THE RED BULLETIN

ISSUE 46, GP BRAZIL, SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2005

AN ALMOST INDEPENDENT F1 NEWSPAPER

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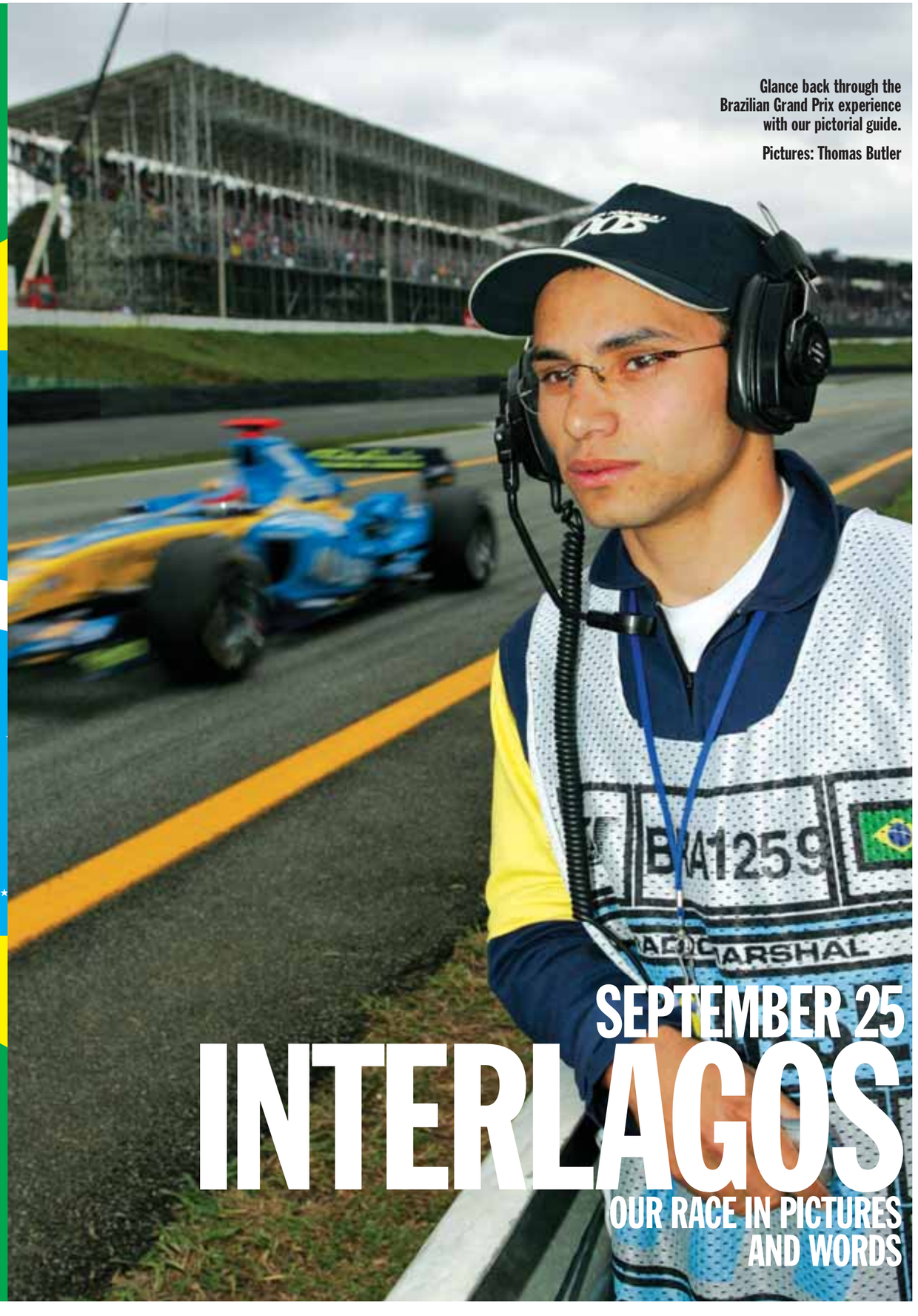
Formula 1

FERNANDO ALONSO

F1 WORLD CHAMPION 2005

GP BRAZIL: 1 JUAN PABLO MONTOYA 2 KIMI RAIKKONEN 3 FERNANDO ALONSO

BRAZIL



Glance back through the Brazilian Grand Prix experience with our pictorial guide.

