THE RED BULLETIN

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AN ALMOST INDEPENDENT F1 NEWSPAPER

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Formula 1

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J P MONTOYA

J BUTTON

GERMANY



Kimi on pole in Mercedes' back yard. Glance back through the German Grand Prix experience with our pictorial guide

Pictures: Thomas Butler

OUR RACE IN PICTURES AND WORDS

JULY 24

HOCKENHEIM

+++ **Thursday:** **09:06** Michael Schumacher is glad to be home. “Regardless of the circumstances, a race in Germany is always special. You just look forward to this race a little bit more. There’s always a fantastic atmosphere,” reports the champ on his website. +++ **09:34** Jenson Button, who started 13th at Hockenheim last year and finished second, is hoping to finish well into the points once again. He tells Planet F1: “Having completed two days’ testing in Jerez where the car felt good, I’m looking forward to the race and hope to be more competitive and have both cars finish strongly in the points.”

“

I don’t feel like promising big things to my fans

”

MICHAEL SCHUMACHER

+++ **09:46** With BMW making preparations for their 2006 season, Sauber Petronas is advertising a series of job opportunities on its website in the field of aerodynamics and simulation, in order to maximize the potential of the team’s state-of-the-art wind tunnel and AMD-powered CFD facility. +++ **09:57** Nigel Mansell speaks up. He’s quoted on Planet F1 as being deeply upset with Formula One’s current rules, which he describes as ‘Mickey Mouse’. “You and I both know in half an hour we could write a better set of rules. One set of tyres – how dangerous is that? F1 keeps shooting itself in the foot badly”.





+++ **11:30** Michael Schumacher and Rubens Barrichello get all arty at a Vodafone event, creating their own masterpieces on canvas using quad bikes. “I do not know a lot about art, this is more Jean Todt’s area,” said Michael after the charity event. +++ **11:38** An Indian website reports on the situation down at Ferrari. Michael says: “We’re not trying to hide the fact that we’re a little bit on the hunt for our performance right now. We have by no means written ourselves off, even though we have to admit that the situation has worsened recently, rather than improved.”



Ironing out any last-minute problems

+++ **12:51** Paddocktalk.com reports on Dietrich Mateschitz’ advice to David Coulthard, advising the Scot to be himself. “He told me to say what I think, do what I feel - as long as I don’t say that Red Bull is an awful drink!’’ We have similar orders. +++ **14:15** The official Formula One website asks a poignant question: will this be Schumacher’s last home race as world champion? +++ **15:00** FIA press conference starts. Norbert Haug, John Howett, Juan Pablo Montoya and Ralf Schumacher are all in the hot seat. Quiet please. +++ **15:10** Will Michelin lose Toyota for ’06? “We are looking at our options,” a Toyota spokesman admitted.

4 QUESTIONS: SAM MICHAEL

RB: What was your dream job when you were seven years old? SM: Race car engineer **RB: What was it like where you grew up in Australia? Did your dad have a Ute?** SM: Hot and dusty, with lots of sheep and cattle. Dad had an HQ Holden Ute. **RB: What was the first racing car you ever fettled?** SM: A Reynard 90D in 1991. **RB: Of which F1 result are you most proud?** SM: Magny Cours 1999, when Frentzen won for Jordan.



+++ **17:46** Fernando Alonso talks to the BBC about his relationship with Kimi. “I’ve known him since 1997 or 1998 when we raced in karts and it’s always been a good relationship with no real problems. As with all Formula One drivers, we don’t have a great many conversations, but still there’s a lot of respect for each other.” **18:05** Jenson Button doesn’t see a win on the horizon this year. He tells Reuters “I don’t think it will happen this year. We are so far behind.” **18:44** Speed TV reports that Indy 500 winner Dan Wheldon has been approached by two F1 teams. “We’re still in talks. The conditions of the deal would have to be right.”



