing, realizing that Fatih had been teasing them.

After a short celebration, which included the three of them jumping in a circle while holding hands, they returned to the table to start the post-heat debrief. They needed to gather information to be provided to the drivers who would be participating in the next heats, so that they would enter their heats with at least a semblance of expectation of how the track would behave. The difference between knowing the way it would feel and not was gaining or losing a few positions in the first few laps, as the drivers with a slight level of expectation would have the confidence to be bold, while those who didn't would have to learn as they went.

...

"And Lando Norris brings it back, making it a double win for the RFM team, who have now won both of the first two heats, with Alexander Vartanyan, our pole position winner

from the qualifying session, coming in as the second finisher..." Gianni commented with excitement while the drivers returned to the pit lane.

There would be a fifteen-minute break before Group A would have to return to the track to race against Group C. After that, they would take a break to allow for other categories to have a run until the evening for the final three heats.

With no time to rest or enjoy themselves from Group A, the drivers headed to the track, ready for the next heat, with Fatih once again being relegated all the way down to P13, a position lower than his previous heat.

.....

A smile, invisible to everyone, blossomed under his helmet when he felt the track had dried more than in the previous heat he had participated in, as he went around the track in a formation lap. This meant he could squeeze out additional pace, more than he could in the previous heat.

But the smile didn't last long, as his focus returned to the track as they were going through the shortcut and were just a single corner away from the rolling start of the heat. This was the only place where multiple overtakes could be accomplished if executed perfectly, like he had done in the previous heat.

As the heat leaders entered the final corner, the checkered and green flags were waved, and the heat had officially started.

Fatih, with his full focus now on the race, reacted the fastest of the rest, as the group leaders were the ones who had control of when to start. That reaction allowed him to be faster than the drivers in front of him, moving to the middle as they went through the start-finish straight, completing a double overtake before he moved back to the right side to avoid a driver in front of him who slid and collected the driver on the left as they went off the track, gaining him two additional positions.

He was now in a three-way, side-by-side drive as they headed into the first corner, which was taken flat out, with Fatih managing to remain side-by-side as one of the remaining two drivers bailed out, gaining him another position. They headed into turn two, and his outside line turned into an inside line, which he used fully by going wide on the exit, forcing the driver on the outside to brake more than usual, gaining himself another position as he now started chasing the groups ahead, fully focused, having already risen all the way to P7.

During this time in free air, as he reduced the distance to those ahead of him, he focused fully on following the most optimum line, gaining a few tenths through every braking zone by braking over a shorter distance, with his brakes always being on the limit of lockup if he increased his braking force just a little bit more.

In just two laps, he managed to catch up to the driver who was in P7, attempting an overtake in the turn four heavy braking zone. But just as he was about to attempt a switcheroo, the driver on the inside line locked up, forcing him to straighten his steering input, go wide, and brake more before he could complete the overtake as the P7 driver went wide and dabbed onto the grass.

Having lost more than three seconds in that corner, he continued his chase, trying to reduce the distance to the driver ahead of him. Thanks to that driver's mistake, he was now down to eight seconds behind the driver ahead of him in P6. But after reducing the distance down to four seconds in three laps, gaining more than a second in each lap, he was forced to reduce his speed as a yellow flag was raised. A kart had gone off-road on the inside of the second hairpin in sector three, and by the time he returned to a full chase, he was back down to seven seconds, losing all of his hard work.

.....

"With all the hard work and good performance he had shown, sometimes things don't go your way. With only a few tenths separating him from Lando Norris, who had fallen to P6 from a mistake at his race start, a checkered flag ends the chase as Fatih Yıldırım comes in and finishes the second heat race in P7, having gained six positions in the whole heat. Despite a yellow flag killing his attempt at chasing his teammate, he still managed to gain more than a second a lap for the more than ten laps he had spent chasing him, showing that had it not been for that, we would have seen a battle between teammates. But unfortunately, fate has decided that we are yet to see this battle between the two," Martina said, sounding excited as she rained praise on the drivers who finished in the top ten positions.

"I can't wait to see how they are going to perform in the evening heats, but now it is time for them to have the rest they deserve, and let's hope the weather is fair to them all."

.....

They say God has a very good sense of humor, but at the moment, Fatih felt as if he was the butt of the joke, not finding it amusing at all as he looked at the rain that had been drowning the track since ten minutes ago, just twenty minutes before the evening heats were to start.

But knowing that all of this suffering was worth the performance he was going to get tomorrow if the weather didn't change its mind and rain again, he didn't complain. Complaining when the cause of the problem was something he couldn't control wasn't something he was into, as he knew it was better to spend the time he would be complaining coming up with ways to reduce the amount the situation was going to affect him.