Pictures: Thomas Butler

SEPTEMBER 25

INTERLAGOS

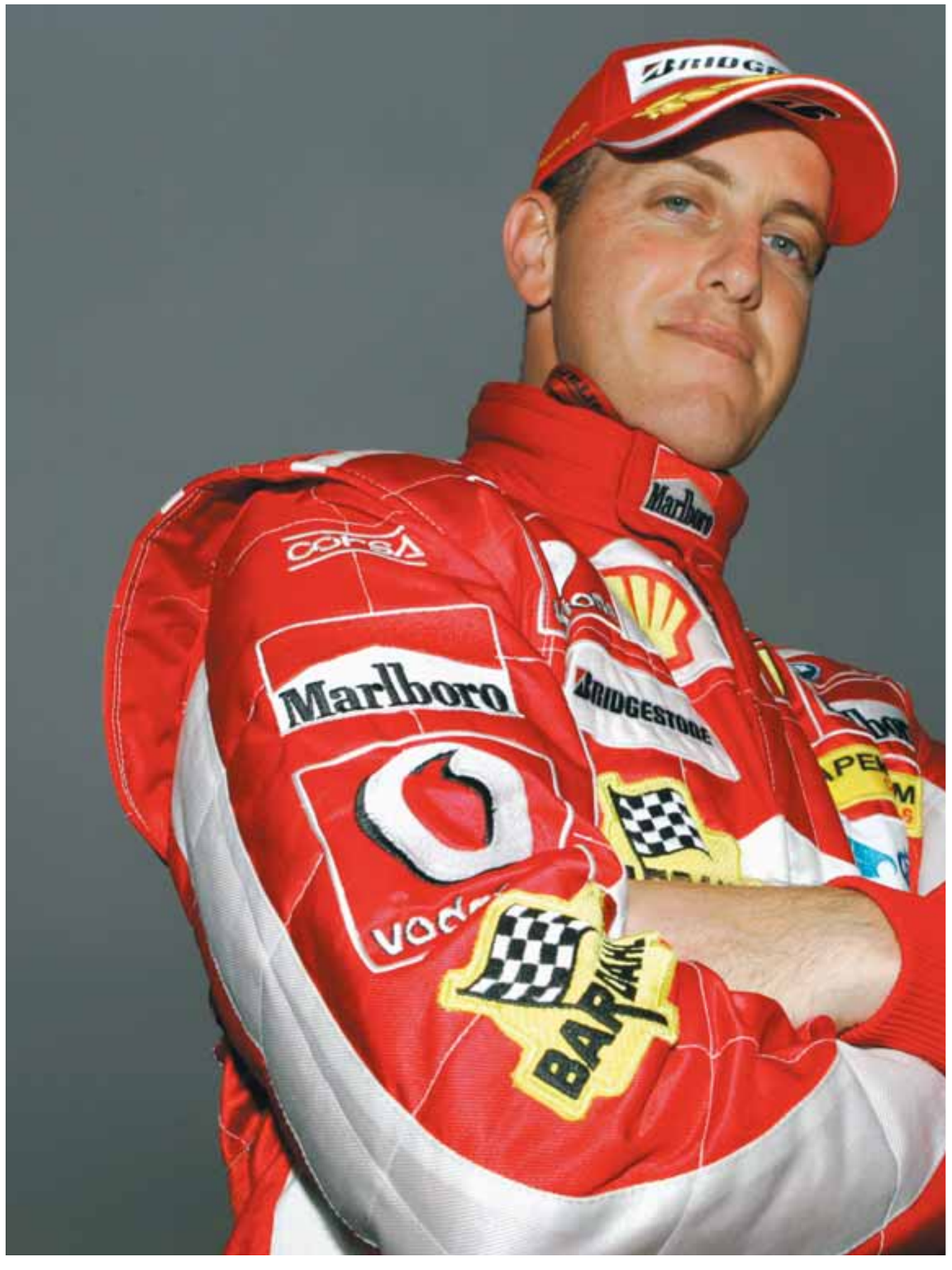
OUR RACE IN PICTURES AND WORDS

+++ **THURSDAY 07:51** Takuma Sato says he's "disappointed" but "not surprised" after losing his drive at BAR for 2006, according to homeofsport.com. The 28-year-old is the clear loser at the end of 'Buttongate 2', but may be retained as BAR's test driver. +++ **07:51** Indianapolis Motor Speedway has confirmed the 2006 US Grand Prix will go ahead as planned, pencilled in for July 2. IMS president Joie Chitwood said: "Despite the cloud that lingered over the race, we never stopped working on 2006 and promoting F1 in the US."

"Like football, when you play at home, you play better."

RUBENS BARRICHELLO

+++ **08:08** Pat Symonds, Renault's engineering mastermind, reveals the team's philosophy to sportinglife.com. "We are not arrogant here in the team and we fully appreciate that the McLaren car is now a quicker car than the Renault. It is partly to do with some of the strategic engineering decisions that we have made as a team. We do not want a car which is fast and fragile, we want a car which will finish every Sunday because that is how championships are won."



+++ **08:45** Bernie has criticised the A1 Grand Prix series just days before its first round at Brands Hatch. The F1 supremo claims that organiser Sheikh Maktoum al-Maktoum reneged on an agreement. Bernie says he offered 'advice' to the 28-year-old, but – according to the Indianapolis Star newspaper – only on the understanding that A1 was a series for veteran drivers in Asia, featuring an all-England team. "Since then they've forgotten what we agreed," Ecclestone said.



+++ **08:56** Jenson has thanked Sir Frank Williams for allowing him to stay with BAR for next season. "He accommodated a compromise to what was a binding contract," said Button on planetf1.com. Sir Frank is just relieved it's all over. He said: "I am glad we have brought this matter to a conclusion and we can return to what we do best: racing." +++ **09:33** Williams reveal they will be testing 18-year-old Sebastian Vettel at Jerez next week. The German has won 18 out of 20 rounds of the Formula BMW ADAC Championship this year.

