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# **AutoAction:** AUTO ACTION'S 2023 PRE canadian formula 1 TEAM-BY-TEAM EVENT GUIDE

## RED BULL IS LOOKING OMINOUS AS IT CHASES HISTORY AT THE CANADIAN GRAND PRIX THIS WEEKEND.

If one of Max Verstappen or Sergio Perez can guide Red Bull to yet another victory, the team will match Mercedes' record for the most consecutive wins to start a season in the 21st century.

In 2019 the Silver Arrows collected the first eight victories of the year, with their run extending from Australia to Austria.

In the present day, Red Bull appears in even better touch with their rivals seemingly requiring a miracle to come too close to them, especially with the kind of form Verstappen is in.

Although the overall record of taking out the first 11 races set by McLaren back in 1988 is still a long way off, victory at Circuit Gilles Villeneuve will be yet another impressive marker of the juggernaut Christian Horner is leading.

But whilst Verstappen remains at his untouchable best, Perez will be required to lift with two poor qualifying performances hurting him.

A series of encouraging developments has propelled Mercedes past Aston Martin as the best of the rest behind Red Bull.

This was evident at Spain where both Lewis Hamilton and George Russell joined Verstappen on the podium and showed strong tyre life.

The big question in Canada will be if Mercedes can establish itself as clearly the second fastest car or will the balance shift back towards Aston

Martin as it goes track to track?

But the surprise underdogs of 2023 could have a new trick up their sleeves with Aston Martin planning on rolling out an upgrade in Canada, which has been described as a "step" by team principal Mike Krack.

Fernando Alonso showed a glimpse of what was ahead in 2023 when he qualified on the front row at Canada last year in an Alpine.

Despite all roads leading to another Red Bull win, Canada does have a history of throwing up surprise results.

In 2014 Mercedes looked just as dominant, but the Silver Arrows mechanical dramas presented Australia's Daniel Ricciardo with the perfect opportunity to pounce on his first Formula 1 win, while another surprise first-time winner in similar circumstances at the Ile Notre-Dame was Jean Alesi in 1995.

For the fourth race weekend in a row, rain is forecast to have a major say on the weekend with precipitation predicted on all three days.

Whether or not it has a say remains to be seen, but the last fully wet Canadian Grand Prix was 2011 where a Red Bull slip up handed a win to an unlikely hero.

It's a small hope but that is all teams have when coming up against Red Bull in 2023.



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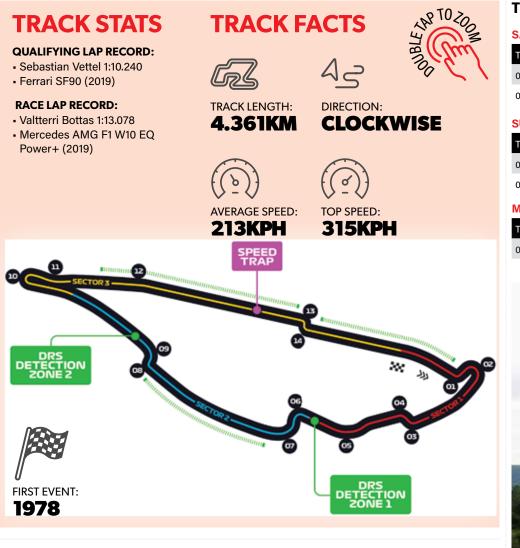
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## **NINE CANADIAN GRAND PRIX** JUNE 17-19

THE EVER popular Canadian Grand Prix provides the usual trip across the Atlantic in the middle of the European season. Circuit Gilles-Villeneuve situated on the man-made Notre Dame Island has the tendency to produce exciting racing and mixed results. Drivers enjoy the challenge of the fast, low-downforce circuit, which has hosted the Canadian Grand Prix for the last 45 years.







### LIST OF RACE RESULTS

2022: Max Verstappen 2019: Lewis Hamilton 2018: Sebastian Vettel 2017: Lewis Hamilton 2016: Lewis Hamilton 2015: Lewis Hamilton

1

#### 2014: Daniel Ricciardo 2013: Sebastian Vettel 2012: Lewis Hamilton 2011: Jenson Button 2010: Lewis Hamilton 2008: Robert Kubica

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2007: Lewis Hamilton 2006: Fernando Alonso 2005: Kimi Raikkonen 2004: Michael Schumacher 2003: Michael Schumacher 2002: Michael Schumacher

#### 7 MOST WINS 7 Michael Schumacher, Lewis Hamilton

2 Sebastian Vettel, Ayrton Senna, Alan Jones

## MOST POLES

9 Lewis Hamilton 6 Sebastian Vettel

#### 2<sup>1</sup> 3 MOST PODIUMS 6 Michael Schumacher,

- 6 Michael Schumache Lewis Hamilton
- 5 Sebastian Vettel 3 Ayrton Senna,
- Nelson Piquet

