

THE GP2 SERIES™ INSIDER

ISSUE 34 MONZA

CHAMPION

No seventh win, but Pastor Maldonado takes the title at Monza



PARENTE
BACK IN THE
HOT SEAT



GP2/11
MEET THE NEW CAR



CHARLES PIC
ON ABU DHABI



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GUTIERREZ AIMING TO TAKE STEP UP INTO GP2



into F1, Mexico's Esteban Gutierrez will be hoping to step up to GP2 next year after being crowned champion of the inaugural junior GP3 Series.

The ART driver secured the title at the final round at Monza, seeing off a stiff challenge from his main rival Robert Wickens.

Congratulations Esteban, and we hope to see you in a GP2 car in 2011!

While Pastor Maldonado is setting his sights on following other former GP2 champions



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MEET THE GP2/11

The third-generation GP2 car, dubbed the GP2/11, was unveiled to teams and drivers for the first time during the Monza weekend.

The car, which will be used for both the main GP2 Series and the Asia Series from 2011, is still undergoing development prior to being made available to the teams in a few weeks, with the

2008 series champion Giorgio Pantano having been drafted in to assist with testing.

"Our goal is to keep the car difficult to drive," said GP2 technical director Didier Perrin. "We want our series to be a drivers' championship, meaning that in the end, the best of them will win."



MALDONADO TAKES THE TITLE

Rapax's Pastor Maldonado joined the ranks of GP2 Series champions at Monza, despite not having the best of weekends.

The Venezuelan crashed out of the first race, but fortunately for him, so did his title rival Sergio Pérez, leaving the

Mexican with a mountain to climb in Sunday's race. From the back of the grid, it was always going to be a tough task for Pérez to score the win and fastest lap he needed to keep the fight alive going into the final race of the season at Abu Dhabi's Yas Marina Circuit.

While Maldonado celebrated his achievement, Monza will also be fondly remembered by ART's Sam Bird and Racing Engineering's Christian Vietoris, both of whom took their first GP2 main series victories in the feature and sprint race respectively.

COLONI OPTS FOR LAUDA LINK

Scuderia Coloni has joined forces with Lauda Sport Management to handle its sponsorship arrangements. The two have a long connection – Lukas Lauda,

who runs the company, is the brother of Matthias Lauda, who raced for Coloni in GP2 in 2005.

The pair are the sons of three-time F1 world champion Niki



MIXED FORTUNES FOR DEBUTANTS

Two drivers made their GP2 Series debut at Monza. Edoardo Piscopo (below, left) suited up for Trident alongside Adrian Zaugg, and the Italian soon found himself right in the thick of the action, starting the sprint race from pole!

New Zealander Brendon Hartley (right) joined recent series returnee Alvaro Parente at Coloni and wasted little time in demonstrating his pace. Luck was not on his side though; he was one of several victims of an accident at the first corner of the feature race, and he retired from the sprint race with an exhaust problem.



COMEBACK KIDS

Jules Bianchi appeared not to have read the reports stating that he faced a lengthy spell on the sidelines following his accident at Hungary at the end of July.

Bianchi returned to the cockpit for the following race at Spa, and then proved his fitness by heading an all-ART front row in qualifying at Monza. Safe to say that his back isn't giving him too much trouble...

Racing Engineering's Dani Clos also rallied quickly following his crash in Spa, which caused him to miss that weekend's sprint race. The Spaniard was back in action at Monza and showed he was back up to speed, although his hopes of a good result were ruined when he was hit by another car in the feature race.



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GOOD MONTH

PASTOR MALDONADO

His Monza weekend might have been ragged, but he secured the championship after a dominant season. What odds on him adding to his six wins at Abu Dhabi?

ART GRAND PRIX

A lock-out of the front row at Monza and, finally, a win for Sam Bird. Good to see one of GP2's proudest teams back on form after a mixed year.

RACING ENGINEERING

Deserved result for Christian Vietoris in the sprint race, but Dani Clos was unlucky. Nevertheless, it was great to see him back so soon after missing the Spa sprint race.

ARDEN

Monza was not a weekend that Rodolfo González will remember fondly, while Charles Pic had decent pace but no luck. Still, Abu Dhabi offers one more opportunity for Arden this season.

SERGIO PÉREZ

The Mexican only had a slim chance of retaining his title hopes at Monza, but from the outset it was clear this was not his weekend. But both he and Addax will be gunning for a win in Abu Dhabi.

