



FEDERATION INTERNATIONALE DE L'AUTOMOBILE

Press Information

2014 Japanese Grand Prix Saturday Post Qualifying Press Conference Transcript 04.10.2014

DRIVERS

1 – Nico ROSBERG (Mercedes)

2 – Lewis HAMILTON (Mercedes)

3 – Valtteri BOTTAS (Williams)

TV UNILATERAL

Q: Nico, after the disappointment of Singapore, how important was this?

Nico ROSBERG: I'm not thinking about Singapore any more. I'm here, Suzuka, here to try and win and so yeah, it was a great day today. Of course, it's only one step on the way but really good. It was a real pleasure today because the car is so amazing to drive and on this track which is one of the most spectacular to drive in qualifying, low fuel, the tyre grip and everything. It was really cool.

Q: Your thoughts on the weather tomorrow; how prepared are you for that?

NR: As prepared as we can be. We're expecting it, we're expecting it to be wet. The last experience we have in the wet was Spa where our car was really really quick, so I'm very very optimistic actually. Even if it rains, it could be even better for us.

Q: And what's it going to be like with a strong wind as well?

NR: I don't know. For sure, the more windy it is, the more difficult it is out there, because the cars are very sensitive to wind but it will be fine.

Q: Lewis, we're used to seeing tiny margins between the two of you but it's a relatively large margin this time. Tell us about what happened in your Q3?

Lewis HAMILTON: Not too much, really. Nico was extremely quick today. I did the best I could. My guys did a fantastic job to rebuild the car after I binned it so a big thank-you for their hard work. Yeah, just today, wasn't really feeling it. Don't know

why. It was still fast but Nico was fantastically fast today. But tomorrow's the day when you get the points so I'm looking forward to all the different tricky weather that perhaps will come.

Q: And you mentioned a little bit of a vibration at one point as well...

LH: Yeah, I generally had that throughout the whole run. I don't know if that was following the incident but maybe it was just the tyres imbalanced maybe but it didn't get in the way of the result.

Q: And was it difficult to have to get back in the car and immediately be on the pace after this morning's accident?

LH: No. That's the way it is, that's what we're trained to do.

Q: Valtteri, much better qualifying position for you, obviously compared to last year, your third third place this year as well, best of the rest, and 0.4s behind Mercedes. How does that sound?

Valtteri BOTTAS: Not too bad, I think. They looked really really quick yesterday and even this morning so it was nice to get a little closer. They still have some margin and they're going to be really quick tomorrow as well. But I think we need to be happy as a team, third and fourth, that was the goal today.

Q: And how is the Williams going to be in the wet?

VB: We know that we might struggle a little bit more in the wet but there now seems to be also a bit of a margin behind us so hopefully we can still fight for a podium if it's really wet. But I think like everyone and for the fans, it would be really nice if we could really have a good race so that the rain would not be too much. Let's hope for the best.

Q: Nico, how important is pole going to be tomorrow? People have always said it's very difficult to overtake around here; is that more or less the case in the wet weather?

NR: Well, for sure it's better to be first and second, so it's some sort of an advantage but I don't yet know how much. If it's dry, then it's more of an advantage, maybe if it's wet a little bit less so but I'm still definitely happy to be on pole.

PRESS CONFERENCE

Q: Your eighth pole position of the year so far and obviously a really good one around here, you really seemed to enjoy that one.

NR: Yeah for sure. Today was a good day, I just felt very comfortable in the car, I had a good balance. Our car is just unbelievable out there today.

Q: Are you basically going to be relying on the FIA to run the race depending on

the weather conditions? Is there anything the driver can do?

NR: I'm not really thinking too much about tomorrow. I'm sure they're going to try and take the best decision for everybody, especially for the fans who are also coming out to watch the race. I'm sure it will be OK.

Q: Lewis, when it comes to weather we're expecting tomorrow, have you already set the car up for those conditions because obviously it's going to be in parc ferme?

LH: No, because we set it up for qualifying today.

Q: So not for the race itself, not with a wet set-up or a huge amount of wing?

LH: No.

Q: Valtteri, what can you do for the expected weather?

VB: Well, yeah, if the weather is like it's expected to be, first of all I really hope we can have a race but it could be difficult, but it's going to be difficult for everyone. In mixed conditions, a lot of things can happen. The main thing is that as we're now starting with both cars from a good place the aim is to try and get all the points available for us to take. The main thing is to score the points.

Q: Nico, finally, what's that run like into the first corner because it looks incredibly quick; we've seen people go off there in the past, that's where Lewis went off this morning?

NR: It's a very exciting corner, for sure, because it's a bit difficult to feel the limit, as you're coming towards there, and you just have to give it a guess and give it a go. It's a good corner.

Q: Especially when you're got 21 cars behind you.

NR: Yes indeed. That's a bit easier then.

Q: And finally, tell us a bit about the downhill start?

NR: It's not much different. You just have to keep a little bit of brake pressure on so that you don't roll off the grid, so you don't get a jump start and then it's fine.

QUESTIONS FROM THE FLOOR

Q: (Paolo Ianieri – La Gazzetta dello Sport) To all three of you: the big rumours of the day are Sebastian Vettel leaving Red Bull...

NR: That's not a rumour any more.

Q: (Paolo Ianieri – La Gazzetta dello Sport) It's not a rumour, right. Sebastian

leaving Red Bull and probably going to Ferrari.

NR: That's a rumour.

Q: (Paolo Ianieri – La Gazzetta dello Sport) What do you think about this?

NR: I don't know. It was a big surprise. I find it good for the sport when there's a bit of movement and there's a bit of excitement. I think that's all good. A bit of a change, change is always good. And interesting.

LH: Has nothing to do with me, so...

VB: Yeah, not much to do with me. I guess it's nice to see a bit of change but it doesn't change very much for me.

Q: (Michael Schmidt – Auto, Motor und Sport) Lewis, on your last lap, I think, you locked the brakes at the hairpin. Was that a crucial moment when you lost out to Nico?

LH: No, I don't think so. I don't think I lost any time with it. I just wasn't quick enough today.

Q: (Michael Schmidt – Auto, Motor und Sport) And one to Valtteri: how much have the upgrades on the car helped; would you have been in the same position with the old spec?

VB: We probably would have still been in the same position but with not as good a lap time, so we definitely made gains since the last race. It's positive to see the whole year, actually, always when we plan for some updates and we put them on the car and it always works so that's a good sign for the future and those updates should also help us in the future races this year. That's a good thing.

Ends

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