#### TRACK SCHEDULE (ALL TIMES AEST)

ATURDAY, JUNE 17			
TIME	SESSION		
03.30-04.30	Practice 1		
07.00-08.00	Practice 2		
SUNDAY, JUNE 18			
TIME	SESSION		
02.30-03.30	Practice 3		
06.00-07.00	Qualifying		
<b>IONDAY</b> , JUNE 19			
TIME	SESSION		
04.00	Grand Prix		



### LIST OF POLE POSITIONS

2022: Max Verstappen 2019: Sebastian Vettel 2018: Sebastian Vettel 2017: Lewis Hamilton 2016: Lewis Hamilton 2015: Lewis Hamilton 2014: Nico Rosberg 2013: Sebastian Vettel 2012: Sebastian Vettel 2011: Sebastian Vettel 2010: Lewis Hamilton 2008: Lewis Hamilton

2007: Lewis Hamilton 2006: Fernando Alonso 2005: Jenson Button 2004: Ralf Schumacher 2003: Ralf Schumacher 2002: Jaun Pablo Montoya



#### **TEAM PRINCIPAL CHRISTIAN HORNER**

Max Verstappen appears in a league of his own after three storming drives. In that time Verstappen has blown his teammate away, increasing his advantage from six points to 63. He heads to Canada where he had only scored one podium at until last year when he dominated, but held off Carlos Sainz after a late Safety Car.



#### ASTON MARTIN FERNANDO ALONSO AGE: 41

DEBUT: Aus 2001 STARTS: 362 BEST QUAL: 1st (x22) PODIUMS: 103 BEST RESULT: 1st (x32) AVG 2023 FINISH: 3.57 BEST CANADA GP: 1st 2006

#### **TEAM PRINCIPAL MIKE KRACK**

For the first time this year, Fernando Alonso's grip on third place is under threat. Mercedes looked much faster as Alonso could manage seventh behind teammate Stroll. The Spaniard has only stood on the Canadian podium three times, but 2023 is his best shot at adding to the list.



#### **TEAM PRINCIPAL TOTO WOLFF**

George Russell is on a high after putting in one of the more impressive drives of the year at Spain. Despite a team mixup retracting him to grid spot 12, Russell climbed up to 12th with good race pace on the Medium and Soft tyres. Just missed out on a maiden Canadian podium last year.



#### TEAM PRINCIPAL FRED VASSEUR

Charles Leclerc needs to bounce back from a point-less Spain. A dreadful Q1 exit was followed by a Sunday where Leclerc fell just short of the 10. Started at the back in Canada last year due to engine change and climbed to fifth. Just watched Ferrari win Le Mans and could only dream of similar success.



#### Alpine's Esteban Ocon is proud of his "fighting" team which continues to rise. Ocon backed up his Monaco podium with more points in Spain with ninth. Has always finished in the top 10 at Canada. Just been treated to a special beer by Jeremy Clarkson and hopes it can give him a further push.



**TEAM PRINCIPAL CHRISTIAN HORNER** 

#### RED BULL

#### MERCEDES

After seeing his teammate drive off into the distance, Sergio Perez is looking to "restart"

his season at Canada. Costly qualifying mistakes have seen Perez miss the podium at

both Monaco and Spain. "Checo" scored third in his first Canadian GP in 2012, but has

not returned to the podium since and had a gearbox failure last year.

AGE: 38 DEBLIT: Aus 200 STARTS: 317 BEST QUAL: 1st (x103) PODIUMS: 193 BEST RESULT: 1st (x103) AVG 2023 FINISH: 4.29 BEST CANADA GP: 1st (x6)



#### **TEAM PRINCIPAL TOTO WOLFF**

Lewis Hamilton is back in form and there is no better track to continue his momentum. From the moment Hamilton first raced an F1 at Circuit Gilles Villeneuve, he won and has since gone on to collect the equal most wins. Boosted by a podium in Spain he would love to at least do the same here like last year.

<b>CTU</b>	FERRARI	CARLOS SAINZ JR
<b>6TH</b>	DEBUT: A	AGE: 28 Aus 2015
POINTS	STAI BEST QUAL:	RTS: 169
		UMS: 15
20R	AVG 2023 FINI BEST CANADA GP: 2	SH: 6.43

#### **TEAM PRINCIPAL FRED VASSEUR**

Carlos Sainz fell just nine tenths of a second short of a maiden Ferrari victory in Canada 12 months ago, but even a repeat result, let alone going one better appears unlikely. Fought but could only managed fifth place in the upgraded Ferrari at Spain. Last year was his only Canadian top five.



