

The Bobble hat is back - Melbourne F1 Review

Written by Matt Queen
Monday, 18 March 2013 21:35



In one of the apparent great races staged at Albert Park, Lotus driver Kimi Raikkonen defied fading rubber, his age, and the big guns of the sport.

The Finn defeated Alonso to win his second Australian Grand Prix with a shock two-stop strategy.

After, the oldest bloke on the grid, Webber's dream of winning the Australian Grand Prix was crushed on the opening lap when the Red Bull driver missed the start, again, and sunk from the front row to seventh.

Kimi - the man known as the "Flying Finn" - survived a late onslaught from Alonso and Vettel to win by more than 12 seconds. On another day of high-drama after Saturday's qualification cancellation, Alonso and Vettel appeared to be hurtling towards a two-man showdown following their third and final stop.

But Kimi refused to pit and hung on with burnt rubber to snare a great Albert Park win.

Red Bull drivers Vettel and Webber locked out the front row. Kimi celebrated but there were no smiles for the two Australian drivers as both Webber and Ricciardo's (silent i!) hopes were crushed on a gruelling day.

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Webber was left in a hopeless battle after he went from second to seventh in the start-line bungle. Forced to dig deep, he fought his way back up to finish sixth after slipping to mid-field during the race.

Vettel powered into the clear and took the lap-one lead as Massa and Alonso hunted him down in a frightening dual Ferrari attack as the season-opening race roared into action.

It was clear that the race would become a battle of the rubber, with the super-soft compound tyre quickly degrading. Favourite Vettel faded as the Ferraris roared and Alonso passed the world champion for what was thought to be the effective race lead on lap 22 after a well timed pit stop.

But Kimi went on to steal the show with a pit-stop strategy that left his rivals stunned.

Channel 10 did a fantastic job of keeping all its viewers entertained with the live broadcast all weekend. There was something for everyone and not a moment of the motorsport was missed. If you wanted to just watch the racing then you could tune in just for that, those that wanted the whole F1 weekend experience then the day was filled with interviews and entertainment, maybe a Neutral special for next year!!!