

AUTO ACTION'S 2023 PRE ABU DHABI FORMULA ONE TEAM-BY-TEAM EVENT GUIDE

THE END OF FIGURATIVELY AND LITERALLY THE LONGEST FORMULA 1 SEASON WILL FINALLY DRAW TO A CLOSE THIS WEEKEND, BUT THERE IS STILL ONE MORE RACE TO WIN AT ABU DHABI.

WHAT HAS become the traditional season closer since 2014 will take place at Yas Marina Circuit, another location Max Verstappen and Red Bull have dominated at.

The flying Dutchman has won the last three Abu Dhabi Grands Prix including 2020 when Mercedes was the much quicker car and that 2021 finale.

Not even a broken front wing and spirited defence from Charles Leclerc could stop Verstappen from taking a remarkable 18th win of the year last time out in Vegas.

If Red Bull claim another triumph, it will end up with the second best winning percentage in a single season with 91.3% behind only McLaren's 1988 MP4/4 with 93.75%.

On both occasions the dominant cars would have won all-but one race, standing out in the 73-year history.

Given Verstappen's form and the extremely long DRS zones, it is hard to see this not happening.

Despite Red Bull teammates Verstappen and Sergio Perez now untouchable in the top two positions in the championship, there is still a lot to play for.

The most anticipated battle in the constructors championship will be the fight for second between heavyweights Ferrari and Mercedes.

At the summer break the three pointed star seemed to be pretty safe enjoying a 51-point buffer, but that has closed to just four points ahead of the finale.

Since Monza the prancing horse has been galloping at high speed, being the only team to beat Red Bull and Leclerc taking three of the last four pole positions.

Meanwhile Mercedes recently has struggled to find top gear giving Ferrari all the momentum to claim the important place.

McLaren has recently leapfrogged Aston Martin to take fourth in the constructors championship, but that fight is not over.

Just 11 points is the difference and Oscar Piastri will be looking to finish his impressive rookie season on a high note at the track where it all began officially in McLaren colours last year.

In what will be the last race with the AlphaTauri name, Daniel Ricciardo hopes to represent the brand with pride.

Collected points last time here in his McLaren swansong and a similar result could be crucial for the Italian squad with Williams seven points ahead in seventh place.

In Friday practice a number of youngsters including Australia's Jack Doohan will get a rare F1 outing for Alpine.

Pato O'Ward (McLaren) Zak O'Sullivan (Williams) Jake Dennis (Red Bull) Isack Hadjar (Red Bull) Fred Vesti (Mercedes) Robert Shwartzman (Ferrari) Felipe Drugovich (Aston Martin), Theo Pourchaire (Alfa Romeo) and Ollie Bearman (Haas).

The traditional race weekend format awaits for the finale with the big sessions all taking place around the stroke of midnight.



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THE SETTING sun, fireworks and modern surroundings of Yas Marina will be the closing chapter of a one-sided F1 season. Abu Dhabi has been the finale every year since 2014 and also hosted the final race in 2009 and 2010. Struggled to produce good racing with the iconic 2010 and 2021 title fights obvious standouts. Received a much needed upgrade ahead of the 2021 race which got rid of the awkward chicanes at opposite ends of the circuit, making it faster and more open. Last eight races have been won by pole.



