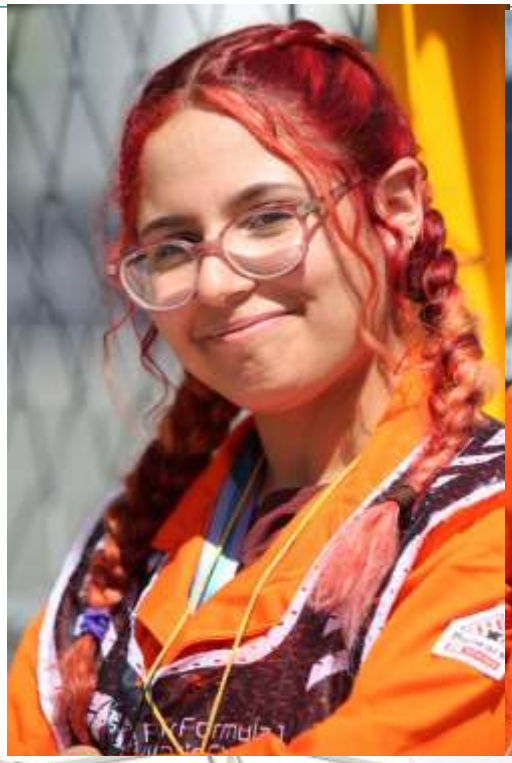
THE OFFICIALS NEWSLETTER

MIAMI

















LYNNE'S WANDERINGS

Another hot day, with relentless heat in the open spaces, and tolerable in the areas of shade and/or breeze. The traffic was heavy coming into the track around 9 am. Oh to be part of a motorcade and have the traffic parted while a police escort leads us through. At least my team got to leave at a decent hour. The Scrutineers had to wait for two hours after last F1 checkered flag - they couldn't leave until the race cars were covered with their protective nets and sealed. And they have to leave at 7 am the next morning. And some of the buses were late so the corner workers got back after dark, and they start loading busses at 6 am, sometimes earlier. Makes for a long day.

One nice thing I haven't seen at any of the F1's I've visited are the Lifts at the cross-over bridges which have lots of stairs. They're sort of like freight lifts, although freight isn't allowed. They're slow and small, but they do the job. And there's courteous staff at each end to assist and monitor who can use the lift. Kudo's to Miami GP! There also are ramps in the spectator areas where are small sets of stairs, so the wheelchair folks can get around safely and comfortably.

The 16 drivers in the F1 Academy were first out Friday morning at 10 am, and the pit lane was in the full sun and no breeze. They lined up on the outer edges of the F1 garage aprons. The drivers were already in their cars, and mostly hidden by shading umbrellas. Not conducive for convo or photographs. After the session they drove down Pit Lane and onto their paddock, which is a long ways away, outside the stadium. They had two lively practice sessions of 40 minutes each. Dorian Pin in No. 28 supported by Mercedes and operated by PREMA was first in Practice 1. PREMA operated the reigning/defending champion of the debut season last year. The two series-regular drivers from America, Chloe Chambers in No.14 supported by Haas and operated by Campos Racing was sixth and Lia Block was tenth in No.57 supported by Williams and operated by ART Grand Prix. Wild Card driver Courtney Crone, supported by QVC operated by PREMA was 16th. This is Crone's first time back in an open-wheel car in the past two years. She's been racing LMP and GT3.

In the second, late afternoon session, Abbi Pulling in No. 9 was first. Her car is supported by Alpine and operated by Rodin Motorsport. Chambers was fourth, Block was 13th and Crone was 16th.

Red Bull's Max Verstappen was fastest in the only F1 practice session of the weekend, which lasted 60 minutes - punctuated by a Red Flag early on in the session when Charles Leclerc spun his Ferrari out in Turn 16, blocking the course. I saw him briefly as I was near a gate which had to be quickly opened as he whizzed by on the back of a Boundary Rider. I just can't get used to the powder blue livery he wears. The red Ferraris also have token splashes of blue celebrating their new sponsorship with HP and honoring the 1964 racing season when Ferrari raced for North America Racing Team with America's blue colors.

Oscar Piastri/McLaren was second and Carlos Sainz/Ferrari was third. America's Logan Sargeant was 18th. For my Aussie friends, Daniel Ricciardo/V Carb was 11th.

