Beat: Sports

2015 Belgian Grand Prix

Preview

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USPA NEWS - The 2015 Formula One World Championship season continues with Round Eleven, the Belgian Grand Prix, from Spa-Francorchamps. The season will conclude with nine races in 14 weeks, starting in Belgium. Lewis Hamilton leads the table with 202 points.

Lewis Hamilton -
It´s been good to take a break from racing and spend some time relaxing, training and recharging the batteries. But, of course, there´s always that flame in the back of your mind that just wants to get back out there and get on it "" especially after a race like Hungary. Spa is a great track to kick off the second part of the season too. It´s one of the really great, old-school circuits with so much history. It´s mostly medium to high speed corners, so you´re pretty much pedal to the metal the whole way round which is a lot of fun. It´s always special to come out on top at a classic race like this so I remember winning here well. I love this track and I´ll be gunning for that top spot again.

Nico Rosberg -
The summer break is a great chance for the team to recharge after a tough start to the year and they definitely deserve it for all the hard work in making the incredible car we´ve had so far this season. But for me, personally, it´s time I´d rather be spending in the car! Hungary was a big disappointment and I´ve been itching to get back to racing ever since.

When you´re in such a close battle for the Championship, any opportunity to gain points is crucial and it´s up to me to take those chances "" but also to make them for myself. That´s definitely the target for the second half of the year. We´re only halfway through the season, so it´s all still to play for. Spa is a fantastic circuit "" a track that I think every driver enjoys and one that always produces spectacular racing. I´m looking forward to it.

Toto Wolff, Head of Mercedes-Benz Motorsport -
With ten races down and nine to go, we enter the second half of the season with a stronger points total than at this stage last year. And yet, our margin to the competition is actually smaller. There is never a moment you can take your foot off the gas and Hungary proved once again that any slip is an opportunity our rivals will grab with both hands. We have all enjoyed a chance to recharge over the summer "" but we have also kept our minds focused on what lies ahead. There are still many chances to win or lose this battle and we must be relentless in our push to come out on top.

Paddy Lowe, Executive Director (Technical) -
Belgium has recently been rated by fans as the most popular race on the calendar and it´s easy to see why. It´s a phenomenal circuit, with significant elevation changes, challenging corners and plenty of opportunity for overtaking. This is a race which is usually spiced up by the weather, with rain producing some classic Grands Prix over the years.

It´s the longest lap of the season, so if conditions change just at the wrong moment there´s a long way to tiptoe back for a tyre change "" often leading to significant shake-ups in the order. It´s a good overall test of a car, with a strong aero package required for the high-speed content and good power necessary for the long straights and numerous climbs. Spa also sits with Monza as one of two circuits where we will see specific low drag configurations "" although not to the extent of that seen in Italy. After a well-earned break, we´re all looking forward to kicking off the second half of the season and aiming to do so with a strong performance.

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