+++ **19:54** Jenson Button comes to F1’s defense, following Mansell’s outburst. He tells ITV: “He has his own views, and I’m sure some of them are right, but it’s no use looking at it like that. It’s no use pointing fingers at anyone. I can be negative about Formula One, but a lot of people I know think it is great watching it this year.” **FRIDAY: 04:00** In La Stampa this morning, Schumi is asked if his seven world championships is comparable to the feat about to be achieved by Discovery team cyclist Lance Armstrong this afternoon. “Impossible. The car is much more important”. Modesty will get you everywhere, Michael.



+++ **09:15** Schumi arrives at Hockenheim in a Gaillo Fly yellow Maserati Coupe, flanked by police outriders. Attention seeker. +++ **10:45** Following his triumph at Silverstone two weeks ago, JPM's confidence has returned. "If things go my way in the second half of the season, then I should be able to get Kimi", says the Columbian, quoted on Homeofsport.com. +++ **11:00** First F1 practice. Alex Wurz tops the time sheets with a 1:14.277, ahead of Ricardo Zonta. +++ **11:26** Paddocktalk.com reckons Sir Frank will trade Heidfeld for Button, and that the German's management are in the process of ironing out a deal with BAR-Honda.

+++ **12:58** Grandprix.com has picked up on reports that British telecommunications company BT are about to sign a sponsorship deal with McLaren. +++ **14:00** Second F1 practice. Wurz is still on top with a 1:13.973, with Raikkonen in second spot. +++ **15:30** GP2 qualifying. Nico Rosberg take pole, with Scott Speed along side him for tomorrow's race. +++ **15:50** F1galaxy.com reports that Jordan has a new sponsor. A Canadian brewery named Steelback +++ **16:00** FIA press conference. This time we have Flav, Big Ron, the Stodmeister-General and Dr Mario Theissen airing their views and wisdom.



“I have good memories of racing on the old track. The newer one is no longer a low downforce, flat-out blast and it’s now like many of the other circuits we race at”

JACQUES VILLENEUVE

“The car wasn’t as good in qualifying as it had been in the morning – but it was good enough”

KIMI RAIKKONEN

“I’m in front of my team-mate, which is a little bit of a success for me, I think”

CHRISTIAN KLIEN

“I won’t be the first in, that’s for sure”

DAVID COULTHARD

“We’ve checked it, we’ve changed it and we’ve done a lot of running since”

NORBERT HAUG CONSIGNS MERCEDES’ ENGINE PROBLEMS TO THE PAST

“We always have much better pace in the race than in qualifying”

FERNANDO ALONSO

“Finishing second is not too bad for us. Finishing third is not a drama. But we start the race for winning”

FLAVIO BRIATORE

“I think the guys will actually feed off each other”

PAUL STODDART ON DUTCH RIVALRY

“I’ve got a great car, a great team and I won the first race. It’s going to be alright”

GIANCARLO FISICHELLA DENIES RENAULT HAVE FAVOURITES

Saturday +++ **00:07** The Sun's outgoing F1 correspondent Stan Piecha reports that Rubens Barrichello will partner Jenson Button at BAR next season, quoting a source close to the team as saying: "BAR are desperate to mount a serious title challenge next season and feel Button and Barrichello will make the perfect pairing." +++ **01:03** Kevin Eason in The Times insists that Jenson Button holds the key to all the driver moves likely to happen in the closing stages of the season and predicts a decision on the Britons' whereabouts next year will come within days.

+++ **01:09** Alan Henry in the Guardian quotes McLaren's Martin Whitmarsh as saying team orders will not figure for them in the title shake-up. "If we said to Juan Pablo, 'Right, you had your race win at Silverstone, now just tuck in behind Kimi for the rest of the season if you wouldn't mind', it would not be calculated to get the best out of him" +++ **01:21** The F1 Central flags Jordan owner Alex Shnaider's signing of his first Canadian sponsor for the team, in the shape of beer brand Steelback Brewery, whose maple leaf logo will appear on the yellow car at least to the end of 2005.