In the afternoon was Sprint qualifying. And there were surprises! Both Mercedes were eliminated in SQ1. And Daniel Ricciardo made it to top ten in SQ3 by running fourth fastest, behind Ferrari's Charles Leclerc, making up for missing most of practice, and Verstappen's teammate, Sergio Perez coming in third.

Attendance figures weren't released for Friday. Anecdotally, there were a lot of people, although the general admission stadium grandstand seats were only sparsely filled. It was hard to tell how full were the hospitality suites. There were lots of people milling around in the spectator area, behind grandstands and at the many food purveyors. And lots of people were using the cross-over bridges. And judging by the streams of people walking out of the stadium at day's end, and filling the local streets, headed for their off-site parking lots, there was a big crowd.



Over in Turn 3, newlyweds Amy Grothusen and Mike Staley were showing off her wedding ring. Mike proposed last year on Turn 18 at the Miami GP. She's a Radio Marshal and he's a Flag Marshal.

The weather was hot and humid, which made it seem even hotter, So the 90 percent humidity made the forecast 87 degrees F seem like nearly 100 F. That was in the open sun. In the shady breezy areas, it was much more tolerable.

Another hats off to Miami GP for again being firm in its goal to eliminate single use plastic bottles. Everything the track and organization catered or supplied came in cans or glass bottles. And recycling bin trios were found often, for food waste, cans and bottles and food trays and utensils, which are compostable.

Saturday is again forecast in the high eighties. F1 Academy has qualifying and a race, F1 has its Sprint race and F1 race qualifying, and the Porsche Carrera Cup has qualifying and another practice, an afternoon concert with Ed Sheeran, and there will be an evening live car auction by Bonhams Cars. Plus other non-race activities. Something for everyone.















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MIAMI F1 STATS

0	Safety car periods in 2023 Miami F1 race
1	Number of 2022 Miami F1 race laps led by Carlos Sainz
1.9	Number of seconds for top F1 driver, Max Verstappen to spend on his quickest 2024 pit stop.
2	Different 2023 F1 race leaders - Max Verstappen and Sergio Perez
2	Safety Car periods in 2022 Miami F1 race
3	Dry compound Pirelli tires used in 2024 Miami race
3	Different 2022 F1 race leaders - Max Verstappen, Charles Leclerc and Carlos Sainz
3	DRS Zones for 2024 Miami f1 race
3	Straights on 2024 circuit
3.786	Margin of Victory, in seconds, in 2022 Miami F1 race
4	Miami F1 race Starter marshals
5.384	Margin of Victory, in seconds, for 2023 Miami F1 race
6	Safety Car Laps in 2022 Miami F1 race
8	PPE Marshals
8	Large LED Screens across Campus
8	Marshal Support Marshals
8	Number of 2022 Miami F1 race laps led by Carlos Sainz
10	Registrars
11	Miami is one of 11 different F1 venues held in US
11	Pedestrian Bridge spans - most of any F1 circuit, and including one new one added this year
12	Number of 24-hour days to remove Tennis Court from Stadium to prep for F1 hospitality structures
13	Boundary Riders
13	F1 Hospitality Structures constructed on stadium football field
16	F1 Academy Drivers
17	Foreign Countries in corner worker marshals represented
19	Laps in 2024 Miami F1 Sprint Race
19	Turns on 2024 circuit
20	Pit Stops in 2023 Miami F1 race
21	Number of 2023 F1 race laps led by Sergio Perez
25	Pit Stops in 2022 Miami F1 race
26	Scrutineer Marshals
29	High-Lift Marshals
30	Anniversary years since Senna died
36	Number of 2023 Miami F1 race laps led by Max Verstappen
37	Corner Stations
43	Pit/Grid/Paddock/Recovery Marshals
44	Intervention Stations
45	Overtakes in 2022 Miami F1 race
48	Number of 2022 Miami F1 race laps led by Max Verstappen
52	Overtakes in 2023 Miami F1 race
57	Laps in 2022 Miami F1 race
60	Restaurants at 2024 Miami F1 race
91	Million meters of fiber and copper cabling used by Campus
152	F&C Marshals
216.24	MPH Top speed set by Lance Stroll in 2023 Miami F1 race
247	Intervention Marshals
2,671	Capacity of new Paddock Club
65,326	Capacity of Hard Rock Stadium
242,000	Weekend attendance at 2022 Inaugural Miami USGP F1
9,999	Or less volts allowed in a F1 car. Regulations require less than 10,000 volts.











