

RED BULL'S DANIEL RICCIARDO TOPS FREE PRACTICE IN COOL CONDITIONS USING P ZERO PURPLE ULTRASOFT TYRE ON ITS AZERBAIJAN DEBUT

PLENTY OF TRACK EVOLUTION AS DRIVERS LEARN ABOUT TYRE BEHAVIOUR IN THE UNIQUE CONDITIONS OF THE LONG AND FAST BAKU STREET CIRCUIT

AROUND 0.8 SECONDS SEPARATE SUPERSOFT FROM ULTRASOFT SO FAR: PLENTY OF DATA COLLECTED FOR TEAMS TO ANALYSE

Baku, April 27, 2018 – Drivers used the free practice sessions on the slippery Baku circuit, to assess tyre degradation in the unique characteristics of the second-longest track on the calendar and the fastest street circuit of the year, during a race weekend held two months earlier than last season.

This meant that track conditions were significantly cooler than 2017, with FP2 finishing in ambient temperatures of 21 degrees centigrade and 27 degrees on track. As the Baku street circuit is only used once a year, there was a high degree of track evolution, but last year's fastest times in FP1 and FP2 were both beaten. There's currently a gap of around 0.8 seconds between supersoft and ultrasoft, with the gap between soft and supersoft still to be accurately established.

MARIO ISOLA - HEAD OF CAR RACING

"The cooler conditions of this year's race obviously had an effect on tyre behaviour, also combined with track evolution. In particular, the main challenge is to get the rear and the front tyres working in balance with each other: the very long straight has a tendency to cool the tyres down anyway, and this is only exacerbated by the lower ambient temperatures this year. These lower temperatures favour the ultrasoft with its lower working range, and so far we are seeing around 0.8 seconds per lap difference between the supersoft and ultrasoft. Another issue that the drivers are having to deal with is front-locking due to a combination of the low-grip and sometimes bumpy surface, together with the effect of tyres cooling down on the straight. As more rubber is laid down on track, this picture may change, but the extremely close gaps at the top of the field already suggest that we are in for an interesting and unpredictable weekend."

FREE PRACTICE 1 – TOP 3 TIMES

DRIVER	TIME	COMPOUND
Bottas	1m44.242s	ULTRASOFT NEW
Ricciardo	1m44.277s	SUPERSOFT NEW
Perez	1m45.075s	SUPERSOFT USED

FREE PRACTICE 2 – TOP 3 TIMES

DRIVER	TIME	COMPOUND
Ricciardo	1m42.795s	ULTRASOFT NEW
Raikkonen	1m42.864s	ULTRASOFT NEW
Verstappen	1m42.911s	ULTRASOFT NEW

FP1 - BEST TIME BY COMPOUND

COMPOUND	DRIVER	TIME
SOFT	Ricciardo	1m45.369s
SUPERSOFT	Ricciardo	1m44.277s
ULTRASOFT	Bottas	1m44.242s

FP2 - BEST TIME BY COMPOUND

COMPOUND	DRIVER	TIME
SOFT	Hamilton	1m44.196s
SUPERSOFT	Ricciardo	1m43.512s
ULTRASOFT	Ricciardo	1m42.795s

MOST LAPS BY COMPOUND SO FAR

COMPOUND	DRIVER	LAPS
SOFT	Sirotkin	21
SUPERSOFT	Vandoorne	22
ULTRASOFT	Bottas, Hartley	22

TYRE STATISTICS OF THE DAY

			
Kms driven*	858	2454	2916
Sets used overall**	12	30	37

* The above number gives the total amount of kilometres driven in FP1 and FP2 today, all drivers combined.

** Per compound, all drivers combined.

MIN. STARTING PRESSURES (slicks)		EOS CAMBER LIMIT	
	22.0 psi (front) 21.0 psi (rear)	-3.50° (front) -2.00° (rear)	

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