3 QUESTIONS: GIANCARLO MINARDI



RB: How long have you been in Formula One, and what memories stand out? GM: From April 5th 1985, Rio de Janiero. My best memories include the first day, because it was a dream come true. I also saw the day that I signed the contract for Ferrari engines as a great opportunity and a big step forward. And I remember fondly the day in 1990 when Pierluigi Martini qualified on the front row for us in Phoenix. Overall I have been very lucky. Even when I've had thousands of problems I've always been doing a job that I love. It's given me so much satisfaction. **RB: Of which Minardi driver are you most proud?** GM: I'm proud of all of them. Every driver gave something important to the team. I would like to thank them all, along with everyone who has ever been part of the team. And we are hopeful that one of our past drivers is about to become the youngest champion in history. We are really excited for Fernando. **RB: Will you still be in Formula One next year?** GM: It doesn't depend on me. The team is going to change. I'm available, with my experience and knowledge. The enthusiasm is still there, and I really hope to be a part of this new challenge.

+++ **09:43** Flavio Briatore has defended Renault's seemingly late track debut of its V8 engine. He told Autosprint: "Building a hybrid car is useless. What is the use when you can do it on the test bench without moving people and equipment?" +++ **10:44** Barrichello has no intention of being Button's number two next season, reports Eurosport. "I don't think that after six years at Ferrari things will be the same at BAR." +++ **11:32** Paddocktalk.com claims Michael Schumacher is calm despite his team's disappointing performance.

+++ **13:10** Niki Lauda has questioned the wisdom of Red Bull purchasing Minardi and establishing a rookie team. "If I had a team in a period of build-up," he said. "I would not distract myself with a second team," reports motorsport-network.com. +++ **14:27** Jenson Button's wallet looks to be $30 million lighter after buying his way out of his Williams contract, according to grandprix.com. "I have learned that F1 is not just about driving and that you have to learn quickly about the business," says Button.



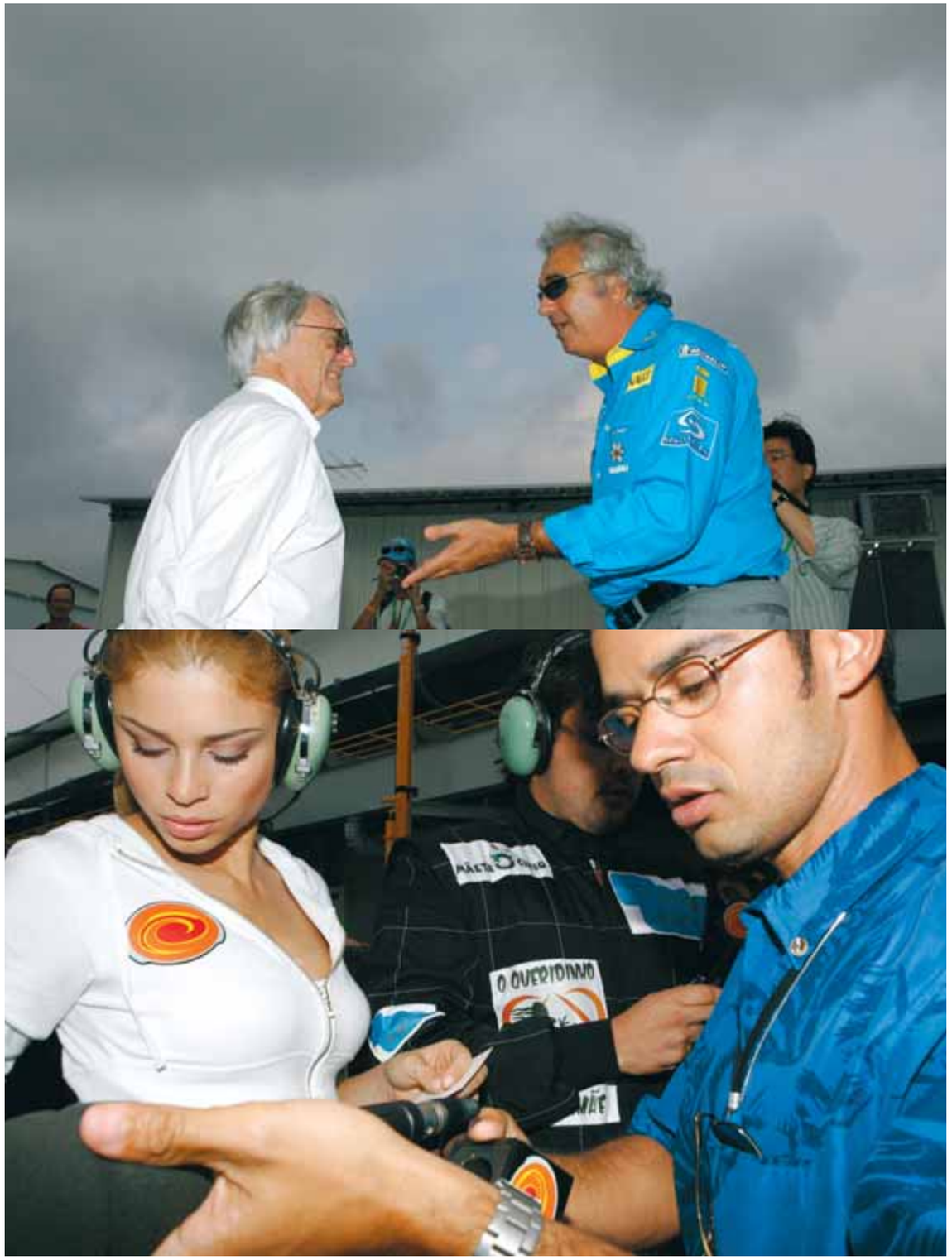








+++ **FRIDAY 00:15** Sato will not stay on at BAR as a reserve driver, according to his manager Andrew Gilbert-Scott says the BBC. “I can’t see any benefit. There are two race drivers on long-term contracts so there’s no future,” Gilbert-Scott said. +++ **00:45** grandprix.com say it won’t be Nico Rosberg claiming the vacant seat at Williams but Dan Wheldon the 27-year-old British Indy Car racer. +++ **04:05** Gp2005.com says Nick Heidfeld may return to driving before the season end, but won’t know for sure until next week.