"Alexander Vartanyan shows a superb drive, defending against Lando Norris and keeping his position as he comes to collect the checkered flag for the second round of

the Group A & C heat, with Lando Norris coming in second... and in P8, after a difficult drive in the wet due to a setup mismatch, comes Fatih Yıldırım, who showed a very superb defense and still managed to gain five positions when everyone around him had a better setup than him," Martina commentated as the fourth round of the heats came to an end.

"Once again, Fatih Yıldırım finished the race in P8, showing us that his defensive driving is as good as the offensive driving he had shown us in the first two heats. These last two heats had been all about reducing the amount of damage he was going to experience from the rain, and I can say with confidence that he has reduced it as much as possible. I can't help but look forward to tomorrow's pre-final and final, where his setup is finally allowed to unleash its full potential on a sun-dried track.

Based on the pace he had shown on a track that didn't fit his setup, it is going to be a nightmare for the drivers who will be defending against him with their neutral or full wet setups that many failed to get everything out of today," Gianni commentated as the Group B & C heat came to an end, officially completing all four sessions that Fatih was required to participate in today, leaving him free to do whatever he wanted for the remainder of the day.

Chapter 105: Race Weekend | Sunday | Pre-Finals

"We have four of our five drivers in the top ten for tomorrow's pre-finals. Lando will be in P3, Fatih in P5, Enaam in P7, and Max in P10, while Alex will be starting from the back of the grid due to the penalty he received," Steve said to Ricky and the rest of the engineers in the post-day gathering.

All the kids had already left the track following the final session, but the leadership and adult team remained behind to discuss matters regarding tomorrow's races.

"He really clawed back all the way to P5," Ricky said as he looked at the document containing the entire pre-final starting grid, with the names of their team drivers highlighted by a green marker. He focused on the driver number 99 of Fatih, which showed him in P5, before he added, "Tomorrow, he is going to be a nightmare."

"Yes, he managed to limit the damage he experienced due to his setup disadvantage, and tomorrow he is going to be reaping the benefits of it against everyone else," Steve said, quite impressed by the feat Fatih had shown.

Although due to the way Fatih performed, it might appear to others that it was something any good driver could do, the fact that only Fatih was the one to take the dry setup gamble, unlike the few who tried to go with a full wet setup, proved that it was the complete opposite.

His heat win and top-eight finishes across the remaining three heats were nothing less than the best possible result for his situation, even exceeding any of their expectations.

It demanded the driver in the opposite of the current track condition setup to be on alert all the time in order to keep the unsuitable setup tame while also trying to exert as much pace from it as possible, something drivers in this category were not expected to be capable of, as it was too difficult of an ask from them. But Fatih had done that.

"So it means he still has a chance of starting the final race in pole position if he wins the pre-final tomorrow, and if that happens, he is going to disappear from everyone," John said, receiving nods from everyone acknowledging the high likelihood of it happening.

Due to karting being a platform for young drivers to train and gain experience, it was designed to give them as many chances as possible to gain that experience and recover from their mistakes. So it had a very long and varied qualifying process before the final grid was decided.

Starting from the initial qualifying, where the fastest driver overall was in pole, it was then followed by the heats, where the one with the fewest points inherited the pole position. There was then the pre-final, where the winner of it inherited the pole for the last time, a slight format change compared to the one implemented in Turkey, where the pre-final was equal to a repechage on the international scene.

.....

"What do you mean you are coming? Don't you want to rest on your actual free day?" William, the Red Bull junior scout, asked Mark, who had decided to go back to the track even when he was not required, having already gone today.

"You think I want to miss the show he is going to put on tomorrow?" Mark asked.

"Who and what are you talking about?"

"Watch for yourself before you ask why I made that decision," Mark said, handing William a hard drive that contained today's recording of the heat sessions.

William received it and immediately had it ready before he started watching the videos.

"Yeah, I understand it," William said, finally understanding the reason, as he too, couldn't wait to go tomorrow and watch the pre- and final races of the competition.

"Do you think we should tell Dr. Marko about it and see if he can come and watch the final?" Mark asked.

"We can do that, but I think it is better we record the whole weekend so that when we report, we can give him a full weekend overview, like initially planned. Because on the small likelihood of him actually coming when he is most likely watching Max, and Fatih doesn't perform well, it is going to be us who are going to be in trouble," William said, advising against it.

At the moment, it could be said that Helmut Marko was obsessed with Max, as he had already made it clear to his father that he wanted to sign him, and the only thing stopping it from happening was that the two sides were yet to have everything agreed upon, as Jos Verstappen, knowing the talent his son had, was holding out until he got the best deal for his son, and he was in no hurry at all.

"I agree, so let's go with that then," Mark said, seeing the reality behind William's reasoning, before closing the topic and starting to talk about different things while they rewatched the recording again to discover things that they might have missed in the initial watching or to be able to see the wider picture of some of the drivers' actions now that they knew the outcome of all of those actions.

.....

