THE OFFICIALS NEWSLETTER

MIAMI













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TIRES (courtesy of Pirelli



The Miami Grand Prix is the sixth round of the season, the first of three to be held in the United States of America. Running from 3 to 5 May, it is the third edition of this race which first appeared on the calendar in 2022. The temporary street circuit flows around the Hard Rock Stadium, a multipurpose venue which is home to the Miami Dolphins American Football team and this year it will also host, among other events, the final of football's Copa America. The Formula 1 team areas are actually located within the facility which creates a truly unique atmosphere for a Grand Prix weekend.

The 5.412 kilometre-long track, which the drivers will tackle 57 times on Sunday, features 19 corners, three straights, three DRS zones and top speeds can exceed 340 km/h. There are also some elevation changes, the main one being between turns 13 and 16, with the track rising and falling as it goes over an exit ramp and under various overpasses. There's an uphill approach to the chicane at turns 14 and 15, with a crest in the middle before the track drops away on the exit.

The three sectors are each different in character, making for a lap that has a bit of everything. The first part boasts a run of eight high speed corners, while the second sector has a long straight and a few low speed turns. The final run to the finish line consists of a straight and three flowing corners. There are only two races on which to base statistics and they suggest the Miami Grand Prix is midfield when it comes to the number of overtaking moves. As for the forces, both lateral and longitudinal, to which the tires are subjected, it rates as one of the medium to low tracks on the calendar.

The three dry tre compounds chosen by Pirelli for this round are in the midrange: C2 as Hard C3 as Medium and C4 as Soft. The track was resurfaced before last year's race and is very smooth, therefore offering quite low grip, a feature compounded by the fact it is not used for any other motorsport events. This leads to a very significant track evolution and graining could put in an appearance, particularly with the Medium and Soft tires.

Miami enjoys a tropical climate with air temperature usually exceeding 25°C, very often hitting 30°C, the record being 33°C. In the first ten days of May, it is usually sunny, but there can be a weather build up leading to showers or thunderstorms one day out of two or three. The wind is a sea breeze with gusts of up to 50 km/h. The average number of days in May when the temperature exceeds 30°C has gone up from 13 days in the Nineties to 23 in the past decade. Last year, the track surface hit 55 °C, one of the highest figures seen all season.

In terms of strategy, the Miami Grand Prix is a classic one-stop race, with Hard and Medium compounds the outright favorites. Last year, Verstappen started from ninth on the grid on Hard tires before switching to Mediums, while the other two drivers who made it to the podium, Perez and Alonso, went the other way (Medium then Hard).

This is another Sprint weekend, therefore with only one hour of free practice on Friday morning to try and find the best set-up as well as evaluating tire behavior. Right from the afternoon of the first day, it's time for Sprint Qualifying, to establish the grid for Saturday morning's Sprint Race. After that, the Parc Ferme regulations are briefly suspended so that teams can work on the cars for qualifying and then Sunday's traditional Grand Prix.

Miami also hosts the second round of the F1 Academy season. In contrast to the opening round in Jeddah, the weekend in America will see drivers tackle two free practice sessions in addition to the qualifying session and two races. Abbi Pulling (Rodin Motorsport-Alpine) arrives in Florida heading the standings on 44 points, with a win in Race 2 in Saudi Arabia. She has a ten point lead over Maya Weug (Prema Racing-Ferrari), who heads Doriane Pin (Prema Racing-Mercedes), the winner of Race 1 in Jeddah, by a single point. A week after Miami, Pin will race for the Iron Dames team alongside team-mate Marta Garcia in the opening round of the Formula Regional European Championship by Alpine (FRECA) at the Hockenheim (Germany) circuit from 10 to 12 May. Garcia won the title in last year's debut F1 Academy season and, as part of her prize, receives financial support from Pirelli to help on her motorsport career path, a prize that's on offer again this season for the all-women series. FRECA is another single-seater championship for which Pirelli is the sole tire supplier.






LYNNE'S WANDERINGS

Thursday, the day before all the official activity, was a relaxed version of what was to come. A shake-down day. All the corner stations were staffed - all hands on deck, so to speak, with everyone but Recovery. The Pit Lane staff was in evidence as were Scrutineers and Firemen, who are required to have one in every team's pit/garage area.

Out in Pit Lane, it was shaded and breezy - oh so much nicer than the hot open spaces. The teams were busy in their respective garages, with doors mostly open. Some race cars were seen being pushed up Pit Lane, no doubt headed to the Scrutineer area to check their details. On track the Medical and Safety Cars were doing laps to check the track. This race, the cars are the bright red AMGs. Dr. Ian Roberts, F1 Chief Medical Officer, did laps with Miami GP Medical Car doctor, Valerie Hart.



