

GRAND PRIX OF HUNGARY

BULLETIN No2

FRIDAY 8 AUGUST 1997

FREE PRACTICE, 13.00 TO 14.00

WEATHER CONDITIONS: hot and overcast

SCHUMACHER STAYS FASTEST

Michael Schumacher defended his position at the head of the free practice timing sheets this afternoon, finishing the day 0.227sec ahead of David Coulthard's McLaren Mercedes.

Michael reported that he was feeling rather happy with the car's set up[. "Each little change we make to the car produces an improvement," he said. He had a harmless spin at the end of the session. Team-mate Eddie Irvine concentrated on set-up work and wound up ninth fastest.

COULTHARD SECOND FOR MCLAREN

David Coulthard used a second set of tyres to post second fastest time in the McLaren-Mercedes, although team-mate Mika Hakkinen could not manage better than 20th fastest. "We got a little out of synch with Mika's programme," said Ron Dennis, "so he didn't get out on a new set of tyres and encountered heavy traffic when he was running his worn rubber."

TRULLI THIRD FOR PROST

Jarno Trulli wound up third fastest with the Bridgestone-shod Prost Mugen Honda, the young Italian reporting that he felt extremely comfortable with the car despite the fact that he had another two spins at Turn 2. Team-mate Shinji Nakano was complaining of slight brake problems.

FRENTZEN FOURTH FOR WILLIAMS

Heinz-Harald Frentzen wound up fourth fastest in his Williams-Renault, despite a quick spin over a kerb which seemed to have left his FW19 undamaged. Jacques Villeneuve wound up 11th fastest, complaining that his Williams felt a little too stiff at the front and he had a touch more understeer than he would have liked.

HILL AN UPBEAT FIFTH

Despite losing most of the session with a suspected gearbox potentiometer problem which meant stripping down the entire rear end of his Arrows-Yamaha, Damon Hill eventually got back onto the track right at the end of the session to post fifth fastest time. "The first day at a Grand Prix never necessarily means a great deal," said Damon, "but I am certainly enthusiastic about our progress today." Team-mate Pedro Diniz wound up 18th fastest.

RALF SCHUMACHER SIXTH FOR JORDAN

Although Ralf Schumacher wound up sixth fastest in the Jordan Peugeot, he was worried about a touch of mid-corner understeer which prevented him accelerating cleanly out of the corners. Giancarlo Fisichella ended the day eighth fastest, reporting traffic on his second run and a degree of rear end instability.

BRIEFLY:

Johnny Herbert reported that the Sauber's handling over the bumps was not too bad...the Stewart team fitted longer gear ratios for the second half of the session.