Hamilton had a very famous saying in the 2021 season: "It's a marathon, not a sprint," which he had said before accidentally activating brake magic and locking his tires into the first corner following a race restart, resulting in him finishing the race with zero points. Many people reasoned this to be the race where he lost the controversial 2021 championship.

Those words came to Fatih's mind as the entire grid of 36 karts went through the shortcut that avoided the triple hairpin, sitting comfortably in P5, ready for the green flag marking the start of the pre-final of the KF-Junior category of the competition.

While he drove, he kept his eyes on the marshal post where the green flag would be waved, and just as they arrived at the final corner exit, the green flag was waved as all the drivers reacted to it and started pushing to the max, marking the start of the race.

As always, Fatih was one of the first to react to the green flag, immediately putting his foot on the power just as the kart straightened out of the corner into the start-finish straight. He didn't move to the middle but stayed behind the two drivers ahead of him, gaining additional speed through the double slipstream, allowing him to gain more speed than was possible through engine acceleration alone. Just as the straight was coming to an end, he moved to the right, and with the additional speed he had gained, he went past the front two drivers before taking the corner while still on full power, finding himself in the lead of the race.

.....

"We have a green flag, and it is a go for the pre-final as the drivers start their race, all fighting to gain positions as early as possible to have the best starting position for the finals! The two formation lines have been broken in the rear, but it is kept by those in front, as it is more beneficial for them to keep their positions. But Lando Norris is losing ground to his teammate Fatih, who is behind him and benefiting from the double slipstream from the P1 and P3 drivers ahead of him. He still decides to remain behind them as he reduces the distance, getting closer and closer, AND HE MAKES A CRAZY

MOVE, GOING TO THE RIGHT, AND THROUGH GOES FATIH, ACHIEVING A QUADRUPLE OVERTAKE INTO THE FIRST CORNER, CATAPULTING HIM INTO THE RACE LEAD! OH MY GOD, WHAT ARE WE WITNESSING TODAY?" Gianni, who had started commenting in a calm, excited tone, found himself shouting at the surprise move Fatih had made.

Although it looked like he had just overtaken the two karts directly in front of him in the train, there were two trains, so this one move gave him a four-position advantage.

"It is something he could do due to his setup matching the track conditions and it being the race start, allowing all the karts to be closer to each other. But it requires a perfect and better start than those in front of him and nerves of steel to make that attempt, knowing that a single mistake would send him off the track, killing his race completely and risking starting the final from the rear," Martina took over, giving the general viewers the reason why that move was so impressive, but it looked like it was not needed as everyone on the track was already clapping and impressed by it.

"He is the last person you should expect to be conservative, as he is the only one who took the gamble to go with a dry setup when everyone else either went with a medium or a full wet setup. So taking gambles is in his nature, and not only that, he has shown the remarkable ability to actually reduce the damage if his gamble on the setup backfired on him, ensuring he doesn't suffer too much from the unexpected results. And that gamble has now borne fruit, as he is now in the race lead, having already opened a two-tenths gap in a few corners when the first lap of the pre-final is not even over yet. And I'm sure this is not going to be the gap by the final lap, as the time for him to finally enjoy the perfect setup has arrived," Gianni responded, fully excited as he focused on Fatih, wanting to see what the full pace of Fatih's kart was going to unleash on the world.

.....

The moment he completed the move, his mind immediately adjusted to recreating that long practice run he had driven in the simulation the previous night. After he had already opened a few-tenths gap to the karts behind him, this session just turned into a qualifying session for him, and every lap was no different than a timed qualifying lap. By the end of the first lap, he was already only half a second off the lap time record of 1:03.507, finishing it at 1:04.009.

Lap 1: 1:04.007 | +0.682s gained | Gap to P2: +0.682s

Lap 2: 1:03.912 | +0.909s gained | Gap to P2: +1.595s

Lap 3: 1:03.845 | +0.738s gained | Gap to P2: +2.333s

Lap 4: 1:03.501 □ NEW TRACK LAP RECORD | +0.999s gained | Gap to P2: +3.332s

Lap 5: 1:03.384 □ NEW TRACK LAP RECORD | +1.120s gained | Gap to P2: +4.452s

Lap 6: 1:03.276 □ NEW TRACK LAP RECORD | +1.198s gained | Gap to P2: +5.650s

Lap 7: 1:03.214 □ NEW TRACK LAP RECORD | +1.201s gained | Gap to P2: +6.851s

Lap 8: 1:03.143 □ NEW TRACK LAP RECORD | +1.214s gained | Gap to P2: +8.065s

Lap 9: 1:03.071 □ NEW TRACK LAP RECORD | +1.229s gained | Gap to P2: +9.294s

Lap 10: 1:02.998 □ NEW TRACK LAP RECORD | +1.246s gained | Gap to P2:
+10.540s

Lap 11: 1:02.917 □ NEW TRACK LAP RECORD | +1.261s gained | Gap to P2:
+11.801s

Lap 12: 1:02.841 □ NEW TRACK LAP RECORD | +1.276s gained | Gap to P2:
+13.077s

Lap 13: 1:02.734 □ NEW TRACK LAP RECORD | +1.293s gained | Gap to P2:
+14.370s

Lap 14: 1:02.598 □ NEW TRACK LAP RECORD | +1.312s gained | Gap to P2:
+15.682s

Lap 15: 1:02.482 □ NEW TRACK LAP RECORD | +1.320s gained | Gap to P2:
+17.002s

.....

