

Alfa Romeo give Mick Schumacher F1 practice run



Mick Schumacher visits the Ferrari pit before the Tuscany GP

AFP | London

The son of seven-time world champion Michael Schumacher moved a step closer to a spot on the 2021 Formula One circuit when Alfa Romeo announced yesterday it would again test the 21-year-old.

Mick Schumacher improved his hopes of landing a drive by winning the Sochi Formula Two feature race last Saturday which extended his lead in the title race over Callum Iltott.

He will now take the wheel of the top of the range Alfa Romeo ahead of the Eifel Grand Prix at the Nurburgring circuit in two weeks time.

Alfa Romeo will announce their line up for the 2021 season after the October 9 Grand Prix and are thought to be keen on promoting the 21-year-old from F2 to F1.

"I am overjoyed to get this chance in free practice," Schumacher said.

"I'm going to prepare myself well, so that I can do the best possible job for the team and gain some valuable data for the weekend."

If he impresses he could be in the running for Antonio Giovinazzi's seat along with several other Ferrari academy proteges as well as the experienced Mexican Sergio Perez and German Nico Hulkenberg.

Whoever is picked will team up with 40-year-old 2007 champion Kimi Raikkonen.

Mick was just 14 when his father suffered a severe brain injury in a skiing accident, while with him in the French Alps. He remained in a medically induced coma, in Grenoble, until June 2014.

Since then, he has been remained under private treatment at his home in Switzerland.

Schumacher won seven titles with Benetton and Ferrari before retiring from the sport, for the second time, in 2012.

Hamilton offers veiled apology after F1 accusations

The six-time world champion issued apology for claiming FIA have agenda against Mercedes

● Lewis Hamilton had accused stewards of seeking to stop him winning at last weekend's Russian Grand Prix

AFP | Sochi

Lewis Hamilton has offered a veiled apology for his claim that Formula One bosses are singling him out after he was hit with a 10-second penalty at the Russian Grand Prix.

Hamilton's bid to match Michael Schumacher's record of 91 victories in Sochi on Sunday was wrecked when he was punished with two five-second penalties for pre-race misdemeanours.

He had also been given two penalty points on his super license by the race stewards but they subsequently cancelled them and instead fined his team Mercedes.

The six-time world champion claimed afterwards F1's governing body, the FIA, were finding new ways to stop him from winning.

But in a social media post yesterday, Hamilton wrote: "I may not always get it right in the face of adversity.

"I may not always react the



Lewis Hamilton stands with a team member before the Russian GP

way you want me to when tensions are high, but I am only human after all and I am passionate about what I do.

"I'm learning and growing every day, and I'll take my lessons and keep fighting on to the next one. Thank you to those who continue to support and are right there fighting with me."

Hamilton will now have to wait until at least Germany's Eifel Grand Prix on October 11 to match Schumacher's all-time tally.

F1's motorsport managing director Ross Brawn called on the British driver to learn from the

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LEWIS HAMILTON

incident.

Brawn said: "Personally, I would go away, lick my wounds and think about how I could

prevent such incidences again in the future.

"That's what I know Mercedes will be doing. I know many of the people from my time at the team and they will recognise they have made some mistakes.

"Bad luck and mistakes happen, but it's how you respond that matters. It's easy to think the world is against you but there is nearly always something you could have done differently and you can learn from."

The F1 circus next heads to the Nurburgring for the first time since 2013 for the 11th of 17 rounds this year.

Suarez brings Atletico leadership, Costa character says Simeone

AFP | Madrid

Atletico Madrid's Diego Costa and new signing Luis Suarez can form a deadly partnership this season says coach Diego Simeone.

Costa scored Atletico's first goal in the 6-1 thrashing of Granada on Sunday before making way for Suarez, who marked his debut since switching from Barcelona with an incredible return of two goals and an assist in the space of 20 minutes.

"Of course they can play together. The important thing is that they play to the best of their abilities, Diego with his character, Suarez with his leadership," Simeone told a news conference ahead of Atletico's game at Huesca on Wednesday.

"They are different players. Diego likes to play down the wings and run into space, while Suarez is better at short sprints, making diagonal runs into the area, playing with his back to goal and being a dangerous presence in the area."

Simeone, however, would not give any hints as to how his team would look against Huesca.

"Costa and Suarez might start together or they may play together at some point during the game or play separately," he said.

While Suarez has been one of the most prolific forwards



Atletico Madrid's Luis Suarez controls the ball



While Suarez has been one of the most prolific forwards in Spain in the last six years, notching 198 goals in six years for Barca, Costa has struggled to return to the form which saw him help fire Atletico to the Spanish title in 2014

in Spain in the last six years, notching 198 goals in six years for Barca, Costa has struggled to return to the form which saw him help fire Atletico to the Spanish title in 2014. Since returning to Atletico from Chelsea in 2018, he has only managed 11 La Liga goals and his place looked to be under threat from the arrival of Suarez.

But club president Enrique Cerezo has declared the Brazilian forward will stay this season, adding that the club have given up their pursuit of Uruguay forward Edinson Cavani.

Simeone welcomed the news. "I was always taught to support the president whenever he spoke so I'm getting behind everything he said," he added.

Real Madrid don't need any more players, says Zidane

TDT | Manama

BRAVE Combat Federation has confirmed that three of the first round matchups of its much-anticipated Flyweight World Title Tournament will take place in the Kingdom of Bahrain, as part of the "Kombat Kingdom" series.

Madrid still looked like a work in progress in Saturday's scrappy 3-2 win over Real Betis after drawing their first game of the season 0-0 at Real Sociedad, but the Frenchman does not believe adding to his squad is the answer.

"We already have a lot of players, why would we want to add any more?," Zidane told a news conference ahead of Wednesday's home game against Real Valladolid.

"It is already very difficult to pick a team, because all the players are very good, so why add more. The market is open until Oct. 5 but I'm very happy with what I have. This squad is mine and for me they are the best."

Zidane will be without Germany midfielder Toni Kroos against Valladolid and Sunday's trip to Levante, but he said Eden Hazard was getting closer to returning to action.

There have been questions about Hazard's weight, but Zidane dismissed any sugges-



Real Madrid's French coach Zinedine Zidane (R) talks to Real Madrid's Belgian forward Eden Hazard during a match

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ZINEDINE ZIDANE

tions the Belgian forward had an unprofessional attitude, putting his lack of impact at Real following his 100 million-euro move last year down to two ankle injuries.

"I don't think he's unprofessional, he's just had a very big problem which has been bothering him for a long time. What we want is for him to not feel any discomfort again, so we need to wait," he added.

"It's a long season and he wants to be back on the pitch with his team mates so he can play well and help us out.

"He's getting very close, he's training regularly with us and getting into shape and getting ready to come back."