



F1 driver and two-time world champion Fernando Alonso leans on the car in McLaren's garage

# Upset as Alonso fails to qualify for Indy 500

Former Formula One world champion failed to qualify for the Indianapolis 500

AFP | Indianapolis

Fernando Alonso's latest bid for Indianapolis 500 glory ended in failure on Sunday after the two-time Formula One world champion failed to qualify for the US motorsport showpiece.

The 37-year-old Spaniard was eliminated by young US driver Kyle Kaiser on the final run of the rain-delayed "Last Row Shootout" qualifying session at Indianapolis Motor Speedway.

McLaren driver Alonso had

been chasing a victory at the Brickyard in a bid to become only the second driver after Britain's Graham Hill to claim the Triple Crown of motorsport, with wins in the Monaco F1 Grand Prix, 24 Hours of Le Mans endurance and Indy 500.

But Alonso's attempt to add the last remaining piece of the treble to his trophy cabinet was snuffed out in a dramatic qualifying session.

"This type of challenge, they can bring you a lot of success and you can be part of the his-

tory of the sport or you can be really disappointed," he said. "Today is one of those, but I prefer to be here than to be like millions and millions of other people, at home watching TV."

"I prefer to try," he said. McLaren engineers had worked feverishly on the Spaniard's car in an effort to give him a fighting chance of qualifying for next week's race, overhauling the setup after a troubled week in Indianapolis.

The tweaks looked to have given Alonso a shot as he took to the track and posted an av-

erage time of 227.353mph for his four laps, putting him second behind Canada's James Hinchcliffe.

However Alonso was left sweating after Sage Karam came out next and roared to the top of the six-driver session with an average speed of 227.740mph.

Karam's time dropped Alonso down to third fastest, and with only the top three making the cut to complete the 33-car field, the Spanish star was left with a nervous wait to see if either of the two remaining drivers could better his time.

# Kroos extends Real Madrid deal until 2023

Reuters | Madrid

Real Madrid's Germany midfielder Toni Kroos has renewed his contract until the end of the 2022-23 season, the Spanish club announced yesterday.

The 29-year-old Kroos was expected to leave the Santiago Bernabeu according to Spanish media reports but he has instead has extended his stay for another four years.

Real are expected to sell several players in the close season as they overhaul the squad following a bitterly disappointing season in which they finished third in La Liga and were knocked out of the Champions League in the last 16.

"No player reached their top level like in previous years," Kroos told reporters yesterday, having won three consecutive Champions League titles from 2016-2018.

"We're humans and that's normal after winning three Champions Leagues. What's not normal is to win three in a row, it seemed impossible and we did it."

"But we're motivated for next season. I'm happy to stay at Madrid four more years."

Kroos signed for the club from Bayern Munich in 2014 and has made 233 appearances, winning 11 trophies.

"I spoke to (coach Zinedine) Zidane and I know what his idea is. I will be important (in the team), I can't say anything else," added Kroos.



Toni Kroos

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