"Coming out of the final corner, having set consecutive fastest laps of the race from lap three and broken the track record for eleven laps consecutively, showing the full might of that kart, FATIH YILDIRIM WINS THE PRE-FINAL WITH MORE THAN SEVENTEEN SECONDS TO LANDO NORRIS BEHIND HIM! HAVING MADE NO MISTAKES, NOT PLACED A SINGLE WRONG INPUT, HE COMES HOME VICTORIOUS, HAVING FINISHED THE RECOVERY RUN OF THE WEEKEND AND PROVING TO EVERYONE THAT HIS SETUP GAMBLE WAS THE RIGHT DECISION TO MAKE! THROUGH THE SESSION, HE HAD BEEN MORE THAN A SECOND FASTER THAN THE DRIVER BEHIND HIM ON A MEDIUM SETUP! WHAT A PRE-FINAL, AND I CAN'T WAIT TO SEE WHAT HE IS GOING TO SHOW US IN THE FINAL, WHERE HE WILL BE STARTING FROM POLE POSITION!

And only now, after I finished recapping Fatih's race, does Lando Norris go through the start-finish line, making that a one-two for the RFM team! What a way to sweep the competition!" Gianni commentated, screaming, as even he couldn't believe what he was laying his eyes on.

Chapter 106: Race Weekend | Sunday | Final

Join the Discord. (<https://discord.gg/HpzVvhQCsg>)

"Is he a robot or something?" Davide Colleoni found himself asking as he looked at the lap times Fatih had put on the board before winning the race with more than a seventeen-second gap in just fifteen laps.

Fatih had been consistently more than a second faster than the second-place driver. Although most of it could be attributed to his setup fitting the conditions perfectly, maintaining that level of focus for the whole race to not put a foot wrong while also constantly improving his pace as the track rubbered in was something very rare at this age level of karting, which Davide Colleoni was very knowledgeable about, having competed in it in his younger days.

He watched Fatih, who was pumping his fist up as he returned to the pit lane, celebrating his win. Davide then picked a pen from his chest pocket and wrote Fatih's name in his notebook before closing it, revealing a red cover with the Ferrari Driver Academy logo on it.

As a competitive and prestigious competition taking place in Italy, he had been sent to be on the lookout for any good Italian drivers or to observe those who were already on their radar. But he found himself discovering a diamond during its first appearance, a discovery that couldn't help but put a constant smile on his face.

Fatih was now on the radar of the Ferrari Driver Academy.

.....

CLAP! CLAP! CLAP! CLAP!

"That was a super overtake and monstrous focus through the pre-final, and congrats on having your name on the record-breaking board," Ricky said the moment Fatih entered the tent, not hiding his feelings at all.

"Thanks," Fatih said before starting to drink water as his scalp was covered in sweat.

"Good. I don't think I need to say this, but it's better I say it than leave it unsaid. Don't get complacent in the final. From the performance you have shown, the race is now yours to lose, so don't lose it."

Fatih, instead of responding, gave him a thumbs-up as he was still in the middle of drinking water and couldn't stop fast enough.

"Good," Ricky said before turning to Lando and raising his hand for a high-five. He then started congratulating him and encouraging him to keep this performance for the final as well.

He continued moving all the way to the lowest-performing driver, who, due to a penalty dropping him to last, had managed to recover from thirty-sixth position all the way to P20, quite a good drive, but it didn't attract much attention as all the focus was on Fatih.

.....

"I should have done what he did and gone with a full dry setup," Lando said to his coach, not feeling too excited about coming in second. This session had just shown that he was the best of the rest, and although second position was not bad, it didn't feel good when the first-place finisher was not visible in front of you from the fourth lap onwards, making it feel as if you were the race leader.

"The difficulty you would have had to experience in order to be the one benefiting now, if you had gone with the full dry setup, is not something I would have recommended or agreed to," his coach said, tapping his shoulder. In his mind, he wondered what the cause of the kid having so little trust in himself was, as he kept constantly second-guessing his decisions whenever they didn't give him the outcome he expected or because someone else made a decision that gave them a better outcome.

"If he managed to do it, I should also be able to do it..." Lando said, his voice trailing off, deciding not to complete his sentence.

