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Alonso Pips Hamilton in 2nd Free Practice



A last minute dash by Fernando Alonso on his super soft Bridgestone tyres saw him vault up the timesheets steering ahead of all time rival Lewis Hamilton by just a tenth of a second in the 2nd Free Practice Session at Singapore. Though running considerably lighter than the others, the two time world champion showed his class by putting in a stunning lap in the much underpowered R 28.

It was business as usual for the McLaren's and Ferrari's with both Hamilton and Massa trading fastest laps. Most of the drivers were concentrating on setting up the car for qualifying and the race, with the times hardly anything to go by.

Lewis Hamilton however managed to be consistently faster than Felipe Massa throughout the session with Massa trailing just behind. The McLaren seemed to ride the kerbs far better than the Ferrari and this enabled Hamilton to be far more aggressive tackling the kerbs.

Kimi Raikkonen struggled with the balance of his Ferrari as he set the seventh fastest time. The F2008 seemed to suffer from a lack of grip and the defending champion spent much of the session holding various slides as the back end of the car stepped out.

Robert Kubica led the BMW Sauber challenge with the sixth fastest time but Nick Heidfeld was off the pace in the second F1.08 and just 16th some two seconds off the ultimate pace. Heidfeld spent much of the session evaluating the softer option tyre.

The entire session was almost incident free except Timo Glock losing the car on turn ten and gifting his cars nose to the barrier.

Both the practice sessions suggest that McLaren might just have the edge over Ferrari in qualifying tomorrow. With strategy and weather also playing their part, we are surely set for a thrilling weekend ahead.

[caption id="attachment_2893" align="aligncenter" width="499" caption=" Friday Practice 2 Timings"]

26/09/2008 Singapore Free 2

Ranked : 20

P.	N.	DRIVER	F.	TEAM	TIMES	AVERAGE
1	05	 F.ALONSO		RENAULT	 	1'45"654 172.650 Km/h
2	22	 L.HAMILTON		McLAREN	 	1'45"752 + 0'00"098
3	02	 F.MASSA		FERRARI	 	1'45"793 + 0'00"139
4	23	 H.KOVALAINEN		McLAREN	 	1'45"797 + 0'00"143
5	07	 N.ROSBERG		WILLIAMS	 	1'46"164 + 0'00"510
6	04	 R.KUBICA		BMW	 	1'46"384 + 0'00"730
7	01	 K.RAIKKONEN		FERRARI	 	1'46"580 + 0'00"926
8	16	 J.BUTTON		HONDA	 	1'46"901 + 0'01"247
9	08	 K.NAKAJIMA		WILLIAMS	 	1'47"013 + 0'01"359
10	12	 T.GLOCK		TOYOTA	 	1'47"046 + 0'01"392
11	10	 M.WEBBER		REDBULL	 	1'47"137 + 0'01"483
12	06	 N.PIQUET JR		RENAULT	 	1'47"145 + 0'01"491
13	15	 S.VETTEL		TORO ROSSO	 	1'47"300 + 0'01"646
14	14	 S.BOURDAIS		TORO ROSSO	 	1'47"487 + 0'01"833
15	09	 D.COULTHARD		REDBULL	 	1'47"640 + 0'01"986
16	03	 N.HEIDFELD		BMW	 	1'47"760 + 0'02"106
17	21	 G.FISICHELLA		FORCE INDIA	 	1'47"965 + 0'02"311
18	17	 R.BARRICHELLO		HONDA	 	1'48"009 + 0'02"355
19	11	 J.TRULLI		TOYOTA	 	1'48"059 + 0'02"405
20	20	 A.SUTIL		FORCE INDIA	 	1'48"311 + 0'02"657

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