

# ALONSO

## upbeat over 'aggressive' new McLaren



Fernando Alonso  
London

**F**ernando Alonso said the new McLaren-Honda MCL32 revealed yesterday looked "fast and aggressive" as the Formula One outfit looks to close the gap on rivals in the upcoming 2017 world championships.

Alonso, who will race alongside Belgian youngster Stoffel Vandoorne this year, said he couldn't wait for the new season to get underway in Australia in late March.

"What I've seen of the MCL32 appears to be really promising -- the new regulations seem to be well thought-out, and the cars look fast and aggressive," the 2005 and 2006 world champion said.

"The aim is to look respectable this year -- and I'd like to think we can achieve that," added the Spaniard, who was sixth last season as his team came 10th.

The new-look model with a longer nose and bulkier tyres features an attractive retro colour scheme of orange and black and was unveiled at the outfit's Woking base.

"We're fully focused on



Stoffel Vandoorne

returning our team to the top step of the podium -- a task we view as a multi-year project," executive committee principal Mohammed Bin Essa Al Khalifa said.

Racing Director Eric Boullier did not mince his words when he stated that the team's ambition was "to narrow the delta between us and the front-running teams".

McLaren have not won a GP since Jenson Button took the Brazil race in 2012, while their last world title was with Lewis Hamilton in 2008. (AFP)



New McLaren-Honda MCL32

## Ferrari unveil new F1 car

Rome

**F**errari unveiled a faster and visibly changed new single seater car yesterday in which Sebastian Vettel and Kimi Raikkonen will bid to rival Mercedes next season.

The Italian constructor struggled last season finishing behind Mercedes and Red Bull in the constructors' championship.

Ferrari have not won a drivers' championship in a decade with Finn Raikkonen the last driver to triumph for the Italian stable in 2007.

Named the "SF70" in reference to Ferrari's 70 years in competition the car is as usual largely red with black trim with a



This handout picture released yesterday by the Ferrari press office shows the new Formula 1 of the team Ferrari, the SF70H (H for hybrid)

sweep of new features following regulation changes aimed at speeding up Formula 1.

The SF70, the 63rd model of the Ferrari racing car, has more aerodynamic downforce and more mechanical grip on top of much wider Pirelli tyres, giving

increased grip

and faster cornering.

The lengthened nose and the arrow-shaped wing are also a consequence of the new regulations, as is the obvious white-coloured shark fin on the engine cover.

The hubs and wheel-caps have been altered to allow for faster wheel changes at pit stops and the enhanced braking and steering are more powerful.

The nose of the Ferrari is

markedly wider than the rival Mercedes W08 unveiled at Silverstone by Lewis Hamilton on Thursday on the back of three consecutive world championship titles for the German team.

Germany's Vettel and Raikkonen came fourth and sixth respectively in the 2016 world championships while Ferrari itself were third in the constructors standings.

The Italian outfit is challenging for a first world title since Raikkonen won in 2007, and a first constructors title since 2008.

Raikkonen is due to put the SF70 through its paces at Barcelona on Monday as the world championships series gets underway in Australia on March 26. (AFP)

### Wayne Rooney

Captain of England and Manchester United

#### Everton

Aug 2002 Premier League debut

Oct 2002 First league goal

#### England

Feb 2003 England's youngest player (aged 17)

Sep 2003 First England goal, the country's youngest ever scorer

#### Manchester United

Aug 2004 Joins team in a deal reportedly worth up to \$41.7 million

Feb 2006 Scores twice as United wins League Cup final

May 2007 Wins first of 5 Premier League titles with United

May 2008 United wins Champions League final

Oct 2010 After expressing desire to leave United, performs a U-turn and signs a new 5-year contract

May 2013 Left out of Alex Ferguson's final 2 games as United manager. Denies a transfer request

Feb 2014 Signs new contract

Aug 2014 Captain of United

Jan 2017 250th goal, surpasses Bobby Charlton's record as the team's top goalscorer of all time

Jul 2006 First World Cup appearance

Jun 2014 First World Cup goal

Aug 2014 Captain of England

Nov 2014 Youngest England player to reach 100 caps

Sep 2015 50th goal, breaks Bobby Charlton's goal-scoring record for England

May 2016 United wins FA Cup

#### Career highlights

Goals scored

17 Everton

250 Manchester United

53 England

As of Feb 24

AFP

Source: Officialwayner Rooney.com/manutd.com