"There is still the final, and you are still starting on the front row with him. If you play your cards right, there is a chance for you to win. It will be difficult, but there is still a chance. But to make good on it, you need to get into the mentality of the race early and not make a mistake at the start like you did in the heats, because having a good start is the first step to increasing your chances of taking the win. Understood?"

"Understood?"

"Yes."

His coach had to ask again before receiving an answer from the young Lando, who was looking at Fatih. Fatih was sitting silently with his eyes closed, looking fully relaxed as if winning a race was something normal and was only now focused on the next session in forty minutes.

Even Fatih's coach looked completely calm, sitting beside him silently as he went through the documents in his hands, as if the race was over.

"Now, let's review our course of action in the final," his coach once again interrupted him, placing a piece of paper with both his and Fatih's telemetry overlaid, showing

where Fatih was pushing more than him and where Lando was faster. Although there were a few places where Lando had more pace than Fatih, the only problem was that wherever Fatih was behind Lando in pace in a section, he would crush Lando's pace on the exit of the corner, regaining all of the lost pace and gaining even more.

His coach started going through the telemetry, explaining what he could try to do to gain a bit more time and not be too far from Fatih. But they both knew matching Fatih's pace when their setups were different was going to be nearly impossible. His coach still insisted they prepared for it in case it happened, and an opportunity for them to exploit appeared.

.....

"You should have already gotten used to this, so why are you crying?" Güldane asked her daughter, who was rubbing her tears of happiness when Fatih won the race.

"Why is the pot calling the kettle black?" Rümeyza said as she handed her mother a tissue as well for her to wipe her happy tears.

It was the first time in their lives seeing Fatih participate in a competitive qualifying session that he completed without being on the front row, so they were quite worried for him and how he would react if he didn't perform to the level he was used to. Although they had tried to probe his feelings yesterday, he had shown that he was fine, but they were still worried that he was hiding it on the inside. It seemed all of their worries were for nothing, as he had just completed a comeback as if it was not an international competition with people who were at the top of this sport on the international scene.

And now they couldn't help but wait.

.....

"Welcome, ladies and gentlemen, to the final race of the KF-Junior category of the 42nd Trofeo delle Industrie. The drivers now have their final chance to give the best performance they can to take the trophy home. Fatih Yıldırım, the driver most expected to take home the win due to many circumstances fitting his situation perfectly, now leads the drivers across the track for the formation lap. On his left side is his teammate, Lando Norris, making it a front-grid lockout for Ricky Flynn Motorsport, and they will be hoping that is how they will finish this twenty-five-lap final. The aggressive way the drivers are swerving to put heat in their tires shows that everyone still has their eyes on that trophy, or at the very least, a podium," Gianni commentated on the formation lap as the crowd now held their breath, looking forward to the race.

"I couldn't agree more, but the number 99 driver leading the formation lap is the one with the highest chance of winning the race, and I don't see any other way for others to have a chance unless something goes wrong with him. He has shown that if left on his own, a mistake is nigh impossible for him to make, as all the things that made his

sessions difficult or caused him not to perform well were a result of someone else's mistake affecting him. But let's see if the streak is going to be continued by the track lap record holder," Martina said as the drivers went through the shortcut, leading to the final corner, passing the torch back to Gianni.

"The green flag has been waved, and the drivers react to start their final race! Fatih, as usual, gets the fastest reaction, catching Lando Norris off guard as he moves in front of Lando to cover him and prevent any funny thoughts from coming to him as he solidifies his position into the first corner, followed by Lando, who is then followed by Alexander Vartanyan, who tries a cheeky move into turn one but is forced to return and tuck back behind Lando to wait for the next chance. He is then followed by Tommaso Mosca, Giuliano Alesi, Enaam Ahmed, Max Fewtrell, Artem Petrov, Mick Schumacher Jr., and Nikita Troitckii, making up the top ten. Fatih, the race leader, is using his perfect setup to open a two-tenths gap already, slowly starting to disappear from the rest of the group."

As if it was a repeat of the previous pre-final, the moment Fatih got in the lead, he slowly started opening the gap, which by the tenth lap had already reached seven seconds to Lando, only for all of the gap to be shrunk down due to a driver facing a mechanical failure, forcing them to drive under a double yellow for two laps as the driver limped back into the pit lane before the green flag was waved and Fatih resumed his race.

"Coming out of the final corner, the checkered flag is waved, and the youngest driver in the category, in his first international competition, **FATIH YILDIRIM WINS THE 42ND TROFEO DELLE INDUSTRIE ON HIS FIRST ATTEMPT WITH A DOMINANT DRIVE THROUGHOUT THE SESSION! THE CROWD, WHO HAS FOLLOWED HIS PROGRESSION THROUGH THE DIFFERENT SESSIONS, GIVES HIM HIS DESERVED CELEBRATION AS THEY CHEER HIM THROUGH THE REMAINDER OF THE LAP!**

And only now does the second-place finisher, Alexander Vartanyan, who successfully overtook Lando Norris on the race restart, go through the start-finish line, followed closely by Lando Norris, who fought his best to try and retake his position, but time wasn't on his side, having to be satisfied with finishing third and taking the last place on the podium. What a superb race!" Gianni shouted at the top of his voice as he commented on the end of the race, matching the crowd's excitement.

