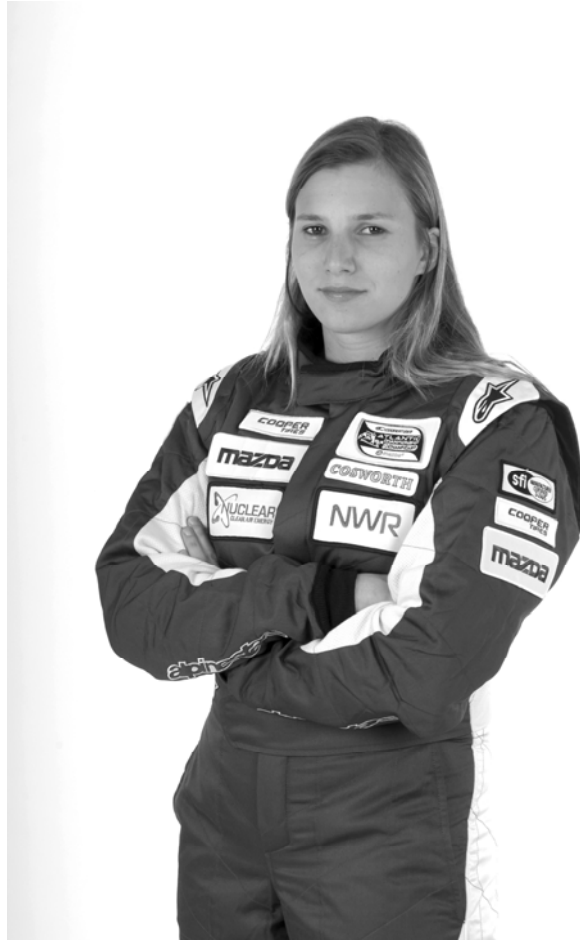




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Simona de Silvestro

January 9, 1988 - Present

Nationality: Swiss and Italian

Raced: 1998 - Present

Background: Simona de Silvestro was born in Thun, Switzerland in 1988. Her interest in motor sports began early in her life and by age ten she was already racing competitively. She participated in the Western Switzerland Championship in 1998, 1999, and 2000, and spent her next few years kart-racing throughout Europe and competing in the Italian Formula Renault 2000 series. De Silvestro moved to the United States in 2006 to pursue her racing career and she made history that year by becoming the first woman to earn a podium result at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway. Walker Racing signed her to their team in November 2006, and in April 2007 she began her rookie year racing in the Atlantic Championship, America's top open-wheel driver development series. She joined Newman Wachs Racing in 2008, and earned her first victory in the series. De Silvestro spent the 2009 season racing with Team Stargate Worlds. With four wins, she was point leader throughout much of the year and came very close to winning the Atlantic Championship title. She was knocked out of the running on October 11th after her car tangled with Markus Niemela's at Mazda Raceway Laguna Seca. Had she won the title, she would have become the first woman to do so in the Atlantic Championship's 36-year history.

Early Influences: De Silvestro has always had the desire to race. Her passion for the sport can be attributed to her father's love of it. He helped get her started in go-karts when she was just six years old and even promised to buy her one of her own as soon as her feet could touch the pedals. Their house in Switzerland was located near the homes of some of Formula One's top drivers, making de Silvestro more exposed to the racing world. As she has grown older, her interest in motor sports has continued to increase and her dream is to one day compete in Formula One.

Racing Accomplishments:

- Competed in the Western Switzerland Championship from 1998 – 2000.
 - She placed 4th in 1998 and 3rd in 1999.
 - She finished in 1st place in 2000.
- Finished 4th in overall point standings in the Formula BMW USA series in 2006.
 - She had six podiums and eleven top-ten finishes in the series, including a victory at Lime Rock.
- Finished in 3rd place at the U.S. Grand Prix twice in 2006, making her the first woman to earn a podium result at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway.
- Earned two top-ten results while racing in the Atlantic Championship series in 2007.
- Won the season-opener of the Atlantic Championship series at Long Beach in 2008.
 - She joined Katherine Legge as the only women who have ever won races in the series.
- Qualified on the pole at Utah's Miller Motorsports Park during the Atlantic Championship series in 2009, becoming only the second woman in series history to do so. The first was Danica Patrick in 2003.
 - Finished the race at Miller Motorsports Park in 1st place.
- Earned 2nd place during the first race of a doubleheader at New Jersey Motorsports Park in June 2009 and finished in first in the second race.
- Won at Lime Rock in July 2009 for her second consecutive victory and the fourth win of her career in the Atlantic series. She is the only woman to have that many wins in Atlantic history.
- Won the pole position at the Grand Prix de Trois Rivieres in August 2009, becoming the first woman to do so for any class racing at the event.
 - She had the fastest lap ever recorded on the circuit at 58.662 seconds and a speed of 93.280 mph.

Life off the Track: Only twenty-one years old, Simona de Silvestro spends much of her time racing and training for each season. She is determined to be successful and to accomplish her dreams. She is still adjusting to life and culture in the United States, but her family's support has helped her. Outside of motor sports, she enjoys playing golf and tennis and also likes music and wakeboarding.

Personal Website:

<http://www.simonadesilvestro.com/>

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