TRACK STATS

QUALIFYING LAP RECORD

- Max Verstappen 1:22.109
Red Bull 2021

RACE LAP RECORD

- Max Verstappen 1:26.103
Red Bull 2021

TRACK FACTS



TRACK LENGTH:
5.281KM



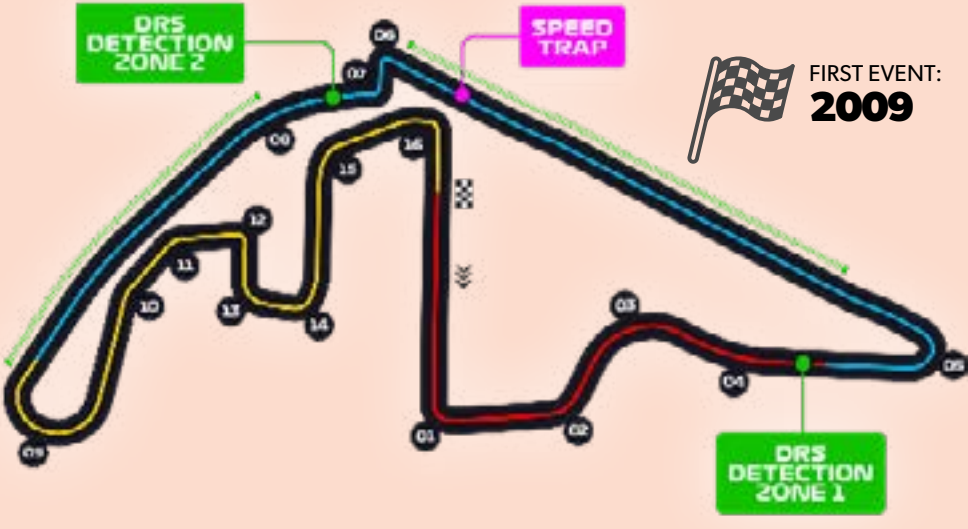
DIRECTION:
ANTI-CLOCKWISE



AVERAGE SPEED:
231KM/H



TOP SPEED:
317KM/H



TRACK SCHEDULE (ALL TIMES AEDT)

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 24

TIME	SESSION
20.30-21.30	Practice 1

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 25

TIME	SESSION
00.00-01.00	Practice 2
21.30-22.30	Practice 3

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 26

TIME	SESSION
01.00-02.00	Qualifying

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 27

TIME	SESSION
00.00	Grand Prix



LIST OF RACE WINNERS

- 2022: Max Verstappen
- 2021: Max Verstappen
- 2020: Max Verstappen
- 2019: Lewis Hamilton
- 2018: Lewis Hamilton
- 2017: Valtteri Bottas
- 2016: Lewis Hamilton

- 2015: Nico Rosberg
- 2014: Lewis Hamilton
- 2013: Sebastian Vettel
- 2012: Kimi Raikkonen
- 2011: Lewis Hamilton
- 2010: Sebastian Vettel
- 2009: Sebastian Vettel



MOST WINS

- 5 Lewis Hamilton
- 3 Max Verstappen, Sebastian Vettel
- 1 Nico Rosberg, Kimi Raikkonen

LIST OF POLE POSITIONS

- 2022: Max Verstappen
- 2021: Max Verstappen
- 2020: Max Verstappen
- 2019: Lewis Hamilton
- 2018: Lewis Hamilton
- 2017: Valtteri Bottas
- 2016: Lewis Hamilton

- 2015: Nico Rosberg
- 2014: Nico Rosberg
- 2013: Mark Webber
- 2012: Lewis Hamilton
- 2011: Sebastian Vettel
- 2010: Sebastian Vettel
- 2009: Lewis Hamilton



MOST POLES

- 5 Lewis Hamilton
- 3 Max Verstappen
- 2 Nico Rosberg, Sebastian Vettel

1ST
549
POINTS

RED BULL

MAX VERSTAPPEN

AGE: 26
DEBUT: Aus 2015
STARTS: 184
BEST QUAL: 1st (x31)
PODIUMS: 97
BEST RESULT: 1st (x53)
AVG 2023 FINISH: 1.29
BEST UAE GP: 1st 20,21,22



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TEAM PRINCIPAL CHRISTIAN HORNER

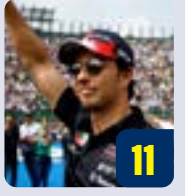
Such has been Max Verstappen's dominance in F1 in 2023, a 19th win of the season will put him alone in third all time on his own only behind Schumacher and Hamilton. Coming in with 7 straight and chasing a four-peat of Abu Dhabi wins and poles, something crazy has to happen to keep him level with Vettel. Not even a broken front wing could stop him in Vegas.

