

This week in F1

PALMER GETS FIRST GP OUTING

GP2 champion Jolyon Palmer made his Formula 1 race-weekend debut last Friday when he appeared for Lotus in free practice at Shanghai.

The Briton recovered from an early spin to end his first run 15th on the timesheets, just 0.6s off team-mate Pastor Maldonado.

Although his focus this year is on doing as well as he can as third driver for the Enstone-based outfit, he has admitted he is eager to keep racing if possible.

"If I get a good offer to do something that would be a good career move for me then I'd like to race," he told AUTOSPORT.

"It's about keeping sharp. It's the one thing I'm missing this year. I'm enjoying working with Lotus and being in F1, but I'd love to be

REMEMBER WHEN



Palmer's appearance in China was the first time the family name had taken part in an F1 weekend since his father Jonathan failed to qualify for the 1989 Australian Grand Prix.

racing as well, so if I get a good offer I'd take it."

Palmer is set to drive again in Bahrain tomorrow (Friday).



RED BULL OWNER MATESCHITZ REITERATES F1 QUIT THREAT

Red Bull owner Dietrich Mateschitz is adamant that he is ready to pull his teams out of Formula 1 following a difficult start to the season.

Speaking to Austrian media at the Shanghai track over the Chinese Grand Prix weekend, he indicated that the Red Bull and Toro Rosso teams' futures were not guaranteed.

"We'll only stay in Formula 1 if we have a competitive team, and we need a competitive power unit for that," Mateschitz was quoted as saying by the Austria Press Agency.

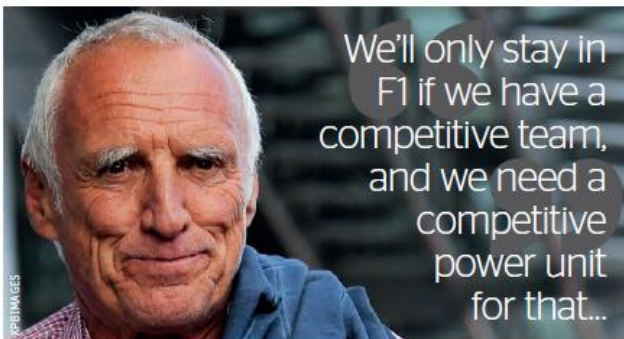
"If we don't have one, we can

race with the best car and the best drivers and still have no chance of competing for victory."

Mateschitz says that it is not just Red Bull's future that is in doubt, because he thinks Renault itself should quit if it cannot make adequate progress.

"Of course Renault can also weigh its options, including a pull-out," he said. "As a manufacturer, it's your task to deliver a competitive power unit.

"If you can do that, it's great. If, for whatever reason, you can't do that, you should pull out. Then the consequences for us would be clear too."



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