+++ **09:20** F1 racing.net reports Juan Pablo Montoya as saying he’ll only help Raikkonen on Sunday if Alonso is in a position where he’d definitely win the title. “If Fernando is running third I probably should be able to win the race,” said Montoya who won last year’s Brazilian Grand Prix. “If something changes then I will probably help Kimi again.” +++ **11:00** Despite losing his BAR race seat for 2006, Takuma Sato puts in the second fastest practice time, behind McLaren’s Alex Wurz.

“I am not putting aside the points in Indianapolis, we deserved them, definitely.”

TIAGO MONTEIRO

“I want to do the best I can for Sauber, who are the team who gave me the opportunity, and then, when we finish the championship, I am looking forward to next year.”

FELIPE MASSA

“At the moment the main priority, and probably the only realistic one, is just to win the constructors.”

JUAN PABLO MONTOYA

“I hope Fernando does not win the championship here, because then I can go home earlier – otherwise I have to attend the party!”

GIANCARLO FISICHELLA

“Champion drivers are just like champions in any sport, they have this incredible self-esteem, self-confidence and this ability to set themselves targets.”

PAT SYMONDS

BRAZIL GP
FERNANDO ALONSO
F1 WORLD CHAMPION 2005



“It is like you are dealing with a guy who has a destiny”

PAT SYMONDS
TECHNICAL DIRECTOR RENAULT


MALAYSIAN GP


BAHRAIN GP


SAN MARINO GP


EUROPEAN GP


FRENCH GP


GERMAN GP

PHOTO: GRANDPRIX.NET, CRISPIN THRUSTON, RAINER JENSON

+++ **11:08** Bad news for Coulthard as he's fined $6,000 for doing 71.6kph in the pitlane – his second speeding offence of the season. +++ **11:44** Kimi Raikkonen is "a killer", but his McLaren team-mate isn't according to retired 10-time winner Gerhard Berger, who worked with Montoya at BMW: "He doesn't make the most of his chances," Berger told Autosprint. ''He will be an eternal number two.''+++ **13:07** Party-loving Renault boss Flavio orders a no-celebration policy until Alonso's title is in the bag, report homeofsport.com.

"I was surprised what Michael did to Takuma. To go to him and actually hit the visor, I was surprised he got away from it. If I had done that I would have probably been disqualified for the rest of the season or something!"

JUAN PABLO MONTOYA

"This is not a criticism of Toyota in any way whatsoever, but we have to be careful in Formula One that we don't end up with the team that spends the most money being the team that wins everything, because then it's just a spending contest and not an engineering and driver contest. I wish them every success but I hope Toyota don't end up as the Chelsea of Formula One."

ROSS BRAWN

"Frank has got a couple of options for our second race seat and Nico is definitely one of the guys on that list – as are others."

