



Martinez quickest in Historic Grand Prix practice at Circuit of The Americas™

Thirty-two car field brings back Formula 1 vintage years

AUSTIN, Texas (Nov. 16, 2012) – Mexican race driver David Martinez was quickest in practice Friday for Saturday's Historic Grand Prix support race at the 2012 Formula 1 United States Grand Prix™ at the Circuit of The Americas™.

Historic Grand Prix is an American series that brings back memories of some of Formula 1's vintage years, the period from 1966 to 1983 when the cars ran to a three-liter engine formula and developments included the famous "ground effect" cars of the early Eighties.

The HGP organization is comprised of more than 50 owner-drivers of authentic vintage 3-litre models with a goal to preserve the historically correct presentation and performance of the cars, some of them originally driven by racing legends such as Niki Lauda and Mario Andretti.

Martinez, driving a 1980 Arrows A3 formerly raced by Italian Grand Prix star Riccardo Patrese, set a fastest lap time of 2 minutes 04.921 seconds on the 3.427-mile (5.516 kilometre) Austin course. That compared to a 1:38.125 set by Sebastian Vettel in opening practice for the contemporary Formula 1 cars that will race over 56 laps Sunday.

Danny Baker took second with 2:10.33 in his ex-Keke Rosberg Williams FW08, followed by Arie Luyendyk with a lap time of 2:10.35 in a 1979 McLaren originally in the hands of multiple world champion Alain Prost.

Martinez was thrilled by his first experience of the new American venue. "The track was just incredible. And the atmosphere of an F1 race! I'm grateful to be able to drive one of these cars," he said. "The track is still very slippery since it's the first time we are using it but waiting for practice was exciting. Getting that out of the way, we are going to focus on getting better and having a good weekend."

Two-time Indianapolis 500 winner (1990, 1997) Luyendyk agreed. "It's really a beautiful track. I especially like the first part of the track, which is downhill, and the turns are contoured in such a way that you can go just flat out in 5th gear," he said. "I was happy with my lap time. I won the first IndyCar race at Texas Motor Speedway and I'm hoping to win the first race here."

The qualifying session for Historic Grand Prix will take place Saturday at 10:30 CST and the 14-lap race at 15:20.

About Circuit of The Americas

Circuit of The Americas is a world-class destination for performance, education and business. It is the first purpose-built Grand Prix facility in the United States designed for any and all classes of racing, from motor power to human power, and is home to the 2012 FORMULA 1 UNITED STATES GRAND PRIX™ set for Nov. 16-18. Racing series joining the Circuit's 2013 line-up include MotoGP™, V8 Supercars™ and GRAND-AM Road Racing™. The Circuit of The Americas' master plan features a variety of permanent structures designed for business, education, entertainment and race use. Its signature element is a 3.4-mile circuit track. Other support buildings include an expansive outdoor live music space, an iconic 251-foot tower with observation deck, an events and conference center, a banquet hall as well as a state-of-the-art medical facility. For more information and downloadable video, audio and photos, visit: www.CircuitofTheAmericas.com.

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