

Spanish GP - El Bobble Hats View

Written by Matt Queen
Tuesday, 15 May 2012 20:35



Scorchio is España, another amazing race with yet another winner this season! 5 different winners from 5 different manufacturers from the opening 5 races!

Venezuelan Pastor Maldonado took his maiden victory and Williams's first since 2004 in a strategic battle with Ferrari's Fernando Alonso.

Maldonado, who is in only his second season in Formula 1, won the Spanish Grand Prix after his team outsmarted Ferrari with pit-stop timing.

Alonso survived a late charge from Lotus's Kimi Raikkonen, who took third. Kimi's team-mate Romain Grosjean was fourth, ahead of Sauber's Kamui Kobayashi.

Lewis fought up from last on the grid to eighth, with team-mate Jenson Button taking ninth. Lewis had to stop on the track after qualifying as someone in the pits had only put a cup of petrol in his car. The rules say that you have to have at least 1 litre of fuel in the car back at Parc Ferme after qualifying for testing purposes.

Lewis was deemed to be trying to gain an advantage by having a lightweight car and was excluded from the session. The 0.5 second gap between him and Pastor was an amazing lap and not down to the fumes he was running on, but rules are rules!

Alonso's second place moves him into a tie on points at the head of the championship with Sebastian Vettel, who was sixth in his Red Bull, passing Button, then Hamilton and finally

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Mercedes driver Nico Rosberg in quick succession in the closing laps.

Vettel is classified as the leader on results countback.

Alonso and Ferrari may well privately regret the decision to delay their second pit stop until two laps after Maldonado made his on the 24th of 66 laps.

Alonso, who started second, beat pole-sitter Maldonado into the first corner and led through the first pit-stop period, after which he had a 3.4-second lead on lap 12.

But Maldonado closed that advantage to 1.5secs by lap 21 and when he could not get any closer Williams decided to try to 'undercut' Alonso with an earlier pit stop.

It worked to perfection. Ferrari's decision not to stop on the next lap simply made life easier, especially when Alonso was held up by Marussia's Charles Pic during that period, for which the Frenchman earned a drive-through penalty.



That left Maldonado with a 6.2-second lead. Alonso closed in throughout their third stints, getting the gap down to 4.2secs before Maldonado stopped for the final time on lap 41. Williams had a problem fitting his left rear tyre and that left Alonso only 3.1secs adrift when he rejoined from his final stop three laps later.

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The double world champion quickly closed on to the rear of the Williams, but Maldonado drove cleverly to ensure he was always far enough ahead at the start of the pit straight to ensure Alonso could not pass him.

It concludes a remarkable recovery from Williams, who had slumped in recent years to the worst season in their history last year.

But changes to the way the team operates, and key personnel at the top, have produced a turnaround in fortunes.

Behind Vettel, Nico Rosberg held off a late charge from Hamilton to take seventh, ahead of Button and Force India's Nico Hulkenberg.

Overall the Spanish GP will go down as yet another race that had most people glued to their tv, Bernie must be watching Masterchef as he has got the recipe just right this season!
8 manufacturers in the top 10 on race day brilliant.

As for the Shoe Maker, well well well. He ran into the back of Senna at the end of the start/finish strait and ended both their races. Not a clue what he was watching but maybe he was distracted by the bloke in section 201, row 2, seat number 34 who was just adjusting the time zone on his Tendance time piece, whatever the excuse, it was clearly the Germans fault and earns him a 5 place penalty in Monaco.