2ND
273
POINTS

RED BULL

SERGIO PEREZ

AGE: 33
DEBUT: Aus 2011
STARTS: 256
BEST QUAL: 1st (x3)
PODIUMS: 35
BEST RESULT: 1st (x6)
AVG 2023 FINISH: 4.61
BEST UAE GP: 3rd 2022



11



TEAM PRINCIPAL CHRISTIAN HORNER

Qualifying is still an issue but Sergio Perez raced hard to a podium in Las Vegas. Despite starting 11th, a mid race SC brought Perz into contention and he even led towards the end. However, he could not keep Verstappen and Leclerc at bay, being relegated to third on the final lap. Only has one podium at Yas Marina made last year.

3RD
232
POINTS

MERCEDES

LEWIS HAMILTON

AGE: 38
DEBUT: Aus 2007
STARTS: 331
BEST QUAL: 1st (x104)
PODIUMS: 197
BEST RESULT: 1st (x103)
AVG 2023 FINISH: 4.56
BEST UAE GP: 1st 11,14,16,18,19



44



TEAM PRINCIPAL TOTO WOLFF

lewis Hamilton is the most successful driver ever at Yas Marina but his recent memories are sour. Of course there was the "no mikey no" moment of 2021 when he lost the title in heartbreaking fashion while last year he retired due to a hydraulics failure. Has battled for pace in the last 2 races and wants to end on a high.

4TH
200
POINTS

FERRARI

CARLOS SAINZ JR

AGE: 28
DEBUT: Aus 2015
STARTS: 182
BEST QUAL: 1st (x5)
PODIUMS: 17
BEST RESULT: 1st (x2)
AVG 2023 FINISH: 5.75
BEST UAE GP: 3rd 2021



55



TEAM PRINCIPAL FRED VASSEUR

Carlos Sainz shot to P4 in the champ after rising from 12th to 6th in Vegas and wants to end a "good year" on a high at Yas Marina. Had a tough weekend starting with the drain damage and following grid penalty but fought back well. Got a podium in his first trip to Yas Marina in Ferrari colours.

5TH
200
POINTS

ASTON MARTIN

FERNANDO ALONSO

AGE: 41
DEBUT: Aus 2001
STARTS: 376
BEST QUAL: 1st (x22)
PODIUMS: 106
BEST RESULT: 1st (x32)
AVG 2023 FINISH: 5.33
BEST UAE GP: 2nd 2012



14



TEAM PRINCIPAL MIKE KRACK

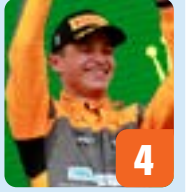
Fernando Alonso did well to get points in Vegas having started the race facing the wrong way at turn 1. Alonso admitted in that moment he thought "it was over" and despite the solid fightback to 9th he was not a fan of the "dangerous" track. Only has one podium at Yas Marina in 2012 and would love to salute an "unthinkable" year the way it started.

6TH
195
POINTS

MCLAREN

LANDO NORRIS

AGE: 23
DEBUT: Aus 2019
STARTS: 103
BEST QUAL: 1st (x1)
PODIUMS: 13
BEST RESULT: 2nd (x6)
AVG 2023 RESULT: 7.87
BEST UAE GP: 5th 2020



4



TEAM PRINCIPAL ZAC BROWN

Lando Norris' run of strong results came to an end in Vegas in a bruising way. Norris recorded his first DNF of 2023 after the Brit hit a bump and hit the fence hard at high speed at turn 11. Has never missed the points at Abu Dhabi with a best result of 5th in 2020. Still in the fight to take P4 in the standings.