BAD MONTH



Q&A

ALVARO PARENTE SCUDERIA COLONI

Q: You got back into the car at Spa for the first time in a year and were immediately quick. That must have felt good?

ALVARO PARENTE: It was a great feeling, and a great opportunity. I had two good races, scored points in both and got two podiums and almost a win. So it was really good to be back in GP2.

Q: Were you surprised to be on the pace so quickly?

AP: I didn't really know what to expect. But to be fast everything has to be good – you need a good



car, the driver has to do the job and you need the right circumstances. It all came together, and the result was there.

Q: And obviously there was no sign of rustiness?

AP: No, the car felt like home. Although you have to remember that it is different to the other things that I have been driving this year, so it's also a challenge. I settled into the Coloni team quickly because I had already done two Asia Series races with them. We have a good relationship and everything is working so far.

THE GALLERY



His compatriot may have walked off with the GP2 title, but Rodolfo Gonzalez was determined to win the battle of the ping-pong



Pastor Maldonado had plenty of Venezuelan support in Monza, and there was no sign of the celebrations flagging



Sam Bird reflects upon Saturday's feature race win – his first in the GP2 Series



Who said winning the GP2 title would be a piece of cake?



No, Elvis wasn't in the Monza paddock... it's Rapax boss, Andrea Bergamini celebrating Pastor Maldonado's title win



Fabrizio Crestani certainly wasn't feeling blue after taking compatriot Giacomo Ricci's DPR seat at Monza

MONZA STATS

1m30.269s
JULES BIANCHI'S POLE LAP

225.608KM/H
AVERAGE SPEED OF
SAM BIRD'S FASTEST LAP
IN THE FEATURE RACE

1.048s
CHRISTIAN VICTORIS'
VICTORY MARGIN
IN THE SPRINT RACE

AWAY FROM THE TRACK

BRENDON HARTLEY SCUDERIA COLONI



"I like to play squash. In fact, I normally play against Chris van der Drift [Superleague Formula racer and fellow New Zealander] but he's still recovering from his crash at Brands Hatch. Actually, at the moment it wouldn't be a problem to beat him!

I also play tennis with Daniel Ricciardo [F3 driver]. He's better than me, but I give it a go. We also play FIFA as well, the two of us have a good rivalry on that.

I only get back to New Zealand for Christmas

because it's so far, but there are a few drivers living around Milton Keynes, Oxford and the Silverstone area, so there's always someone to hang out with.

I like to keep myself busy, and I tried paintballing a couple of weeks ago, so that could turn into a new pastime. At Red Bull there was a lot of simulator work, but I'm not doing that now, so I have more spare time, although most of that has been taken up with trying to do a deal to continue racing!"



Q&A

PASTOR MALDONADO RAPAX

Q: Right from the start you seemed very happy at Rapax

PM: I was very comfortable right from the beginning, from the first test. It was the combination of a lot of things – my experience, my ability, the team worked together very well, and in the end it all made a difference.

Q: Pastor Maldonado, 2010 GP2 champion. You've waited a long time for this...

PASTOR MALDONADO: Yeah, I know. Monza was a very difficult weekend for us, but overall, the season was amazing. We worked a lot better than the others. I'm happy with the results this year; six wins up until now, and we'll see what happens at the next race in Abu Dhabi. We will have to attack again – we need to win the teams' championship – so we will push very hard for that too.

Q: Was this a make or break year for you?

PM: No, I was always very calm. I was just trying to win, like always. We started to win the championship when the car improved a bit, because really at the beginning we were not at the top. After Monte Carlo we improved it, and from there we were more consistent at all the races. And the rest just came. We won the championship in the middle of the season, where we were very consistent and very strong.

CLICK HERE FOR
BRENDON'S PROFILE

CLICK HERE FOR
PASTOR'S PROFILE



THE GP2 MAIN SERIES' FIRST VISIT TO ABU DHABI WILL MARK THE FINAL APPEARANCE FOR THE SECOND GENERATION CAR

RACE PREVIEW

ABU DHABI

YAS MARINA (13-14 NOVEMBER)