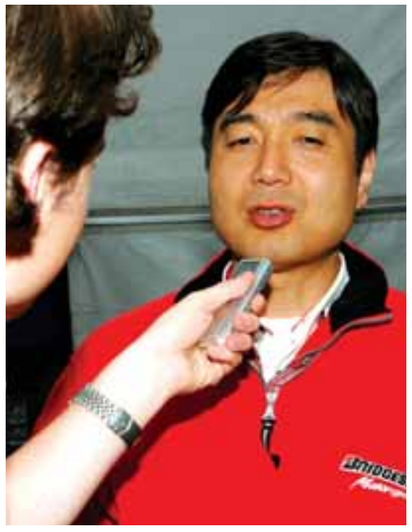




+++ **01:38** The Mirror meanwhile, says Jackie Stewart has slammed world champion Michael Schumacher for refusing to back a safety campaign launched by rival drivers +++ **06:56** Malaysia's The Star reports that Michael Schumacher is writing off his Hockenheim chances quoting the champion saying: "I don't feel like promising big things to my fans. I'm not thinking about victory. I must admit I feel fairly pessimistic." +++ **07:08** Grandprix.com speculates that Intel, currently a minor sponsor of Toyota's, are looking to do a big deal with one of the sport's major teams.

+++ **08:48** The homeofsport website reports Jackie Stewart as saying that Michael Schumacher could be ousted as president of the GPDA +++ **10:04** Reuters says it's business as usual for McLaren in third practice as Raikkonen and Montoya dominate the timesheet. Kimi clocks a 1:15.684, with his team-mate less a tenth adrift +++ **11:02** Planet-f1 watches the dominance continue as Kimi and Juan Pablo are again quickest in the morning's second session. This time Raikkonen hits 1:14.128 and Montoya 1:14.449

4 QUESTIONS: HISAO SUGANUMA



RB: Would you like a return to slicks? HS: Yes, slick tyres are the ideal tyres for racing purposes as they give the best performance to the car. **RB: How do you unwind?** HS: I play PC games when I have spare time. My favourites are first person shooters such as Doom 3 or Half Life 2. It's fun! **RB: Hobbies away from the track?** HS: My main hobby is to build DIY PCs and modify them to make them faster without spending too much money. I'm always looking to improve them but sometimes it doesn't work and it ends up costing me more! It's a little silly when this happens but I enjoy the challenge! **RB: What Japanese phrase may we find helpful in the paddock?** HS: Genki desu ka? It means "Are you well?"





+++ **11:39** homeofsport.com carries a story claiming that Michael Schumacher has again rubbished speculation he may quit because of Ferrari's poor form. "I can't imagine my life without F1. In sport it's normal to have difficult spells." +++ **11:47** FeedmeF1.com says Felipe Massa has been talking with BMW about a contract for next year +++ **11:52** Sky Sports reports the FIA's fining of Alex Wurz for ignoring yellow flags during Friday's afternoon practice session. The Austrian is handed a monster $5,000 penalty











+++ **14:21** "I just lost it," Montoya is quoted on F1central.com in explanation of his spin. "Kimi had a bit of oversteer in the same place, and my car's been a bit nervous in most corners. I just went in, lifted the throttle and the car came around." +++ **14:30** Fernando Alonso tells the Spanish press he has not decided whether or not to fly to Cannes for next month's GPDA meeting with Max Mosley +++ **14:49** The BBC is one of the quicker agencies off the mark with a qualifying report, saying: Kimi Raikkonen grabbed a sensational pole position lapping in one minute 14.320 seconds to beat Jenson Button's BAR by 0.439secs




+++ **15.03** The BBC follows up on Montoya's crash by interviewing Ron Dennis who laments the Colombian's error: "He made a mistake. He only had one corner to go – all he had to do is get round it." +++ **15:43** Fernando Alonso says he's not too disappointed with his third place on the grid: "I could have been on the front row but it is actually quite good to be starting from the clean side of the track." +++ **16:23** Irish broadcaster Setanta says Jenson Button is pleased with his grid spot but realistic about his chances: "We have made progress since Silverstone but not quite enough to challenge the front runners yet."