SAM MICHAEL

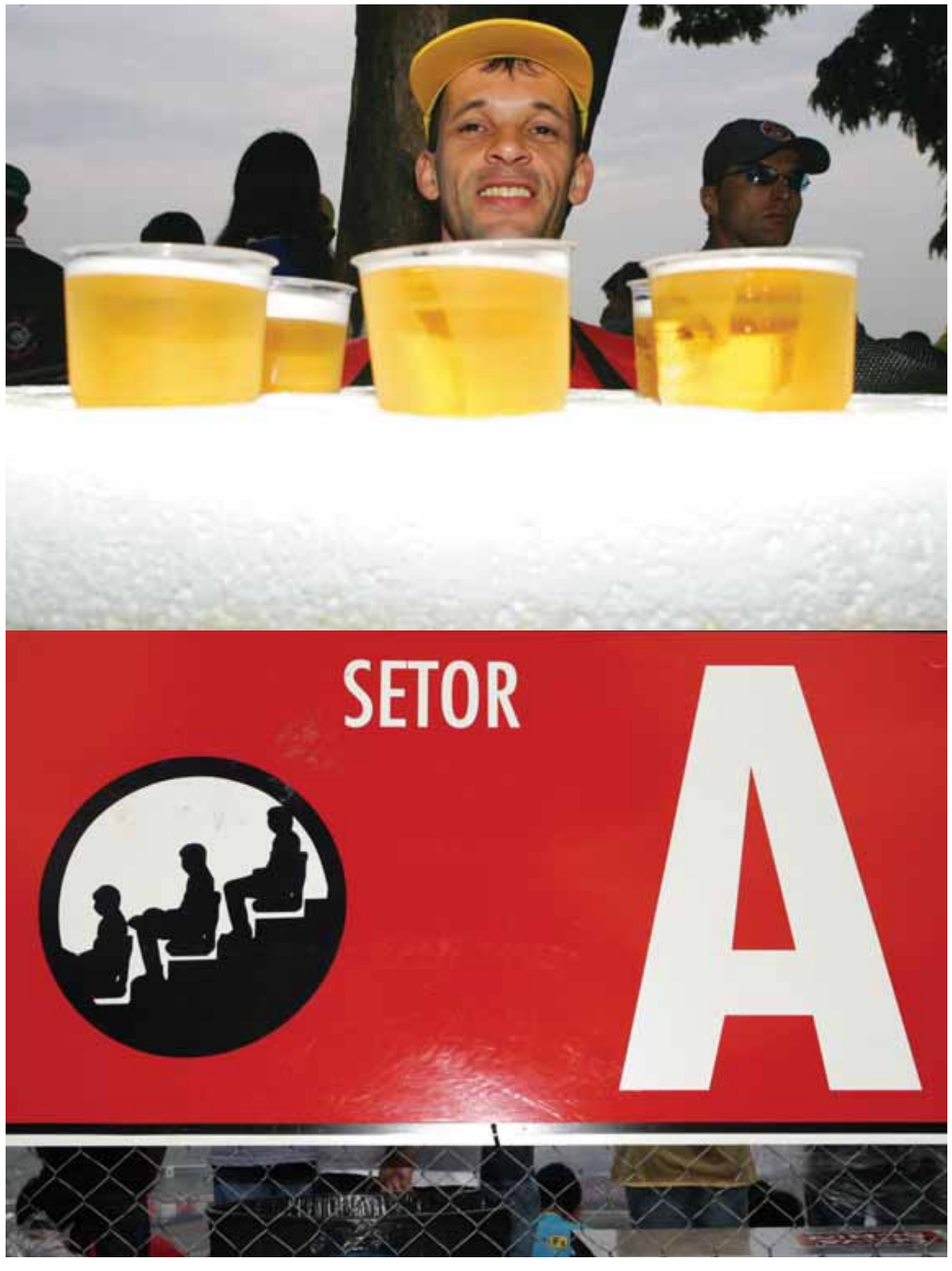
"We have been very pleased with the engine. Are they marginal? Yes they are. When we take them to bits they are quite scary at times, but that's really the way it should be."

PAT SYMONDS

"I like the track and the atmosphere, so I am pretty confident."

FELIPE MASSA

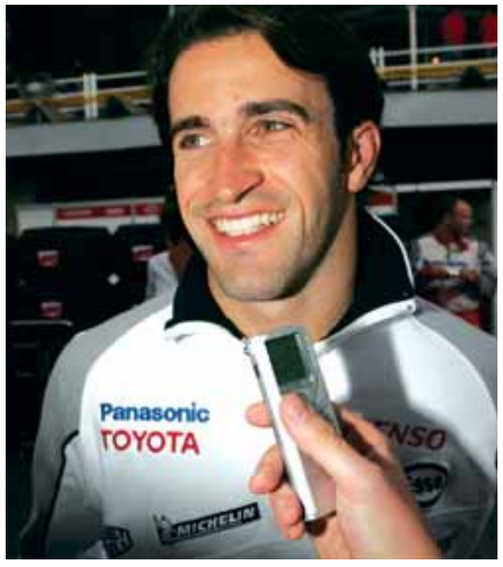
+++ **14:00** Alex Wurz tops the timing sheets again in the fourth session, with Montoya and Zonta behind him. +++ **16:00** Silence at the back, it's FIA press conference time and the technical directors are in session. Ross Brawn, Sam Michael, Pat Symonds and Geoff Willis will take your questions now. +++ **1610** Bernie Ecclestone has said there will not be a second grand prix in Japan - rumoured to have been set for Fuji - next year, according to crash.net