TRACK LENGTH
5.554KM

2009 FEATURE RACE WINNER (GP2 ASIA)
DAVIDE VALSECCHI (iSPORT)

2009 SPRINT RACE WINNER (GP2 ASIA)
CHRISTIAN VIETORIS (DAMS)

2009 track temp
33°

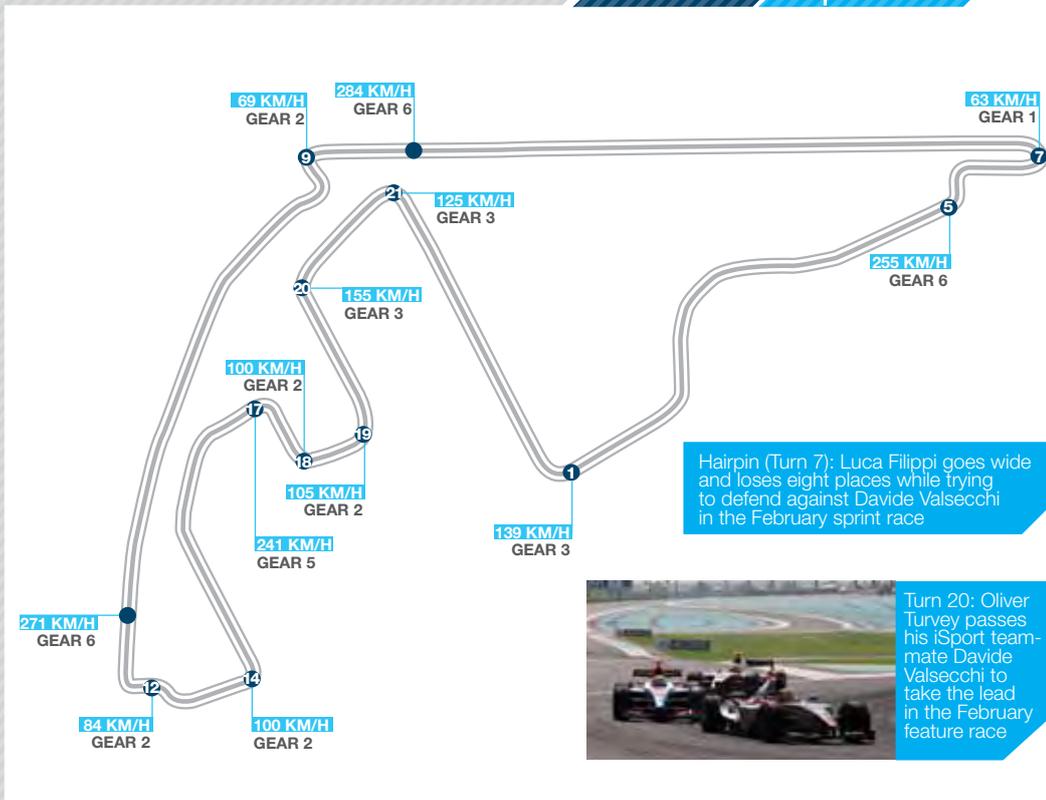
2009 race weather
30°

TYRE CHOICE: ABU DHABI



Hirohide Hamashima,
director of
Bridgestone
Motorsport Tyre
Development

"The Yas Marina Circuit in Abu Dhabi is an interesting venue with two fast sections, many slow to medium speed corners and some slight elevation changes. There are good opportunities for overtaking, particularly at turns eight and eleven, which will make it an exciting circuit for the GP2 Series. It is a familiar track to some of the drivers as two rounds of the 2009/10 GP2 Asia Series were held there. As for GP2 Asia, Bridgestone will again provide teams with the medium compound dry tyre."



Hairpin (Turn 7): Luca Filippi goes wide and loses eight places while trying to defend against Davide Valsecchi in the February sprint race



Turn 20: Oliver Turvey passes his iSport teammate Davide Valsecchi to take the lead in the February feature race

DRIVER'S EYE VIEW

CHARLES PIC
ARDEN INTERNATIONAL



"Abu Dhabi is a very nice circuit. Everything is new, and it has some interesting features like the big hotel that goes over the top of the track. It's a good track to drive, but it's not easy. There are many different types

of corner and you have to find a compromise between them, so that can make things a bit difficult.

The track has two long straights with two chicanes, and that creates some opportunities for overtaking.

Getting a good exit onto those straights is also a big part of putting together a good lap time, but it's also really important to get the last sector right, with all of the slow and medium speed corners."



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CHARLES'S PROFILE



STATS

1m51.964s
DAVIDE
VALSECCHI'S
POLE TIME
IN LAST OCTOBER'S
FEATURE RACE

0.618s
OLIVER
TURVEY'S
VICTORY MARGIN IN
FEBRUARY'S FEATURE RACE