TIRE UPDATE FROM PIRELLI

Max Verstappen has scored a perfect four out of four first places in all four sessions held so far at the Miami Grand Prix. Having been quickest in yesterday's free practice and Sprint Qualifying, the Dutchman won the lunchtime challenge, with victory in the Sprint Race and five hours later, he was top again, this time in qualifying, securing his first Miami Grand Prix pole at his third attempt. Verstappen's best lap of 1'27"241 was set on his first Q3 run.

As was the case in the short race, Max will have Charles Leclerc for company on the front row, second quickest in 1'27"382. Curiously, it was the second sector that split the two of them as that was where Verstappen made up all of his 141 thousandths of a second advantage. In fact, the Ferrari driver was quickest in the first sector by 74 thousandths, exactly the same amount of time by which the Dutchman was quickest in the third one. The second row features their respective team-mates, Carlos Sainz (3rd, 127"455) lining up behind Verstappen and Sergio Perez (4th, 1'27"460) behind Leclerc.

As expected, the Medium was the main tire of choice for teams and drivers with 18 drivers covering the 19 laps on the middle of three compounds brought to Miami by Pirelli. The only exceptions were Tsunoda and Sargeant who opted for the Soft. Despite the high temperatures, which again today exceeded the 55° C mark, the performance of the C4 was more than acceptable with the Racing Bulls and Williams cars making up several places, the Japanese driver even coming close to taking the eighth and final points place.

Qualifying confirmed some aspects of what had already emerged yesterday afternoon. Track conditions improved up to around halfway through the session, after which they pretty much stabilized, so that only a few of the drivers who had made it to the top ten were able to improve on their second runs. In fact, the performance difference over a flying lap between the C3 and C4, of the order of three to four tenths, was significantly less than the simulations going into this event and also when seen against the usual comparison between these two compounds. It explains why Norris, Hamilton and Russell reverted to the C3 to try and move up the order on the starting grid, a rather rare occurrence.



Verstappen was handed his Pirelli Pole Position Award by film and television producer Jerry Bruckheimer. Among his best known works are films co-produced with Don Simpson such as Flashdance, Top Gun and Bad Boys. Since the 2000s he has also put his name to the Pirates of the Carribean films, Pearl Harbor and, more recently, Top Gun: Maverick, along with the TV series, CSI, Cold Case and Without A Trace. Bruckheimer is one of the producers on the film about Formula 1, directed by Joseph Kosinski with Brad Pitt in the lead role. It is due for release in 2025.

MARIO ISOLA - PIRELLI DIRECTOR OF MOTORSPORT

"So far, this weekend has provided plenty of food for thought when it comes to tire behavior. Looking at the predictions and simulations going into this event, based on Pirelli data combined with that provided by the teams, we have now had indications that will lead us to delve deeper into the analysis of the data acquired so far. We need to understand why the difference in performance between the Medium and Soft was so small and why qualifying times were slower than last year by about four tenths and by an even more significant gap of almost a second compared to our simulation. We will above all look at how the Soft behaved on the track surface which, from data gathered on Wednesday and Thursday had significantly different levels of abrasiveness compared to 2023.



As for strategy, there is little doubt that a one-stop is clearly the quickest option. But it's a different matter when it comes to the compounds and the order in which they will be used. While the drivers found the C4 harder to read over a flying lap, in today's Sprint Race it demonstrated that it cannot be ruled out for tomorrow afternoon's Grand Prix. The C2 will definitely be the outright favorite, but all combinations of it with the C3 and C4 are viable on paper."

The Miami International Autodrome is also hosting the second round of the F1 Academy, the all-female series for which Pirelli is the sole tire supplier. After yesterday's two free practice sessions, qualifying took place this morning to set the grid for the two races on the program.

Abbi Pulling (Alpine) was the dominant force today, first in the flying lap discipline and then over the 13 laps of race 1. The Englishwoman led home France's Doriane Pin (Mercedes) and the American, Chloe Chambers (Haas). Today's points haul has allowed Pulling to extend her lead at the top of the classification on 71 points, 21 more than Pin, with Maya Weug (Ferrari) third on 41 points. The second race gets underway tomorrow at 13.05.


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