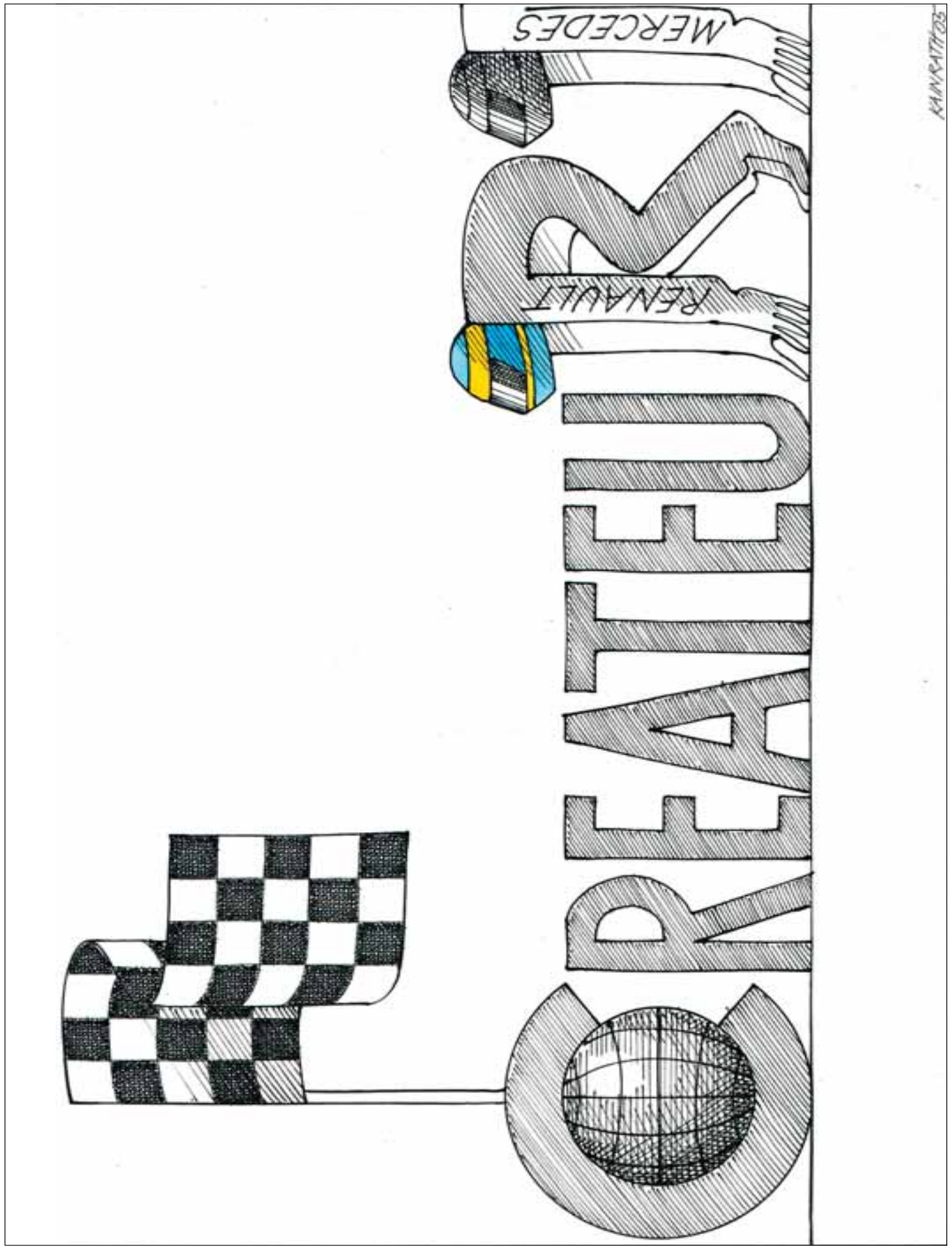
+++ **SATURDAY 09:00** Third practice sees Renault on excellent form. Alonso leads Fisichella, with the two McLarens behind them. +++ **09:53** Rumours abound that Alex Wurz is on BMW's shopping list for next season, and – according to paddocktalk.com – Mercedes-Benz will not block such a move. "We would very much like Alex to stay as test driver," Norbert Haug told Premiere TV. "But if he sees a good chance elsewhere then we would not stand in his way."

4 QUESTIONS: RICARDO ZONTA

RB: Who do you think will be the leading Brazilian F1 driver next year? RZ: I think Massa will perform at the same level as Barrichello is now. I don't think Rubens will be the number one driver at BAR. They will be equal, I think, fighting for podiums rather than wins. **RB: Is it painful having to test and not race, this weekend in particular?** RZ: Yes, especially when you are the quickest on the Friday and then you can't race. It's quite hard for me just to watch. **RB: Toyota was looking quick at Spa. Is the car well suited to Interlagos?** RZ: It's not been very good here. The bumps have caused us trouble. We were expecting to be faster. **RB: Who do you most admire?** RZ: My father. He had a very poor upbringing and fought hard to build his business. When he was 10 years old he had nothing. Now his supermarket chain is one of the biggest in Brazil, and I think this is very admirable.



+++ **10:04** Jacques Villeneuve is under close observation by BMW. "We decided we wanted to see him in the second half of the season," Mario Theissen told Reuters. JV, meanwhile, is adamant his deal signed by Peter Sauber in late 2004 cannot be broken. Dr Theissen added: '"You will see the definite 2006 line-up at the first race next year." +++ **10:15** With only half an hour to fettle the cars and grab a sandwich, it's already time for the fourth and final practice. Raikkonen finishes the session just ahead of Alonso, with Button in third.



Sprint to the finish

+++ **13:00** Qualifying sees Kimi leave most of his rubber at the first corner, losing a lot of time. Fernando Alonso edges closer to glory with a solid pole. “This is the result. At the last few races we have not been able to fight with McLaren but here I think we have a better chance,” said Alonso. However, Raikkonen said: “I think that without the lock-up it could have been pole position. In the race we will just go for it and do what we can. Our strategy is strong.”



+++ **13:22** Pat Symonds has been singing Alonso’s praises, reports sportinglife.com. “The maturity he shows is beyond his age. You forget about it. He knows that destiny and is comfortable with it.” +++ **13:41** Williams technical director Sam Michael has now confirmed rising star Nico Rosberg has a chance of racing the Grove-based team next season. He tells ITV: “Frank has got a couple of options for our second race seat and Nico is definitely one of the guys on that list, as are others, so we will have to wait and see.”



+++ **14:10** Montoya brands Jenson Button “stupid” for constantly changing his mind. The Colombian agrees with Eddie Jordan’s description of the Englishman as “tainted goods”. “For him, it will change a lot – the way people regard contracts with him,” JPM told ITV. +++ **14:12** Anthony Davidson is desperate for a race drive, but has no cash to sweeten the deal. He tells planetf1.com: “We are in talks with Williams but I have no money to buy a drive, and they are the last of the teams I believe would accept paying drivers.”

“From hero to zero – yesterday I was laughing, but today, nothing.”

