

## How Haas's Team Strategy Secured Hülkenberg's Place in the Points

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In a brilliant display of teamwork, Haas's Kevin Magnussen was able to hold off 4 cars in order to protect teammate Nico Hülkenberg's spot in the top ten.

Magnussen's race derailed very early: on only lap 10, the Danish driver received a 10 second penalty for causing a collision with Alex Albon when he pushed the latter into the wall (no significant damage was done and both cars were able to finish the race). On lap 23, Magnussen received an additional 10 second penalty for leaving the track and gaining an advantage on Yuki Tsunoda.

Watching the race, it could be assumed that Magnussen was ruining everyone else's day: with 20 seconds worth of penalties, why would he bother defending his position if he's not going to score points anyway? However, he wasn't defending his position; he was defending Hülkenberg's.

By lap 29, Hülkenberg was in 10th position with Sauber's Zhou Guanyu 6.2 seconds behind, while Magnussen was in 12th, 8.5 seconds behind Zhou. Places 13-16 were agonizingly close with all four drivers (in order: Alpine's Esteban Ocon, RB's Yuki Tsunoda, and both Williams of Alex Albon and Logan Sargeant) each within a second of the driver in front of them.

It was on lap 34 that Hülkenberg had an ideal pit window and took it - after falling into eleventh place with his teammate 22.4 seconds behind, he was able to get a new set of tires without being overtaken. The Haas team was not worried about Zhou passing and moving into the points since they knew the Sauber driver had to pit eventually, and was thus not a threat to Hülkenberg's position.

Magnussen's fantastic defense continued for the remaining 16 laps, allowing the team to finish strong and score their first point of the 2024 season.

Edited by:

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