"I really want to hear what the young Fatih is feeling and ask a few questions about how he got into karting and everything else related to it because drivers like him are very rare nowadays," Martina said as Fatih came to a stop in the pit lane in front of a number 1 board prepared for him.

"Ussulay, you'll need to have good English to understand what he is going to answer, but thankfully, we have translators here who will be of help to us during the post-race interview. And I, as well, am looking forward to it."

Chapter 107: Race Weekend | Sunday | Wrap UP

"Once again, congrats on your P3 win, Alexander, and good luck in your future," Alessandro Riva, the trackside reporter, said before it was translated into English by the translator, bringing an end to the P3 interview as the crowd congratulated him with their claps.

He had received a post-race penalty for an incident on the track, which had demoted him to P3, and his expression during the interview had made it very clear that he was not happy.

"Let's welcome the second-place finisher and the best of the rest, Lando Norris," Alessandro said, raising his voice as the crowd welcomed Lando, who looked confused as the translator didn't translate the welcome, leaving him wondering what was being said along with his name.

"Complimenti per la prestazione! Raccontaci com'è andata la tua gara," Alessandro said before turning to the translator, indicating that he was done with the question and he could translate it.

"Congratulations on the performance! Tell us how your race went."

"Yeah, thank you. The race went pretty well overall. I was hoping for the win, obviously, but Fatih's pace was just unreal today. I knew unless he made a mistake, which he didn't, there wasn't much I could do to catch him. So I had to settle for P2. Still happy with the result, but I'll be pushing harder next time."

"Is there a reason you didn't go with a setup gamble like Fatih did, and if you had the same setup as him, do you think you would have matched his pace and fought for the win?" Alessandro asked.

"The setup gamble was Fatih's call, and to be fair, it wasn't something the team really backed, especially with the forecast showing rain, which ended up being heavier than expected. We went with a neutral setup to stay competitive in both dry and wet conditions. As for my pace, I can't say how I would've performed on his setup without actually driving it and getting a feel for it. But I don't think I'd have been as strong in the wet without proper practice. On a dry track though, I believe I could've matched his pace."

"Ah, thank you very much for your answers, and once again, congratulations to you and your team on having a one-two finish in the final," Alessandro brought the interview with Lando to an end with a handshake before Lando walked to his coach, moving aside to wait for Fatih's interview before the podium celebration was to take place.

"And ladies and gentlemen, the KF-Junior category winner of the 42nd Trofeo delle Industrie and the driver who showed himself to be above everyone in terms of pace, Fatih Yildirim," Alessandro shouted as he welcomed Fatih to the interview area.

"Congratulations on your first race win in your first international competition of your career. Walk us through your feelings," Alessandro said before turning to the translator, and just as he was about to start the translation, the words were stuck in his throat when Fatih started responding in what sounded to be native-level Italian, causing the eyes of many who were focusing on the interview to nearly pop from surprise.

"Thank you. I'm very happy to have performed at a level that I deemed to be satisfactory for my debut and managed to meet the expectations I had for myself. And for my first international win to be from one of the most prestigious and oldest continuing karting events in the world, where the best compete, is nothing but a dream come true for me," Fatih answered humbly while acting as if he was not enjoying the looks from Alessandro and the translator.

"....." Despite Fatih finishing his answer, Alessandro still didn't move to ask the next question, as he was still surprised.

"Sorry about that, as I didn't expect you to know Italian since the report I read mentioned that you were in Turkey for your entire career. Do you have some connection to Italy?" Alessandro asked, while hoping on the inside that Fatih had a connection to Italy, as that would mean an Italian had won it instead of the current situation where none of their Italian drivers were on the podium.

"No, I don't have any connection. I just studied it at an academy, knowing it might be useful in my career, and it came to be true earlier than expected."

"I would have believed it if you said one of your parents was a native, as you don't sound any different from one. What a surprise," Alessandro said before moving on, sounding a bit disappointed that he had no connection to Italy, but he hid it pretty fast that very few realized it before he said, "Let's move on. From Lando's words, the decision to go with a full dry setup was made by you. Can you walk us through the reasoning behind your decision?"

"I wanted to have the best pace in the finals in order to increase my chances of winning, and since it was my first international race, there wasn't any sort of pressure on me to perform, so I had the freedom to take risks, which thankfully worked out in my favor, albeit with a very difficult Saturday...."

...

As Fatih was answering the interview, a "+10" was noted in Davide Colleoni's, the Ferrari Driver Academy scout's, notebook in front of Fatih's name, giving Fatih ten additional points due to his ability to speak Italian.