ROBERT DOORNBOS HAS A SPIN IN QUALIFYING

“It is not like I am brake testing them or anything, I am doing my own thing and the guy runs in the back of me.”

JUAN PABLO MONTOYA

“Having the opportunity to race in front of my home crowd is a big boost for me.”

ANTONIO PIZZONIA

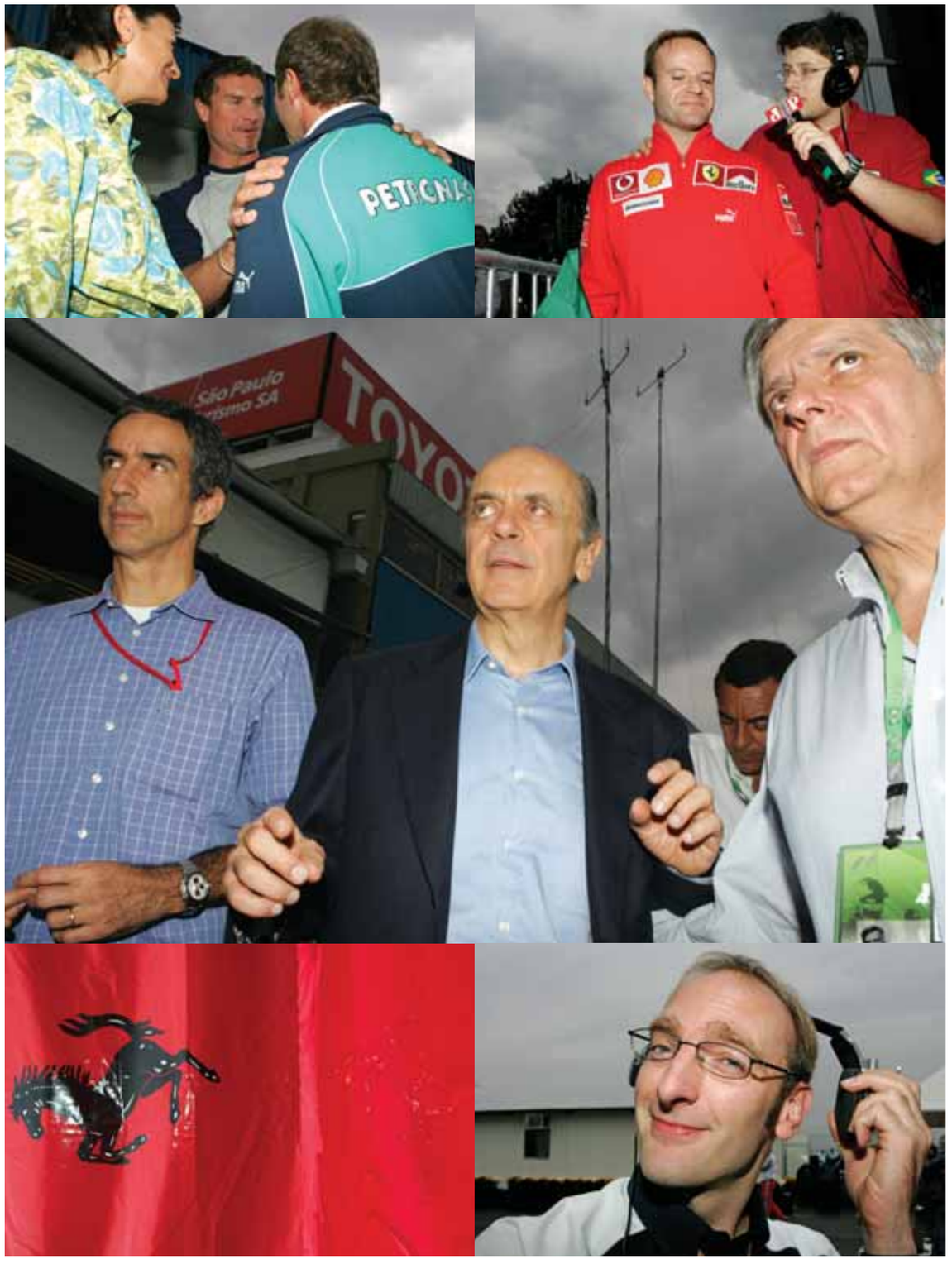
“I approach the weekend and the race thinking there are still three races to go, so maybe I am not so stressed for tomorrow and I will sleep perfectly tonight.”

FERNANDO ALONSO, AFTER QUALIFYING ON POLE

“I have fond memories of the vibration issues that you get with the configuration of a V8. My colleagues and staff at Ferrari haven’t had that experience, it’s still been a new experience for them to have bits falling off that never fell off before.”

ROSS BRAWN

+++ **15:41** Colin Kolles confirms to f1live.com that Midland F1 are interested in Takuma Sato. “We talked about the issue with Toyota and they are happy,” said the Romanian. +++ **15:45** F1central.com has warned Jenson he will come in for a lot of stick from Sato fans at Suzuka in two weeks’ time. The Japanese supporters are preparing huge ‘FUCK YOU, BUTTON’ banners according to the Daily Mirror. “The fans will make their feelings clear,” a spokesman for the Japanese Grand Prix confirmed.



