

GRAND PRIX OF ITALY

BULLETIN N°4

RACE FACTS AND INCIDENTS

At the start of the parade lap Jarno Trulli's car fails to get away from the pre-grid and so Jarno has to start at the back of the field.

* Lap 1: At the start Juan Pablo Montoya makes a poor start while his team mate Ralf Schumacher gets away fast and as they go into the first corner the two Williams-BMW are side-by-side. Montoya goes very wide to give Ralf space to avoid any possibility of contact. Ralf takes the lead. Montoya is second with Rubens Barrichello emerging in third ahead of Michael Schumacher and Kimi Raikkonen. In the melee at the first corner David Coulthard collides with Pedro de la Rosa and loses his front wing. De la Rosa loses momentum and drops back to 15th place. At the end of the first lap Ralf Schumacher leads Montoya by half a second with Barrichello third, Schumacher M fourth, Raikkonen fifth and Eddie Irvine sixth. Seventh is Allan McNish who has a remarkable first lap to go from 13th on the grid to seventh place ahead of Mika Salo, a very fast-starting Olivier Panis (up from 16th on the grid) and Jacques Villeneuve. Trulli makes a very fast start and ends the first lap in 12th place. At the end of the lap Coulthard pits for a new front wing.

* Lap 2: Ralf extends his lead over Montoya to 0.9 seconds. The order is unchanged at the front but Nick Heidfeld passes Villeneuve for 10th position. Further back Jenson Button passes Felipe Massa for 13th while at the tail of the field Alex Yoong gets ahead of Mark Webber for 18th place.

* Lap 3: Ralf Schumacher sets the fastest lap but Barrichello goes even faster. Trulli overtakes Villeneuve to move to 11th place. Further back Webber retakes Yoong.

* Lap 4: As the cars go across the start line Ralf Schumacher's BMW engine blows up. At the same time Barrichello gets a run on Montoya going into the first corner and takes the lead. This puts McNish up into sixth place. Further back Button overtakes Villeneuve to move to 12th.

* Lap 5: Barrichello sets the fastest lap and extends his lead to 3.2 seconds. Montoya is under pressure from Michael Schumacher for second place.

* Lap 6: Montoya goes wide and that allows Michael Schumacher to move to second place.

* Lap 7: Barrichello's lead has increased to 5.8 seconds while Montoya falls back rapidly from Michael Schumacher. Panis overtakes Mika Salo to grab seventh position.

* Lap 8: Michael Schumacher runs wide in the Lesmo corners and loses more time, allowing Barrichello's lead to go out to 7.5 seconds.

* Lap 10: Barrichello's lead is 10 seconds and it is clear he is running a two-stop strategy. Towards the back of the field 16th placed Takuma Sato has a spin and falls behind the two Minardis but remains ahead of Coulthard.

* Lap 12: McNish comes into the pits with a front suspension problem. He rejoins at the tail of the field but retires after one more exploratory lap. This promotes Panis to sixth place.

* Lap 15: The gap at the front is up to almost 15 seconds while the order has calmed down a bit. Towards the back of the field de la Rosa collides with Felipe Massa while fighting for 12th place. De la Rosa pulls off with a puncture.

* Lap 16: Barrichello laps the McLaren of David Coulthard.

* Lap 17: Massa retires with a rear suspension failure, probably as the result of his brush with de la Rosa.

- * Lap 18: Heidfeld is the first man to stop. He drops from eighth place to 13th.
- * Lap 19: Barrichello pits and drops to second place behind Michael Schumacher. Sixth-placed Panis pits and falls back to 11th place.
- * Lap 21: Webber, running 12th, pulls off and retires with a mechanical problem.
- * Lap 22: Seventh-placed Trulli pits and drops back to 13th place. This promotes Jenson Button to seventh.
- * Lap 24: Button stops and rejoins ahead of Trulli.
- * Lap 28: The mid-race pit stops start with Michael Schumacher and Irvine pitting. Michael rejoins in third, while Irvine falls behind Mika Salo. At the tail of the field Alex Yoong pits and stops but later rejoins many laps down for the run to the finish.
- * Lap 30: Montoya and Salo pit. Montoya falls behind Schumacher but Salo falls right back down to the order to rejoin in 12th. Fourth-placed Raikkonen retires with an engine failure.
- * Lap 33: Montoya comes into the pits and retires with a rear suspension. This promotes Irvine to third with Panis fourth, Giancarlo Fisichella fifth and Villeneuve sixth. Mika Salo pits for a drive-through penalty for having driven over the white line at the end of the pit lane. This drops Mika out of contention.
- * Lap 34: Villeneuve pits and drops back to 10th. Also pitting is Sato at the tail of the field.
- * Lap 36: Heidfeld is briefly sixth but stops for his second scheduled stop and so falls back to 10th.
- * Lap 37: The other two-stoppers come in with Barrichello rejoining just ahead of Michael Schumacher.. Fisichella and Coulthard (running fifth and sixth) also stop and fall back to seventh and ninth, being separated by Villeneuve. The order is Barrichello, Schumacher, Irvine, Panis, Trulli and Button. The rest of the field is lapped with Fisichella, Villeneuve Coulthard and Heidfeld completing the top 10.
- * Lap 39: Panis, who has still to stop, passes Irvine for third place.
- * Lap 41: Panis pits and falls from third to sixth.
- * Lap 42: Coulthard passes Villeneuve for eighth position.
- * Lap 46: The order has been settled for a while. Barrichello is taking it easy and Button is able to unlap himself.
- * Lap 47: Barrichello allows Panis, Fisichella and Coulthard to unlap themselves.
- * Lap 50: Villeneuve unlaps himself while Michael Schumacher closes up on Barrichello to create a Ferrari formation finish.
- * Lap 51: Villeneuve is overtaken by Coulthard for seventh place. On the same lap Heidfeld unlaps himself.
- * Lap 53: The Ferraris finish 1-2 with Irvine third. The average speed is 149.8mph, making it the third fastest F1 race of all time. Italy celebrates.