



Race Report - Nurburgring, Germany - (below the surface)

Nurburgring was another strong weekend for Conor. On Wednesday of race week he got to drive his Mazda around the daunting 14 mile long Nordschleife circuit that sits adjacent to the modern Grand Prix circuit. The fourteen mile circuit was very impressive and to think that Formula One raced there was incredible.

The new Nurburgring circuit is regarded as one of the most difficult circuits to learn because the succession of corners are regarded as very technically demanding. Of course it rained and then rained some more and the biting cold wind blew most of the weekend.

Prior to qualifying Conor and his engineer, Matt Callaghan, met with Force India's tire engineer, Jun Matsukaki. Jun is Japanese and was the senior Bridgestone engineer in Formula One for many years. Jun made some interesting mechanical set up suggestions for the race car that Conor immediately liked out on the circuit.



Conor qualified P16, - .6 from the pole position. By far his best qualifying of the season. His last lap was even faster but he had to abort as there was a local yellow flag for an incident. The FIA usually strips a driver of any fast lap achieved while a yellow flag is being waived. They can also give a 10 place grid penalty - so that is to be avoided at all costs.



In race one he got a good start and charged through the field to finish P6, scoring his first championship points of the season. The race ended in a deluge with cars hydroplaning along the straights during the last 2 laps.

Because of the reverse grid inversion of the top eight finishers on Saturday, Conor would start P3 on Sunday.

Sunday morning dawned wet, with perhaps the possibility of the track drying during the race. A

decision was taken to lower the tire pressures in case it dried out and this decision proved to be detrimental as Conor was unable to generate sufficient heat in the tires to push hard. He essentially had to hang on as best he could to finish P8.

He is now qualifying better, racing impressively and has his eye firmly on the podium.





Saturday, 23rd July 2011

Daly in the points in Germany

Carlin's Conor Daly took his first points paying finish in the GP3 Series today, following a thrilling rain affected race at the Nürburgring in Germany. The 19 year-old American made up ten places having started from 16th place. Team mate Leonardo Cordeiro finished 17th, while GP3 rookie Callum McLeod finished at the back of the field following a tyre gamble early on in the race.

Following a lightning start, Daly was already in the points when the rain that had been threatening to fall for the duration of the race finally made an appearance. With just three laps remaining, conditions began to deteriorate quickly, with several drivers struggling to stay on track.

Daly and his Carlin team made the decision to stay out on slicks and in the final stages track conditions were treacherous. The young American did well though and held onto sixth place to take his first GP3 points. Daly's sixth place also earns him a third placed grid slot in tomorrow's reverse grid race.

Reflecting on his race, Daly said, "It was a fun race for sure! The start was mega and I used the outside through the first three corners to get round quite a few people. The car felt really good the whole race. I was catching the guys in front of me really quickly when it started raining. Then it was very difficult on track but I knew I had to keep pushing and I managed to keep the car on track at a reasonable pace. My aim was just to keep going and get the car to the finish. It's a great day for the Carlin team. We've worked extremely hard and I can't wait to start third tomorrow."