

AN ALMOST INDEPENDENT F1 NEWSPPAPER


# MONACO SUNDAY 25.05.08 

The clouds have been hanging over the surrounding hills all weekend, but when we woke up this morning the threatened rain had finally arrived. A wet race was going to make things really interesting. Carefully planned strategies would no longer apply and those in the midfield would surely fancy their chances of getting on the podium..

## GOING CLOSE TOTHE EDGE

## The difference between the perfect

 line and disaster is just a few millimetres around the twists and turns of Monte Carlo. If the drivers get it wrong, the barriers will make them pay a high price.



GREAT
EXPECTATIONS
The tension in the build-up to the start of the Monaco grand prix is almost unbearable. Everybody is waiting to see their favourite F1 star perform in the race that every driver desperately wants to win.






## 'Olivier nudged me and said, "I'mgoing to win tomorrow"'

GP MONACO. MONTE CARLO, MAY 19, 1996

Ligier hadn't won a race since the Canadian GP in 1981 and Olivier Panis had only a solitary point to his name after the first five races of 1996 - but the Frenchman felt sure Monaco would suit him...

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livier Panis's confidence at Monaco appeared justified after he set sixith uickest time during the opening day Practice on the Prinicipality'stree the Mugen Honda-powered Ligier JS43 was no exception. Electrical problems intervened
during qualifying and limited Olivier's track during qualifying and limited Olivier's track
time. As he elet the circuit on Saturday, he had to contemplate the prospect of oftarting 14th. First, though, there was a gourmet evening with team sponsor Seita, in a private suite on the top floor of the Hotel de Paris. and the
team's sR officer Chris Williams recalls the occasion well:"‘Wed had a lovely meall" he sas "and things were juststarting to wind down. I hada a glass of really nice Armagnac in my hand
and wandered over to the back of the room to and wandered over to the back of the room to
stand on a balcony that overlooked the track. Olivier was already there, and as we peered
down he nudged me and said, T m going to win tomorrow.'It didn't seem likely, but his words
didn't surprise me, because there wasjust didn't surprise me, because there was just a
feeling that the car would be good in Monaco, feeling that the car would be good in Monaco
When Panis set the quickest lap on a dry track during the Sunday morning warm-up, nobody gave it much thought - it wasn't
unknown for teams to run light in such sessio unknown for teams to run light in such sessions
to score a few fleeting publicity points, and it was assumed the race would be a straight fight
wateeting publicity points, andit between Michael Schumacher - who had somehow conjured a pole lap from the horrible
Ferrari F310-and world championship leader Ferrari F310-and world championship leader
Damon Hill in his Williams FW18-Renault. A pre-race downpour altered teams' strategic thinking and Ligier filled Panis's tank to the top, figuring he might be able to run non-stop if the track stayed properly wet. Everybody began
the race on rain tyres, with the exception of Jos Verstappen, who opted for a set of slicks
on his Footwork and duly crashed at the
first corner Hill led away fromet first corner. Hill led away from the start, and
Schumacher's challenge lasted only half a lap Schumacher's challenge lasted only half a lap
because he slid into the barriers just before because he slid into the barriers just before
Portier. Wary of his heavy fuel load, meanwhile Panis made a steady start and settled into 12th. He then set out to disprove the Monaco
theory theory of overtaking impossibility by passing
Martin Brundle's Jordan at Rascasse. Ten Martin Brundle's Jordan at Rascasse. Ten
laps later he dived past Mika Häkkinen's McLaren on the approach to Mirabeau, and then Johnny Herbert's Sauber at the hairpin. "Every time he passed a car," says Williams,
"I kept thinking about our conversation th "Ikept thinking about our conversation the
previous evening, and wondering..." As the track began to dry on lap 27, Panis pitted for slicks and an extra splash of fuel to allow for the sudden increase in lap speeds.
Ligier's timing was spot-on, but other teams reacted a touch too slowly-McLaren called
in Hakkinen, who wasnt a factor, on lap 28, bu left Coulthard, in fourth, to struggle on wets
until lap 29. After the pit-stopstan until lap 29. After the pit-stop shake-up, Hill led
from Jean Alesi in the Benetton, Eddie Irvine in from Jean Alesi in the Benetton, Eddie Irvine
the Ferrari, Panis and Coulthard. On lap 36,

