

GRAND PRIX OF ITALY

BULLETIN No 2

SATURDAY 15/09/01 - FREE PRACTICE AND QUALIFYING

WEATHER CONDITIONS: Sunny and warm(track 26 deg/air 20 deg)

2000 POLE POSITION: Michael Schumacher (Ferrari), 1m 23.770s

2000 RACE FASTEST LAP: Mika Hakkinen (McLaren), 1m 25.595s

Juan Pablo Montoya took the third pole position of his career here at Monza today, his Williams-BMW just pipping Rubens Barrichello's Ferrari. The second row will be shared by both the Schumacher brothers, Michael ahead of Ralf.

BMW WILLIAMS F1 TEAM (J-P.Montoya 1st/R. Schumacher 4th)

Technical: No changes to the cars today.

Sporting: Ralf Schumacher complaining of poor balance, the car yawing from understeer to oversteer. Had three clear runs but his fourth spoiled by yellow flag. Montoya happy with feel of his car although he was not totally confident that pole was within his reach.

Quotes: Montoya: "It's obviously very satisfying to have beaten Ferrari here on their home ground."

SCUDERIA FERRARI MARLBORO (Barrichello 2nd/M. Schumacher 3rd)

Technical: Qualifying engines available for this session.

Sporting: Barrichello did his first run on used tyres, then switched to a new set which handled much better. Had slight detour over gravel trap without damage. Schumacher admitted that he made a slight mistake on the first sector during his third run.

Quotes: Schumacher: "I thought we could take pole, but didn't quite manage it. Yes, it is hard to concentrate."

B&H JORDAN HONDA (Trulli 5th/Alesi 16th)

Technical: No technical changes for today.

Sporting: Trulli absolutely delighted with the car and very impressed with the latest Bridgestone rubber. Alesi described it as a disastrous session with the knock-on effect of a morning transmission problem blighting his qualifying session. Brake balance and handling very difficult to handle.

Quotes: Alesi: "This was the worst qualifying session I could imagine on a circuit which I love."

WEST McLAREN MERCEDES (Coulthard 6th/Hakkinen 7th)

Technical: No technical changes for today.

Sporting: Hakkinen struggled for balance before crashing heavily into the guard rail on the exit of the second Lesmo right-hander. Coulthard said the balance of his car was quite good, but felt it was difficult to push hard and achieve the ultimate grip.

Quotes: Coulthard: "We've been rather struggling here. We knew from Hockenheim that we're a little bit off the pace at these kind of circuits."

RED BULL SAUBER PETRONAS (Heidfeld 8th/Raikkonen 9th)

Technical: A lot of work overnight to rectify a repeat of the strange gearbox problem which handicapped the C20s at Spa.

Sporting: Heidfeld happy under the circumstances bearing in mind how much track time had been lost yesterday. Raikkonen blamed Jenson Button from holding him up at the first chicane.

Quotes: Peter Sauber: "I'm very happy with the team's achievement in qualifying both cars in the top ten for the eighth time this season. We made a strong recovery from the problems of Spa and of yesterday."

JAGUAR RACING (de la Rosa 10th/Irvine 13th)

Technical: No changes to the cars for today.

Sporting: De la Rosa very satisfied with tenth place but Irvine still struggling with a brake balance problem.

Quotes: Niki Lauda: "It's frustrating still to have the same problem we had yesterday on Eddie's car."

MILD SEVEN BENETTON RENAULT (Button 11th/Fisichella 14th)

Technical: No changes to the car for qualifying.

Sporting: Button extremely happy reporting that the car was very well balanced. Fisichella unhappy after suffering a hydraulic problem in the morning and an engine problem during the afternoon.

Quotes: Fisichella: "All very disappointing after yesterday's efforts."

PROST ACER (Frentzen 12th/Enge 20th)

Technical: No technical changes today.

Sporting: Enge suffered an engine problem this morning and then two more this afternoon, first with his race car and then with the spare AP04. Frentzen judged his qualifying position here more significant than fourth on the grid at Spa.

Quotes: Enge: "My target for tomorrow is to cross the finishing line."

LUCKY STRIKE BAR HONDA (Villeneuve 15th/Panis 17th)

Technical: No changes for today.

Sporting: Both drivers continued to be very disappointed, reporting that mechanical grip was OK but aerodynamic grip definitely lacking. Both drivers did three runs apiece, Villeneuve's newer chassis also being used for development components in 2003.

Quotes: Panis: "A frustrating session, but I think we managed to learn a few things."

ORANGE ARROWS ASIATECH(Bernoldi 18th/Verstappen 19th)

Technical: No technical changes for today.

Sporting: Neither driver reported any specific problems, just a normal qualifying session.

Quotes: Bernoldi: "The only consolation is that I have qualified ahead of my team-mate."

EUROPEAN MINARDIF1 (Alonso 21st/Yoong 22nd)

Technical: No technical changes for today.

Sporting: Both Yoong and Alonso stopped on their out laps with gearchange actuator failures and had to share the spare car which was equipped with the earlier gearbox.

Quotes: Alonso: "It was a pretty busy session for both of us."