One thing I noticed in curating the photos of race cars being pushed in Pit Lane to Scrutineering was that the mechanics were paying more attention to the other race cars in their garages than their own car. Tee Hee.

DHL gives bragging rights, via Garage/Pit Lane signage, to the F1 team with the fastest Pit Stop. At the China GP it was Max Verstappen who did a mind-boggling 1.9 second pit stop. This was after the 2.1 pit stop that both he and teammate, Sergio Perez had done earlier. Wow. Triple A has a ways to go to match that.

The temperature said 86 degrees F, but it felt like 96 F out on what is usually the football field for the Hard Rock Stadum in Miami Gardens FL. The ground was covered with artificial turf, and the expansive area makes a fine place for all the F1 teams hospitality areas. Lots of room to mingle. Inside the suites it was air con and cold drinks for hydrating. The suites themselves were not overly fancy or dressed up with lawns and floral displays, but they did the job. And it was a very nice touch to have 'generic' cabanas scattered about for anyone to utilize, with lounge furniture, fans and shade. This hospitality area was where drivers were found, if one was lucky, after their various media interview opportunities.

Extrication Practice took place at 5pm in the Williams pit. The 'driver victim" was a guest of the Miami CMO rather than the usual team mechanic who best fits in the confined cockpit. The crew all did their respective jobs well, under the watchful eye of F1Chief Medical Officer, Dr Ian Roberts. Before and during the drill, Williams' engineers or mechanics guided the safety team regarding the F1 car cockpit.

Inside the cool Race Control building, the Marshal Admin folks were busy getting things ready for the weekend. Kimberly McFarland Kuzma was celebrating her birthday with her Birthday Glam Glasses. Happy Birthday, Kim!

The National F1 Steward for this race is Dennis Dean, who is a SCCA member from Washington DC. He said the track inspection went very well and everything is OK.

Friday's weather forecast was for the same. And it won't/didn't cool down much overnight. Thursday morning at 6 am it was already 76 degrees F.

First group out Friday morning was the ladies of the F1 Academy at 10 am EDT, first to lay some much-needed rubber on the track.









Red Bull Racing	RB20 · Honda · Milton Keynes, UK	**Max Verstappen** VER 1	**Sergio Perez** PER 11
		Netherlands / Belgium · CET (+	Guadalajara, Mexico · CST (-6)
Mercedes	W15 · Brackley, UK	**George Russell** RUS 63	**Lewis Hamilton** HAM 44
		King's Lynn, UK · GMT	Stevenage, UK · GMT
Scuderia Ferrari	SF-24 · Maranello, Italy	**Charles Leclerc** LEC 16	**Carlos Sainz** SAI 55
		Monte Carlo, Monaco · CET (+1	Madrid, Spain · CET (+1)
McLaren F1 Team	MCL38 · Mercedes · Woking, UK	**Oscar Piastri** PIA 81	**Lando Norris** NOR 4
		Melbourne, Australia · AEDT (+	Glastonbury, UK · GMT+1
Aston Martin F1 Team	AMR24 · Mercedes · Silverstone, UK (originally Jordan)	**Lance Stroll** STR 18	**Fernando Alonso** ALO 14
		Montreal, Canada · EST (-5)	Oviedo, Spain · CET (+1)
Alpine F1 Team	A524 · Renault · Enstone, UK	**Esteban Ocon** OCO 31	**Pierre Gasly** GAS 10
		Evreux, France · CET (+1)	Rouen, France · CET (+1)
Williams Racing	FW46 · Mercedes · Grove, UK	**Alexander Albon** ALB 23	**Logan Sargeant** SAR 2
		London, UK / Thailand · +0 / +7	Florida, USA · EST (-5)
Racing Bulls Visa / Cash App	AT05 · Honda · Faenza, Italy	**Daniel Ricciardo** RIC 3	**Yuki Tsunoda** TSU 22
		Perth, Australia · AWST (+8)	Sagamihara, Japan · JST (+9)
Sauber F1 Team Stake / Kick	C44 · Ferrari · Hinwil, Switzerland	**Valtteri Bottas** BOT 77	**Guanyu Zhou** ZHO 24
		Nastola, Finland · EET (+3)	Shanghai, China · CST (+8)
Haas F1 Team	VF-24 · Ferrari · Banbury, UK	**Kevin Magnussen** MAG 20	**Nico Hulkenberg** HUL 27
		Roskilde, Denmark · CET (+1)	Emmerich, Germany · CET (+1)