#### **TEAM PRINCIPAL MIKE KRACK**

An air of anticipation surrounds Lance Stroll as he heads to his home race with his best chance of a strong result. Stroll is booted by Spain where he finished ahead of Alonso for the first time in 2023 in sixth. Been a consistent points scorer at home, but only got as high as ninth.



#### **TEAM PRINCIPAL OTMAR SZAFNAUER**

Whilst not having the outright pace of his teammate, Pierre Gasly has been quietly accumulating points with a hat-trick of top 10s. Spain was rather lucky with a Tsunoda penalty promoting him to 10th, but this masked his strong P4 in quali where two grid penalties dropped him 14th. Will have a new approach with engineer after the drama.







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POINTS



# 6 POINTS

#### TEAM PRINCIPAL ZAC BROWN

Spain was a tale of two halves for McLaren and Lando Norris. It started brilliantly with Norris flying to P3 in qualifying. But in warmer conditions on Sunday the pace disappeared and could only managed 17th after "unlucky" first lap contact with Hamilton. Has only raced in Canada twice and never finished in the points.



Oscar Piastri will be hoping the forecast of rain and cool temperatures comes to fruition to maximise his MCL60, which thrives in such conditions. This was clear in Spain when Piastri qualified eighth, but could have been even higher before finishing the race 13th. If rain arrives his childhood memories of 2011 will be at front of mind.



#### TEAM PRINCIPAL ALESSANDRO ALUNNI BRAVI

Zhou Guanyu claimed his second points finish of the season in controversial circumstances. Zhou and Tsunoda went side by side into Turn 1 and the Alfa Romeo driver went off. A penalty saw Tsunoda lose points, while Zhou matched his season best result. Also scored points on Canada debut.



#### **TEAM PRINCIPAL GUENTHER STEINER**

Kevin Magnussen was a dejected figure after a disappointing Spanish Grand Prix where he blamed heavy tyre ware for his struggle from 17th to 18th. Celebrates his 150th race in Canada and hopes to mark it with an improved result. However, he has not scored points at Montreal since his debut season.



Nyck de Vries has done a lot of racing around the world, but this will be his first time racing around Montreal. After a solid Monaco, De Vries outqualifed his teammate in Spain, but could only finish 14th after losing "way too much ground on Lap 1" as Tsunonda pressed forward.



#### HAAS AGE: 35 DEBUT: Bah 2010 **STARTS: 187** BEST QUAL: 1st (x1) PODIUMS: 0 BEST RESULT: 4th (x3)

BEST CANADA GP: 5th 2014



#### TEAM PRINCIPAL GUENTHER STEINER

After recording a P15 finish at Spain, Nico Hulkenberg admitted Haas has "some homework to do" as it tries to regain some ground in the competitive midfield. Hulkenberg started brilliantly by qualifying seventh, but battled in the long runs. Took four years to score points at Canada, but has not missed out in the last six races...



#### ALFA ROMEO SAUBER VALTTERI BOTTAS

#### AGE: 33 DEBUT: Aus 2013 STARTS: 207 BEST QUAL: 1 (X20) PODIUMS: 67 BEST RESULT: 1st (x10) AVG 2023 FINISH: 14

BEST CANADA GP: 2nd 17,18



#### TEAM PRINCIPAL ALESSANDRO ALUNNI BRAVI

Spain was another Sunday to forget for Valtteri Bottas, who finished a lap down in 19th. Bottas believed the car had an "off day" as he trailed around the back. Despite never winning there, Bottas has clicked at Canada in the past, qualifying third in a slow Williams in 2013 and scoring four straight podiums.

16TU	ALPHATAURI	YUKI TSUNODA
<b>16TH</b>	A DEBUT: Ba	GE: 22 ah 2021
POINTS	STAF Best qual: 7	RTS: 48 7th (x2)
	PODI BEST RESULT:	UMS: 0 4th (x1)
A-0)	AVG 2023 FINIS BEST MONACO GP: 16	

#### **TEAM PRINCIPAL FRANZ TOST**

Spain was the latest chapter in Yuki Tsunoda's growing story of near misses. This time he was on course for a solid second points finish of the year after a strong drive to ninth, only to be robbed of points due to a "ridiculous" penalty. Tsunoda's only trip to Canada finished in the wall after getting the pit exit all wrong.



#### TEAM PRINCIPAL JAMES VOWLES

After lamenting Williams' lack of upgrades after finishing 16th in Spain, Alexander Albon's wish has been granted for Canada. An upgrade has arrived for the FW45 and Albon hopes it can propel him to a maiden points finish in Canada where the high-speed characteristics could be handy.



#### TEAM PRINCIPAL JAMES VOWLES

Logan Sargeant was left "baffled" by a huge drop in pace in the final stint at Catalunya, which led to him finishing last in four of the five sessions across the weekend. Sargeant is hopeful at Canada where Williams has brought an upgrade package and the American is looking to learn from the gains made on Albon's side of the garage.