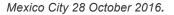
FORMULA 1 GRAN PREMIO DE MÉXICO 2016®



GOOD STARTS AND GAME FACES

When the flag drops, the talking stops. It's an old motor racing expression, but the talking starts again when the day's action is over. These are some of the reactions to the first track day of the 2016 Mexican Grand Prix.

Esteban Gutiérrez, Haas, P15/P22, had problems getting his car to perform in the second session:-

"It was great to get to know my home circuit. It's very exciting to be here and to drive the track, which is amazing, in front of all the Mexican fans. We're going to have to keep working on the performance side of things, which isn't great at the moment. The car was difficult to drive during FP2 and had little grip. We'll be working on that tonight to try to sort out our setup and make things better for FP3 and qualifying."

Sergio Pérez, Force India, P4/P15, is trying to strike balance:-

"Racing at home is a very emotional moment, but when I get in the car it's important that I treat this weekend like any other race. The morning went very well and I had a good feeling with the car. I struggled more in the afternoon, but we know where we need to focus and the direction we need to take to improve for tomorrow. The conditions today were not what we anticipated, but the rest of the weekend should be warmer: we will need to set the car up for what we think we are going to find on race day, but I think the data we collected today will allow us to do so."

Daniel Ricciardo, Red Bull, P8/P5, is as optimistic as ever:-

"I think it will get better, I expected the grip to be higher after a year but it was still very slippery. By Sunday the last half of the race will be better but I think we'll fight the balance from now until the end, trying to get comfortable with a slick-feeling track. The supersoft today wasn't a great tyre for the long runs as it wasn't lasting. I don't know how the others got on but I believe everyone has had a few problems with that compound so it'll be interesting in qualifying tomorrow. We might see a mixed bag again."

Lewis Hamilton, Mercedes, P1/P2, loved the atmosphere:-

"It's great to be back here in Mexico. The support we've had here already is amazing - and it's only Friday! There's so much energy and enthusiasm for the sport here, which is great to see. It's been a solid day in terms of our programme for the weekend. The cars are obviously faster but lap times are pretty strong already. The track is feeling better than it did last year and I feel a lot more comfortable in the car than I did the first time we came to this circuit, so hopefully I can carry that through the rest of the weekend."

And to finish with, after all the fun of arriving and getting ready for the Day of the Dead, the youngest driver got his priorities right.

Max Verstappen, Red Bull, P14/P7:-

"The make-up is off today, so it's game face for the rest of the weekend!"

For more information please go to <u>www.mexicogp.mx</u>.







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Contact:

"Francisco Velázquez	Manuel Orvañanos
	^{III}
fvelazquezc@cie.com.mx	manuel@bandofinsiders.com
II	П
(52 55) 52019089	(52 55) 63866686
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	"Dand of Incidence
CIE	Band of Insiders

About CIE

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