

FORMULA 1 AZERBAIJAN GRAND PRIX 2021 – SUNDAY

PIRELLI SETS OUT INITIAL OBSERVATIONS ON ISSUES FOR VERSTAPPEN AND STROLL AS PEREZ WINS RACE

Baku, June 6, 2021

KEY MOMENTS

- Red Bull driver Sergio Perez won with two stops, going from P Zero Red soft to P Zero White hard to soft again. The race was red flagged with just three laps to go following an accident for race leader Max Verstappen in the other Red Bull. Under the red flag regulations, the drivers were allowed to change tyres, which they all did before the final sprint.
- Most drivers selected a soft to hard strategy before the red flag period, with all of them then selecting the soft tyre until the finish.
- There was a safety car period just over halfway through the race, when Aston Martin driver Lance Stroll crashed close to the entrance of the pit lane, following a deflation of the rear-left tyre. When the pit lane re-opened, five drivers chose to make a second stop, fitting either the hard or the soft tyre.
- Initial observations have already been made as to what could have caused these incidents affecting the rear-left tyre. None of the other tyres in the race of a similar (or older) age showed any signs of excessive wear, there was evidence of a cut found on another rear-left tyre fitted to Lewis Hamilton's car during the same stint, there was no warning or vibration detected prior to either incident, and the rear-left tyre is actually not the most stressed on this circuit. All of these considerations could point to an external factor.
- Temperatures were somewhat cooler than they had been over the previous two days, with 26 degrees of ambient temperature and 39 degrees of track temperature when the race began.

HOW EACH TYRE PERFORMED

- **HARD C3:** The key compound in Azerbaijan, which was used for a long second stint by the majority of competitors.
- **MEDIUM C4:** Used by just three drivers to start the race, with the soft and the hard predominantly run instead.
- **SOFT C5:** The majority of drivers, including all the top 10, started on this compound with Aston Martin's Sebastian Vettel (who eventually finished second) using it for 18 laps to move into the lead of the race during the early stages. Vettel was the only driver at the front to have a new set of softs for the final sprint.

FORMULA 2: RACE 2 AND RACE 3

Hitech's Juri Vips won the second sprint race in Baku on Saturday, having fought his way up from the second row of the grid. The 21-lap race was interrupted by a series of safety cars as more than one driver impacted the unforgiving walls. Making the most of the re-starts was essential, and the chaos allowed some drivers to mount some remarkable fightbacks, from the back of the grid to the front. All the drivers used the P Zero Yellow medium tyre from start to finish.

The Estonian driver also won the 28-lap feature race on Sunday morning, with all the drivers starting on the P Zero Purple supersoft apart from HWA's guest driver Jack Aitken, who was the only driver to start on the P Zero Yellow medium. He moved up the order as the other drivers progressively pitted to switch from the supersoft to the medium, but once all the stops had cycled through, it was Vips who re-emerged in front.

MARIO ISOLA – HEAD OF F1 AND CAR RACING

“We need to clearly establish the facts behind the incidents involving Lance Stroll and Max Verstappen to fully understand what happened. What we can say for now is that there was also a cut found on Hamilton’s tyre and that it’s the rear-right tyre that actually works harder than the rear-left here. No warnings or vibrations were detected and none of the other tyres of a similar age or older showed any signs of excess wear. So we can not exclude that the damage was caused by an external factor, although these things shouldn’t happen and we can understand the need for answers.”

BEST TIME BY COMPOUND

		
Verstappen 1m44.481s	Raikkonen 1m48.499s	Perez 1m44.703s
Perez 1m44.687s	Latifi 1m49.254s	Vettel 1m45.138s
Hamilton 1m44.769s	-	Tsunoda 1m45.401s

LONGEST STINT OF THE RACE

COMPOUND	DRIVER	LAPS
HARD C3	Norris	41
MEDIUM C4	Raikkonen	13
SOFT C5	Vettel	18

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