

## Latest news from Alexander Albon...

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### **ALEXANDER ALBON JOINS FORMULA 1 WITH TORO ROSSO**

Scuderia Toro Rosso have today announced that Alexander Albon will race for them in 2019 in Formula 1 driver, joining Daniil Kvyat who was confirmed in September.

Alex, 22, who races with the Thai flag denoting his British-Thai dual nationality, has shone in FIA Formula 2 this season, finishing behind only George Russell in the championship standings (who will race in Formula 1 next season for Williams) and Lando Norris (and who will also race in Formula 1 next season, for McLaren).

In signing for the Toro Rosso team, who form part of the prestigious Red Bull Racing outfit, Alex follows in the footsteps of a number of impressive drivers who launched their F1 careers in similar fashion – Sebastien Vettel, Daniel Ricciardo and Max Verstappen perhaps being the most notable names of many. With the potential pathway to step up to the front-running Red Bull team (a move being made in 2019 by current Toro Rosso driver Pierre Gasly) Alex has secured one of the most sought-after drives on the grid.

Alex commented *“It is so surreal – I can honestly say that it has always been my dream to become a Formula 1 driver ever since I can remember. As soon as I was old enough to kart, racing immediately consumed my life and has continued to do so every day since. I have never given up on my dream and whilst I have suffered various setbacks throughout my career, including being dropped from the Red Bull Junior team back in 2012, I only ever blamed myself and started working that much harder. To be able to now enter F1 and return to the Red Bull family makes it even more special – I really cannot thank Red Bull’s Dr Marko and Khun Chalerm enough for continuing to believe in me and giving me this second chance.”*

The 2018 Formula 2 season - in seeing George Russell, Alex and Lando Norris all promoted to Formula 1 - has reflected the increasing emphasis placed by Formula 1 teams on success in the main support series. Alex’s strong and title challenging performances, without having the backing of a F1 team throughout the season, caught the eye and to that end Alex added *“I am so grateful to the DAMS team for giving me the car they did this season and for putting together an overall package that was able to compete at the top end of the F2 championship. I also thank Jean Paul Driot, Francois Sicard and everyone at Nissan E.DAMS for allowing me to follow my dreams.”*

The 2019 Formula 1 season will consist of 21 races, beginning in Australia in March and ending in Abu Dhabi in December. Pre-season testing takes place in Barcelona during February, and Alex acknowledges that *“there will be a lot to learn but I am beyond excited and cannot wait to get started in my new Toro Rosso!”*

Reaching the pinnacle of motorsport of course requires not just extreme dedication and talent from the driver, but the support from so many others. As Alex’s career progressed from karting, through to Formula Renault, F3, GP3 and then F2 he is aware of the help given by so many: *“I owe a massive thank you to my strong support network, to all my sponsors (True, PTT, JSM, Thaibev, Overseas), my former manager Gwen Lagrue, my family, particularly my grandpa and Uncle Duke and also my lawyer Dan Chapman. All of these people have worked very hard at different stages of my career and placed a massive part in me getting to F1.”*

For any press enquiries or commercial enquiries in regards to Alex please contact Dan Chapman.

**ENDS**

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