+++ **SUNDAY 08:40** Despite being warm hosts, Brazil's GP venue has come in for some stick this morning from The Independent's David Tremayne. He describes the Autodromo Jose Carlos Pace as being "unbecoming of a Formula One venue." +++ **09:46** Could this be the day Emerson Fittipaldi, Formula One's youngest ever champion, loses his record to Fernando Alonso? "I think the record is going into very good hands," the Brazilian tells ITV. "I'm surprised it lasted so long," he added. +++ **14:00** Alonso accelerates off the grid...



The Red Bulletin
The bulls in the china shop

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THE RACE RESULTS

KING OF CONSISTENCY

At last, Fernando Alonso can celebrate. At last, Flavio Briatore can lift the ban on parties celebrating the end of one reign and the crowning of the youngest pretender of them all. The Spaniard is champion. Sure, the coronation will have to wait until Shanghai but the succession is effectively complete.

Third was all he needed. And easing through a flawless, controlled race, he achieved the minimum required, almost appearing heedless of the frantic activity in front as McLaren's Juan Pablo Montoya raced to his third victory of the year, backed up by team-mate Kimi Raikkonen – the Finn's desperate attempts to keep fuelling a championship fire which has long been guttering, were finally extinguished by the king of consistency's calm procession to the sequence of solid placings he needed.

It was the story of the second half of the season captured in a 71-lap snapshot: the lightning-quick McLarens utterly dominant, but ultimately undone by Renault's bulletproof reliability. The only thing missing this time was the kind of mishap, calamity and unforeseen disaster which has plagued McLaren all season long. Indeed, there was certain kind of cruelty to the notion that on the day when it ultimately was fruitless (in drivers' title terms) McLaren were unhindered by problems of any kind.

So Alonso could celebrate, exploding from the cockpit in parc ferme with a roar of triumph and relief to claim an unassailable title lead, to set himself up as the youngest champion ever, relieving local hero Emerson Fittipaldi of the accolade he won 33 years ago.

And the champion is a worthy one – a model of consistency, determination, often sublime skill and endless calm. Just the sort of attributes which propelled the driver from whom he takes the title to so many victories. Michael Schumacher could only finish fourth, 10.8 seconds behind the man who would be, and now is, king.

RACE

	DRIVER	TEAM	LAPS	TIME	POINTS
1	**Juan Pablo Montoya**	McLaren-Mercedes	71	1hr 29:20.574	10
2	**Kimi Raikkonen**	McLaren-Mercedes	71	+2.5 secs	8
3	**Fernando Alonso**	Renault	71	+24.8 secs	6
4	**Michael Schumacher**	Ferrari	71	+35.6 secs	5
5	**Giancarlo Fisichella**	Renault	71	+40.2 secs	4
6	**Rubens Barrichello**	Ferrari	71	+69.1 secs	3
7	**Jenson Button**	BAR-Honda	70	+1 lap	2
8	**Ralf Schumacher**	Toyota	70	+1 lap	1
9	**Christian Klien**	Red Bull Racing	70	+1 lap	
10	**Takuma Sato**	BAR-Honda	70	+1 lap	
11	**Felipe Massa**	Sauber-Petronas	70	+1 lap	
12	**Jacques Villeneuve**	Sauber-Petronas	70	+1 lap	
13	**Jarno Trulli**	Toyota	69	+2 laps	
14	**Christijan Albers**	Minardi-Cosworth	69	+2 laps	
15	**Narain Karthikeyan**	Jordan-Toyota	68	+3 laps	
RET	**Tiago Monteiro**	Jordan-Toyota	55	+16 laps	
NC	**Mark Webber**	BMW-Williams	45	+26 laps	
RET	**Robert Doornbos**	Jordan-Toyota	34	+37 laps	
RET	**Antonio Pizzonia**	BMW-Williams	0	+71 laps	
RET	**David Coulthard**	Red Bull Racing	0	+71 laps	

Fastest Lap: K Raikkonen 1:12.268

DRIVERS' CHAMPIONSHIP

	DRIVER	PTS
1	**F Alonso**	117
2	**K Raikkonen**	94
3	**JP Montoya**	60
4	**M Schumacher**	60
5	**G Fisichella**	45
6	**J Trulli**	43
7	**R Barrichello**	38
8	**R Schumacher**	38
9	**J Button**	32
10	**M Webber**	29

CONSTRUCTORS' CHAMPIONSHIP

	TEAM	PTS
1	**McLaren-Mercedes**	164
2	**Renault**	162
3	**Ferrari**	98
4	**Toyota**	81
5	**BMW-Williams**	59
6	**BAR-Honda**	33
7	**Red Bull Racing-Cosworth**	27
8	**Sauber-Petronas**	17
9	**Jordan-Toyota**	12
10	**Minardi-Cosworth**	7

BULLETIN WINNER

A tough day for the Schumi bet. The Ferrari star's long reign is over, rulership of F1's driver title passing to 24-year-old Fernando Alonso. Schumacher had to settle for fourth. But that fourth place netted five bet participants some cash. Michael Schmidt of auto motor und sport, Marc Surer of Premiere, Niki Lauda, Bernie Ecclestone and a Portuguese reporter each take 520 reais and 60 dollars each from the jackpot.

R$520 + US$60

PIOLA WINNER



This weekend's winner of the Giorgio Piola challenge was Williams engineer Mark Littlewood, whose scary knowledge of diffusers netted him a pair of Sony noise-cancelling headphones for the flight home.