## 'Every time he passed

 acar, Ikept thinking about our conversation and wondering'
## Panis gave Irvine's car a playful tap at the

 hairpin - the Ulsterman slid wide and the Frenchman was up to third, albeit with a mildlyskewed right-side steering arm. When Hills skewed right-side steering arm. When Hill's
engine blew up five laps later, Panis was up to second - though it was a distant second, as he
then spun at the chicane as he hit Hill's oil. That appeared to have cemented a safe victory for Alesi, until a broken rear damper for the French Sicilian dictated otherwise.
By lap 61 , Panis led just nine cars. Jacques Villeneuve and the much-lapped Luca Badoer then collided at Mirabeau, and Mika Salo,
Häkkinen and Irvine contrived to have a farcical Häkkinen and Irvine contrived to have a farcical
three-car pile-up on the approach to Portier. three-car pile-up on the approach to Portier
With the two-hour limit approaching, the chequered flag was shown after 75 of the 78
scheduled laps, and Panis took his first, and only, F1 win, with only a handful of cars left. "Hirotoshi Honda from Mugen was with us
that weekend," says Williams,"and I asked him to sign the guestbook. Before the race he wrote in big letters, 'WE WANT WIN'I asked him to
sign it again afterwards. He did a lovely sign it again afterwards. He did a lovely
illustration of Olivier carrying the French tricolor, and added, 'WE GOT WIN."'

## OUTOF YOURMIND <br> Feeling a little tired and seasick after all that champagne and diving off yachts? Welcome to the latest Red Bulletin quiz, the perfect antidote for a glamour hangover.


20. Films are like books, only better. Take a look at these posters: Which movies are they for?

21. Who are these folks who've lost their heads (and everythin
in the Monaco sunshine?

23. Scout badges are back by popular demand! What subjects or activities do

22. Flags were originally nvented for sandcastles. But where/what do these denote?


## ANSWERS



## GP MONACO OUOTES

Felipe Massa couldn't believe his luck and it looked as if Sebastian Vettel had got his wish, but not everyone was feeling so positive.
"IT'S VERY DIFFICUITTO OVERTAKE, BUTITHINKITIS QUITE AN OPEN RACE AND AS WE ARE NOT FIGHTING FOR THE CHAMPIONSHIP, WE CAN APPROACH THIS RACE AGGRESSIVELY AND TAKE A FEW RISK
"WITH MY PENALTY I WILL BE AT THE BACK OF THE GRID. SO I'M HOPING FOR RAN... LOTS OF RAN!"
"THIS MORNNG WHENI WOKE UP, TTHOUCHT, 'THISIS IT, I'M FiNally going To drive MONACO IN AN FI CAR?" sébastien bourdais realises his dreams. "I FEEL I BELONG THERE. I FEEL I'VE DONE ENOUGH TO HAVEA PROPER GO AT IT AND ITHINK I WAS ONLY SCRATCHING THE SURFACE IN WHAT I CAN DO ANTHONY DAVIVSON FEELSTHE FRUSTRATION
OF NOT DRIVNG F IN MONACR.

## "IT’S ABOUT THE DRIVER WITH THE BIGGEST BALLS WHO CAN GET CLOSEST TO THE BARRIERS"

"IT'S NORMAL FOR THEM TO BE PUSHING ME, THIS IS THE WAY RENAULT IS. THEY LIKE TO PUSH THE DRIVERS AND THEY THINK THIS IS BETTER. THE DRIVER NEEDS TO KNOW HOW TO FOCUS HIMSELF, PUTTHINGS ASIDE AND WORK"
 WASE OF SOME DIFFICULT RACES.
"I SUPPOSE THEY COULD COME BACKTO ME. THEY COULD GET THE BUILDING DONE IN SIX MONTHS. BUT I WOULD NOT PUT MONEY ON IT. THE BRDC KNOW THE TERMS. IF THEY MEET THEM, THEN WEARE IN BUSINESS. BUTA'T THE MOMENT THEY CAN'T AND THEREFORE HERE IS NO RACE IN 2010

"WE'RE STILL FULLY BEHIND WANTING TO KEEP THE CRAND PRIX AND OUR FULL FOCUS IS ON THAT. EVERYTHING'S READY TOGO, THE ONLY THING WE DONT HAVE AT THE MOMENT IS THE MONEY"

SIIVERTONE REVELOPMENT DIRECTOR
SRENGR CANNIIGG TRES TO FIGHT BACK.