"I think it is fundamentally too late now to actually establish the production volumes we need to supply that kind of demand"

JOHN HOWETT DOESN'T THINK WILLIAMS-TOYOTA IS REALISTIC

"We are a grand prix team. We exist to win"

RON DENNIS

"We've made progress but it's not enough to challenge"

JENSON BUTTON

"I am not angry. I think he is angry with himself. It would have been good for the team to have both cars at the front but that was not possible"

KIMI RAIKKONEN ON JPM'S QUALIFYING CRASH

"We want to finish this six-year partnership on a high, not a low"

MARIO THEISSEN

+++ **16:45** Michael Schumacher is quoted on Eurosport saying he's hoping for rain for the race. "Maybe we can challenge Jenson but anything else would be very optimistic unless there are different weather conditions." +++ **18:24** Reuters gets little joy from Nick Heidfeld on his plans for next season. The German dodges the question with: "I don't have any concerns. I'm part of a very good team and very happy to be on it. Anything can happen." +++ **19:25** Sky Sports says Eddie Irvine will switch his attentions from Jordan to Minardi. Paul Stoddart confirms that the Irv has been in touch.



Sunday: +++ Among those spotted in the paddock this morning are Boris Becker, Gladiator's Ralf Moeller and German goalkeeper Timo Hildebrand +++ **10:00** The GP2 race sees Olivier Pla take the win. In the paddock Toyota's Tomita-san is seen leaving the Williams motorhome. Is there anything we should know? +++ **12:30** The driver's parade begins in an eclectic range of vehicles. Trulli's in an Austin Healey 3000, Michael in a Daytona. Sato, not really in the spirit, appears in a brand new S2000. Tanja Bauer offers Kimi a Stetson, he politely declines +++ **12:30** Oswald Halwax cranks up the Red Bulletin Heidleberg and we're away.



PHOTO: CRISPIN THRUSTON

Red Bulletin
The bulls in the china shop

Publisher Norman Howell
Editor Justin Hynes
Production editor Matt Youson
Staff writer Adam Hay-Nicholls
Art director Markus Rasp
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Photo editor Susie Forman
Team photographer Thomas Butler
Illustrator Dietmar Kainrath

Logistics manager Bettina Leidiger
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Truckies Tony Gardner, Leigh Pothecary

IT Bernd Gorbach, Adam Carbajal, Werner Stadlober, Thomas Riedel

Printing team Oswald Halwax, Thomas Schmitz

Project coordinator Bernd Fisa

Concept Karl Abentheuer, Christian Kammerling, Boro Petric, Christian Seiler, Alex Wiederin

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THE RACE RESULTS

ICE MELTS YET AGAIN

Kimi Raikkonen's mean season continues. The Finn, the pacesetter all weekend here in Hockenheim, planted his McLaren-Mercedes on pole yesterday with as emphatic a performance as possible. After two disastrous engine-related failures for the team, his qualifying time screamed the team's intentions: problems solved, victory assured.

And for 36 laps today, the prediction looked like paying off. Raikkonen flew away from the lights, defended a bold move from the fast-starting Fernando Alonso in third and held his lead.

After that it was all about the pace of the McLaren. Alonso clung on but Raikkonen's lap times were electric and by the pair's first stops he had a 9.3-second advantage on the Spaniard.

That climbed to 11.0 seconds on fresh tyres, but then suddenly, on lap 36, the Finn slowed, ground to halt, sidelined yet again by a mysterious problem.