However, those plus-ten points didn't change anything, as the win alone was enough for Fatih to now be on the radar of the driver academy and professional management agencies. It was a prestigious event won by the likes of Lewis Hamilton, Fernando Alonso, Sebastian Vettel, Robert Kubica, and many other drivers who went on to have spectacular careers in motorsport. And doing so in his first international race and at the age of ten meant even more in their eyes.

"I really hope we all maintain our patience in monitoring him without anyone making a rash move and giving him an offer now," Davide said, knowing that with many driver academies and karting manufacturer teams currently present having seen Fatih's performance, there was now an invisible battle of nerves where everyone wanted to wait and watch how he performed in other races to see if this was an exception, luck, or his true abilities. But at the same time, they didn't want to take too long in observing him and risk losing him to another team. The moment someone couldn't keep their nerves and reached out to Fatih, a bidding war would start from all the teams that would then want him on their roster.

...

"So the next competition he is participating in is the FIA World Karting Championship next week?" William, the Red Bull Academy scout, asked his fellow scout, Mark.

"Yes, I think we should prepare for the Doctor coming to watch if he doesn't want to be behind other academies, should he decide to try and recruit him," Mark said as he imagined the attention that was going to be on Fatih in the next competition.

"Looks like he is going to be coming either way, since the best of the best are going to be there anyway, and all the heavyweights are going to have their eyes on the world championship. And if he performs like he did this week, then the bidding war is going to start," William said, knowing that although Fatih was not eligible to win the Karting World Championship since he was a wildcard entry, that made no difference to the attention he was going to have from all the teams.

With each year, teams had started looking at karting to find their drivers and grow them within their system. And although each team placed a different level of weight on recruiting from karting, they still placed a level of importance on it and were ready to recruit a driver that had shown a performance meeting their stringent requirements.

...

"Good job out there," Ricky said, welcoming the two team drivers who had just returned from the podium, high-fiving them while they were still covered in non-alcoholic champagne, with their medals and trophies still in their hands.

"Thanks," Lando said before heading to get changed, leaving Fatih behind, who didn't say anything, just looked at Ricky as if he expected something.

"Okay, a deal is a deal. We will prioritize your suggestions over the team's if there is a disagreement regarding it," Ricky said in a defeated tone, but the smile on his face told a very different story.

"Now go and get yourself cleaned up. You need to be out of here as fast as possible and have enough rest," Ricky said, pushing Fatih away from the tent and to the dressing room.

...

"This is going better than expected," Rümeysa said, the wide smile not leaving her face for even a moment. This single race win alone had triggered the clause in the agreement with TOSFED for them to supply the maximum agreed-upon support, no matter what his performance in the next two races remaining on his calendar was.

"He just made leaving home worth it," Güldane said, as the remaining regret of leaving her comfortable home left her heart completely. Fatih had just proved that he was good even on the international scene, affirming that the sacrifices they had made were worth it.

Fatih thanking them for their support and the sacrifices they had made during the post-race interview also added to that. Although parents being selfless and sacrificing for their children is something that they willingly do, being acknowledged and thanked for that sacrifice meant a lot to them, and Fatih didn't shy away from doing it every opportunity he got.

Chapter 108: Work Before Leaving

After resting early that evening, they spent the following Monday resting as well, as it had been a very intensive three days during the competition. It was at times like these that having money helped them have the flexibility to consider rest before any additional troubles, without having to think about the costs, especially if the money was coming from someone else's pockets.

At ten in the morning, just as she was done with breakfast and was about to go through information regarding Fatih's currently active companies, her plan was interrupted by a phone call.

It was Mansur, TOSFED's Karting Sporting Director. After the customary greetings, they immediately got to the main topic and reason for the call.

"I was calling to inform you that with Fatih triggering a formally agreed-upon clause, we are going to move forward with providing the largest agreed-upon support percentage. I wanted to be the first to share the good news, as I couldn't wait too long after receiving the post-race report from RFM," Mansur said, chuckling at the end, showing how excited he was.

His excitement was not surprising, as he was the one who had spearheaded this idea in the first place, so its success also reflected positively on him.

"Hahaha, thank you for the information. I was planning to send you the whole weekend's footage once our editor is done cutting all of the still parts, but this is good news for me nonetheless," Rûmeysa said, her tone pleasant as she was happy that one piece of the puzzle had finally defined itself and was no longer ambiguous.

"I would love to watch it, as the report painted such a good picture that you can't help but want to watch it and see for yourself to believe it," Mansur said, laughing with Rûmeysa for a moment before calming down and continuing, "That is not all I called to inform you about, as there are two new developments from our side."

"I'm all ears."

"We have started receiving information requests regarding Fatih, which at the moment we have responded to by providing only publicly available information. You will most likely soon start receiving requests for written consent to receive more detailed information from us."

"Oooh, that is good news, right?"

