Alfa knew of front wing problem: Kimi

Kimi Raikkonen was disqualified from qualifying results in Baku and had to start from pit lane

Autosport | Baku

imi Raikkonen says the Alfa Romeo Formula 1 team became aware of a front wing issue in China, but wasn't able to manufacture a replacement for the Baku race.

Raikkonen was excluded from Azerbaijan GP qualifying and consigned to a pitlane start after the front wing on his Alfa failed a deflection test, which also forced the team to make a change to the specification of the flap adjuster hook on the front wing.

Speaking to media after the Baku race, Raikkonen revealed Alfa Romeo had already encountered a problem with his front wing in China - where he finished ninth - but couldn't produce a new unit in time for the next grand prix.

"Obviously we didn't plan to start in the pitlane, but that's how it turned out to be," Raik-

"Honestly I don't know what's it [the front wing] isn't legal. sage this morning and suddenly in the end of the race, we broke probably it's a similar thing that issue after last race but we didn't Alfa Romeo since switching should be easier for us."



Alfa Romeo's Finnish driver Kimi Raikkonen steers his car during a practice session ahead of Azerbaijan GP

a stay [bracket] on the front wing is going on. happened. There came a mes"Last race the issue that I had and we lost the downforce, so

Reuters | London

Ian Wright has said.

of finishing in the top four.

Obviously we didn't plan to start in the pitlane, but that's how it turned out to be. Honestly I don't know what's happened. There came a message this morning and suddenly it [the front wing] isn't legal

KIMI RAIKKONEN

have time to produce a new one. ahead of them.

"This is what you get, for sure is what it is. Hopefully then it's fair for everybody after."

Despite having to start from quite a bit. the pitlane, Raikkonen recovered to 10th place at the chequered flag, bagging his fourth take it. "Unfortunately we knew the consecutive points finish with

Solskjaer must show authority by

everything and tells him face

anchester United boss to face why he's leaving him

Ole Gunnar Solskjaer out and giving him a break,

from Ferrari for this season.

"We got one point, so better than nothing, but [it] was difficult, just not enough grip really," Raikkonen said.

"I don't think we really made the tyres work really well, to get the grip out of them. We did what we could."

The Finn benefitted from the call to ditch the soft tyres just six laps into the race, with the early stop allowing him to get ahead of a number of his midfield rivals.

"The soft were okay," he add-

"We only did few laps, but then obviously when everybody was behind each other [in traffic] we were driving so slow that it's better to stop and jump

"I think we did the right thing it doesn't make us faster but this and I just tried to get the tyres working.

"We had to save the brakes

"I think one point is the best that we could do today, so we'll

"I think next race [Spanish GP]

Bale '100 percent' committed to Real claims agent

AFP | London

Gent" committed to Real move. Madrid despite speculation over his future, the Wales star's agent insisted on Monday.

Bale has been linked with a sistent performances and injury return to the Premier League problems from Real fans. after a difficult season with the troubled Spanish club.

endure claims that he doesn't cently warned have a strong relationship with Real stars who his team-mates, while Real have are unhappy suffered a woeful campaign on with their the pitch. Bale played the full 90 min- should "go

utes when Real suffered a shock else-1-0 defeat against lowly Rayo Vallecano on Sunday, but Madrid boss Zinedine Zidane later questioned whether he was fully focused.

Bale's agent Jonathan Barnett has responded to Zidane's comments by telling BBC Sport Wales: "Gareth is 100 per cent committed to Real Madrid."

Referring to his past asserthat Bale wanted to spend the rest of his career with Madrid. Barnett added: "Nothing has changed."

Frustrated at a lack of starting opportunities for Real towards the end of last season, Bale had actually hinted he might consider leaving when he spoke to the media immediately after scoring twice in last year's Champions League final win against Liverpool.

Bale's Madrid contract runs until 2022, but the return of

Zidane, with whom he reportedly has a difficult relationship, areth Bale is still "100 per has revived talk of a potential

Despite winning four Champions League trophies and one La Liga title in Spain, Bale has Former Tottenham winger come under-fire for his incon-





Bale's Madrid contract runs until 2022, but the return of Zidane, with whom he reportedly has a difficult relationship, has revived talk of a potential move

where and get more minutes". Manchester United and Tottenham are among the clubs said to be interested if Wales international Bale wants to leave

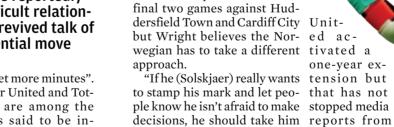
Gareth Bale

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must show he is not that's man-management afraid to make big decisions and and that's what Solskjaer drop error-prone goalkeeper has to do." David de Gea for the final two De Gea's contract games of the Premier League was due to exseason, former England striker pire this year be-DE GEZ De Gea has made a number of for e uncharacteristic mistakes in recent games, including one that allowed Chelsea to equalise in Sunday's 1-1 draw that dented David sixth-placed United's chances Solskjaer backed De Gea to shake off his poor form in their one-year exout," Wright said on BBC Radio linking him with a move

dropping De Gea - Wright "If the manager explains away from Old Trafford.

Wright said an early end to De Gea's season would help the struggling Spaniard sort out his future at the club, while back-up Sergio Romero fills

> "He (De Gea) needs to go on holiday and sort his contract out," Wright added. "Sometimes you have to take someone out the firing line. He's one of the best goalkeepers in the world and he needs a break.

"There's a lot going on and he's under a lot of pressure. When you look at how United are playing at the moment, putting him in that situation is putting him under more pressure."

Dortmund's Reus banned for two matches, Wolf for three

Reuters | Berlin

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m B}^{
m orussia\ Dortmund's}_{
m fading\ Bundesliga}$ title hopes suffered another setback on Monday when captain Marco Reus was banned for two matches and Marius Wolf for three following their red cards in Saturday's 4-2 home defeat by Schalke Reus was sent

off on the hour with

a straight red card utes later for a Moenchengladbach. foul on the same player. Marco

Wolf's ban means his seafor a studs-up son is over as Dortmund have challenge on Suat three matches to play while Serdar and Wolf Reus will only be available for followed five min- their final match at Borussia

> Reus has scored 16 goals and provided eight assists this season, making his absence a significant blow.

Dortmund coach Lucien Favre gave up the title challenge after the defeat although his side are only two points behind Bayern Munich after they drew 1-1 at Nuremberg on Sunday.