It left Alonso free to cruise through to the chequered flag and his sixth win of the season. The title race has just become infinitely harder for McLaren.

It meant the major battle was for second and coming through from 20th to claim drive of the day was Raikkonen's team-mate Juan Pablo Montoya.

A brilliant strategy and some superb moves pushed the Colombian to third and in his final long stint he had enough in reserve to push past Jenson Button in the second round of stops, to take the second step on the podium. Button too enjoyed a good afternoon, reclaiming the third place on the podium with a bold move past Michael Schumacher into the hairpin on lap 46.

Schumacher attempted to cling on for fourth but was passed on the penultimate lap by a hard-charging Giancarlo Fisichella.

RACE

	DRIVER	TEAM	LAPS	TIME	POINTS
1	**Fernando Alonso**	Renault	67	1hr 26:28.559	10
2	**Juan Pablo Montoya**	McLaren-Mercedes	67	+22.5 secs	8
3	**Jenson Button**	BAR-Honda	67	+24.5 secs	6
4	**Giancarlo Fisichella**	Renault	67	+50.5 secs	5
5	**Michael Schumacher**	Ferrari	67	+51.6 secs	4
6	**Ralf Schumacher**	Toyota	67	+52.2 secs	3
7	**David Coulthard**	Red Bull Racing	67	+52.7 secs	2
8	**Felipe Massa**	Sauber-Petronas	67	+56.5 secs	1
9	**Christian Klien**	Red Bull Racing	67	+69.8 secs	
10	**Rubens Barrichello**	Ferrari	66	+1 lap	
11	**Nick Heidfeld**	BMW-Williams	66	+1 lap	
12	**Takuma Sato**	BAR-Honda	66	+1 lap	
13	**Christijan Albers**	Minardi-Cosworth	65	+2 laps	
14	**Jarno Trulli**	Toyota	64	+3 laps	
15	**Jacques Villeneuve**	Sauber-Petronas	64	+3 laps	
16	**Narain Karthikeyan**	Jordan-Toyota	64	+3 laps	
17	**Tiago Monteiro**	Jordan-Toyota	64	+3 laps	
18	**Robert Doornbos**	Minardi-Cosworth	63	+4 laps	
----	**Mark Webber**	BMW-Williams	55	+12 laps	
Ret	**Kimi Raikkonen**	McLaren-Mercedes	35	+32 laps	

Fastest Lap: K Raikkonen 1:14.873

DRIVERS' CHAMPIONSHIP

	DRIVER	PTS
1	**F Alonso**	87
2	**K Raikkonen**	51
3	**M Schumacher**	47
4	**JP Montoya**	34
5	**R Barrichello**	31
	J Trulli	31
7	**G Fisichella**	30
8	**R Schumacher**	26
9	**N Heidfeld**	25
10	**M Webber**	22

CONSTRUCTORS' CHAMPIONSHIP

	TEAM	PTS
1	**Renault**	117
2	**McLaren-Mercedes**	95
3	**Ferrari**	78
4	**Toyota**	57
5	**BMW-Williams**	47
6	**Red Bull Racing-Cosworth**	24
7	**BAR-Honda**	15
8	**Sauber-Petronas**	14
9	**Jordan-Honda**	11
10	**Minardi-Cosworth**	7

BULLETIN WINNERS

He clung on grimly, battling against a damaged tyre and fierce rivals but in the end Michael Schumacher had to give way to Jenson Button and Giancarlo Fisichella. That meant he finished fifth. And that also meant that nine people hit the jackpot in the Bulletin Bet and the Bet and Win bonus. Each claims E165 from the bet and E35 from the jackpot. The nine included Red Bull race director Dr Helmut Marko, Tobias Holtkampp of 'Bild Hamburg', Claus Muehlberger 'auto motor und sport', Achim Schlang of 'F1 Speed', Markus Goetting of 'Stern' and the Bulletin's editor Justin Hynes... fix, fix!!

E165 + E35