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LA PROCHAINE REPRÉSENTATION AU CANADA



HESUITSINFUL

| RESULISTNFILL |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | DRIVER | TEAM | LAPS | TIME | POINTS |
| 1 | Lewis Hamilton | McLaren-Mercedes | 76 | $2 \mathrm{hr} 00: 42.742$ | 10 |
| 2 | Robert Kubica | BMW Sauber | 76 | +3.0 secs | 8 |
| 3 | Felipe Massa | Ferrari | 76 | +4.8 secs | 6 |
| 4 | Mark Webber | RBR-Renault | 76 | +19.2 secs | 5 |
| 5 | Sebastian Vettel | STR-Ferrari | 76 | +24.6 secs | 4 |
| 6 | Rubens Barrichello | Honda | 76 | +28.4 secs | 3 |
| 7 | Kazuki Nakajima | Williams-Toyota | 76 | +30.1 secs | 2 |
| 8 | Heikki Kovalainen | McLaren-Mercedes | 76 | +33.1 secs | 1 |
| 9 | Kimi Räikkönen | Ferrari | 76 | +33.7 secs |  |
| 10 | Fernando Alonso | Renault | 76 | +1 lap |  |
| 11 | Jenson Button | Honda | 76 | +1 lap |  |
| 12 | Timo Glock | Toyota | 76 | +1 lap |  |
| 13 | Jarno Trulli | Toyota | 76 | +1 lap |  |
| 14 | Nick Heidfeld | BMW Sauber | 76 | +4 laps |  |
| Ret | Adrian Sutil | Force India-Ferrari | 69 | +7 laps |  |
| Ret | Nico Rosberg | Williams-Toyota | 61 | +15 laps |  |
| Ret | Nelson Piquet | Renault | 49 | +27 laps |  |
| Ret | Giancarlo Fisichella | Force India-Ferrari | 38 | +38 laps |  |
| Ret | David Coulthard | RBR-Renault | 9 | +67 laps |  |
| Ret | Sébastien Bourdais | STR-Ferrari | 9 | +67 laps |  |


| DRIVERS' GHAMPIONSHIP |  |  | GONSTRUGTORS' GHAMPIONSHIP |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | DRIVER | PTS |  | TEAM | PTS |
| 1 | L Hamilton | 38 | 1 | Ferrari | 69 |
| 2 | K Räikkönen | 35 | 2 | McLaren-Mercedes | 53 |
| 3 | F Massa | 34 | 3 | BMW Sauber | 52 |
| 4 | R Kubica | 32 | 4 | Williams-Toyota | 15 |
| 5 | N Heidfeld | 20 | 5 | RBR-Renault | 15 |
| 6 | H Kovalainen | 15 | 6 | Toyota | 9 |
| 7 | M Webber | 15 | 7 | Renault | 9 |
| 8 | F Alonso | 9 | 8 | STR-Ferrari | 6 |
| 9 | J Trulli | 9 | 9 | Honda | 6 |
| 10 | N Rosberg | 8 | 10 | Force India-Ferrari | 0 |

GONSTRUGTORS' CHAMPIONSHP

## ROLLTHEDICE

A puncture is rarely the best strategy, but Monaco in the rain has a habit of introducing unforeseen variables. After hitting the barrier in the Swimming Pool section, Lewis Hamilton's early stop, a full tank of fuel and a nod to the gods saw McLaren continue their peerless record on the streets of Monte Carlo. It didn't look so good as the race began. Heikki Kovalainen failed to get away for the formation lap, and started in the pits. He wasn't alone in paying an early visit;: Jenson Button lost his nose attacking Nick Heidfeld, Nico Rosberg his on the back of Fernando Alonso's Renault, and Timo Glock spun.


Felipe Massa led a Ferrari 1-2 in the opening exchanges, though Kimi Räikkönen dropped back after a stop-go penalty, leaving Robert Kubica to harass Massa. When the Brazilian slithered up the exit road at Ste Devote, the BMW took the lead, Hamilton closed in. Massa and Kubica swapped places once again in the first round of scheduled pitstops, but it didn't matter, Hamilton, with his extra fuel, was ahead. The Ferraris went onto a one-stop strategy, but that didn't matter either, Hamilton had the hammer down, pulling away from the chasing Massa. By the time he stopped Hamilton had time to rejoin still leading, perfectly in the window to take dry tyres. Kubica re-passed Massa as both took fresh rubber.


There was drama to come. A huge accident for Rosberg in the Swimming Pool section brought out the safety car; a 40-second lead evaporated, but Hamilton dealt calmly with it. Not so Räikkönen. Having recovered to fifth, and chasing the magnificent Adrian Sutil, Kimi lost control out of the tunnel and hammered into the rear of the Force India, cruelly ending Sutil's day. Webber took fourth for Red Bull; Sebastian Vettel fifth in the new Toro Rosso. Rubens Barrichello and Kazuki Nakajima followed and Kovalainen recovered to take an improbable point on an improbable afternoon.


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