"Yes, it is. It means that Fatih has caught their attention enough that they want to know more about him. But at the moment, that is where their interest most likely ends, as they will not want to take a gamble and reach out to you immediately but will elect to wait and see his performance in his second weekend. Although there might be a few who might try to reach you, we suggest you wait until the second race weekend, where you will most likely receive the most requests if he delivers a good performance, in order for you to choose which team's requests to accept and which ones to decline, since there is really no benefit in accepting all of them, as it risks the data being leaked."

"I see. Then that is what I will do if I receive requests within the week. As for the second weekend, if nothing goes wrong, I expect him to deliver a good performance. It is something he had said when he saw the competition calendar."

"As for the second topic, we have already started the process to apply for an accelerated change of his inclusion status in the FIA talented drivers list from temporary to permanent. If he delivers good results in the world championship next week, then we will most likely receive the confirmation then."

With all the good news provided, the call came to an end shortly after they discussed a few additional things, but it left a very good impression on Rûmeysa, who hadn't had a good experience with contracts when it came to matters related to motorsports.

After taking a short moment to reorganize her thoughts, she immediately got back to work, checking on the situation with Fatih's companies.

It had been about three months since she had learned that her son was a multi-millionaire before dealing with the tax services, with whom they had managed to negotiate the smallest penalty possible. They ended up having to pay 1.2 million dollars in back taxes and penalties before the rest of the money was considered clean and free to use however they wanted.

During this time, she had already invested nearly eight hundred thousand dollars in Fatih's companies and the remaining million in stocks that Fatih had recommended.

Conqueror Media LLC had already ballooned from temporary staff to twenty full-time employees responsible for overseeing every part of the website, from moderation and video creation all the way to cybersecurity and more, with a majority of them working online while a few were now based in London, a decision she made in order to allow for the company to rapidly expand with a competent workforce if it was later required. Other than the twenty full-time employees, they worked with more than thirty motorsports reporters on a per-article basis, where they would receive a base payment for every article they wrote for the website, followed by additional payments depending on how the article performed.

This had allowed the website and all of its other channels to see very accelerated growth compared to their previous slow but steady growth that had brought it to the top of Formula 1-related information websites, as it was now pacing to solidify its position. However, it was still running at a loss, which was deliberate, as they tried to maintain the quality for as long as possible to solidify themselves on top and leave others no opportunity to challenge them before they tried to see which monetization avenues they could pursue. But it didn't mean that they were not earning anything at all, as they had a very passionate group of premium subscribers who paid to have early access to the articles, and a small amount of revenue was being earned through the company's social media channels.

All of this deficit was still being financed by loans from TC Analytics Ltd, which still remained the main cash cow of all the companies under Fatih's name, as it continued bringing in a steady quarter-million a month with no changes at all, while the line of people wanting to enter continued to increase, the more they proved themselves.

This company still existed in name only, with Fatih continuing to be the sole employee, as it was something that only he could do, and it didn't even require any additional work from him since he had moved to the premium version of the forum that allowed automatic subscription renewal. But she hadn't stopped there, as she had already commissioned a website that would allow them additional freedom and privacy. It was still in the works and would be ready before the start of the next season, which should allow them time to migrate all of their active subscribers there, along with an increase in the subscription fee, which all of them would accept, as with each year, the betting business of motorsports racing continued to increase.

Although the forum could handle everything at the moment, the reason they wanted to move to a dedicated website was to implement a feature that would only make the predictions visible once the user uploaded evidence of having created a new account for each weekend, in order to reduce the chances of them being discovered and locked from betting sites, which had happened to quite a few of them. It was a move to make sure the profits remained as high as possible for both Fatih and those paying him for information.

Once she was done going through that information, she moved on to the information about the last company under Fatih's name, Yıldırım Racing.

As the company with the rights to his brand and likeness, it was also experiencing very rapid growth. The Fatih Yıldırım YouTube channel under them was still experiencing a continuous meteoric rise due to the quality of the content posted, which, now, due to having more editors responsible for it, allowed for a weekly upload schedule. Being the first to post this type of content gave him a starter advantage, and through it, he had reached half a million subscribers in just a few months, with his videos now reaching at least a million views per upload due to capturing all of the starved motorsports fans and casual viewers who wanted to watch something high-quality and entertaining. This allowed him to start earning money from it, and paired with the advertiser-friendliness of the content, he received quite a high CPM, allowing him to earn at least \$5k per video.

This was also the company from which Fatih was earning his day-to-day income in the form of a monthly salary for his work.

Once she was done going through the information and gave orders where required, she had finally finished her work for the day and spent the remainder of it touring the city with Fatih before resting early that evening as well.

On the following day, they finally left the hotel, heading to the nearest airport, planning to start their journey to their next destination: Muro Leccese (La Conca), in southern Italy, the opposite direction from where they were and more than a thousand kilometers away.