7TH
188
POINTS

FERRARI

CHARLES LECLERC

AGE: 25
DEBUT: Aus 2018
STARTS: 123
BEST QUAL: 1st (x22)
PODIUMS: 29
BEST RESULT: 1st (x5)
AVG 2023 FINISH: 5.58
BEST UAE GP: 2nd 2022



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TEAM PRINCIPAL FRED VASSEUR

For the 17th time in his career, Charles Leclerc could not convert pole into victory. The latest occasion was Vegas when he bowled a wide at turn 1 before regaining the lead late on before finishing second best in a thrilling fight with Verstappen and Perez. Has two Yas Marina podiums in 2019 and 2022.

8TH
160
POINTS

MERCEDES

GEORGE RUSSELL

AGE: 25
DEBUT: Aus 2019
STARTS: 103
BEST QUAL: 1st (x2)
PODIUMS: 10
BEST RESULT: 1st (x1)
AVG 2023 FINISH: 7.15
BEST UAE GP: 5th 2022



63



TEAM PRINCIPAL TOTO WOLFF

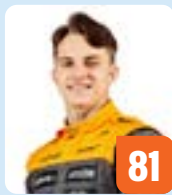
George Russell's hopes of a podium or better in Vegas were ruined by one costly collision with Max Verstappen. Russell put his hand up saying it was "totally my fault" and still claimed points in eighth. However, he is "excited" to help the silver arrows chase P2 in the constructors and stop the charging Ferraris.

9TH
88
POINTS

MCLAREN

OSCAR PIASTRI

AGE: 21
DEBUT: Bah 2023
STARTS: 21
BEST QUAL: 2nd (x1)
PODIUMS: 2
BEST RESULT: 2nd (x1)
AVG 2023 FINISH: 9.67
BEST UAE GP: N/A



81



TEAM PRINCIPAL ZAC BROWN

Oscar Piastri already turned heads by rolling into Yas Marina wearing Brett Lee's 2003 CWC shirt. Unlike other tracks has testing experience in a McLaren F1 car at Yas Marina where he clinched the F2 title. Put in an impressive drive to get into the top four and finish ninth at Las Vegas. Can Oscar put in one more memorable performance in his rookie year?

10TH
73
POINTS

ASTON MARTIN

LANCE STROLL

AGE: 25
DEBUT: Aus 2017
STARTS: 142
BEST QUAL: 1st (x1)
PODIUMS: 3
BEST RESULT: 3rd (x3)
AVG 2023 FINISH: 9.56
BEST UAE GP: 8th 2022



18



TEAM PRINCIPAL MIKE KRACK

Out of nowhere Lance Stroll has stumbled across some form. In the last 2 races he has finished 5th, the first time in his career he has claimed back to back top five results. The latest in Vegas was the most impressive considering he did it from the back row. Two points finishes in UAE.

11TH
62
POINTS

ALPINE

PIERRE GASLY

AGE: 27
DEBUT: Mal 2017
STARTS: 128
BEST QUAL: 2nd (x1)
PODIUMS: 4
BEST RESULT: 1st (x1)
AVG 2023 FINISH: 10.36
BEST UAE GP: 5th 2021



TEAM PRINCIPAL BRUNO FAMIN

The weekend started impressively for Alpine and Pierre Gasly. The Frenchman was on point in qualifying and put his Alpine on the second row. But he struggled on the hard compound tyres and drifted out of the points and finished 5s behind Piastri. 2 points finishes from 6 attempts at Abu Dhabi.

12TH
58
POINTS

ALPINE

ESTEBAN OCON

AGE: 27
DEBUT: Bel 2016
STARTS: 132
BEST QUAL: 3rd (x2)
PODIUMS: 3
BEST RESULT: 1st (x1)
AVG 2023 FINISH: 10.22
BEST UAE GP: 8th 2017



TEAM PRINCIPAL BRUNO FAMIN

Unlike his teammate, Esteban Ocon went forward on race day in Vegas and came away with a great fourth place. Ocon flew from 16th on the grid with a lot of the ground made on the first lap when he snuck past all the trouble before a long first stint. The Frenchman is finishing the year strong with three points finishes in a row.

13TH
27
POINTS

WILLIAMS

ALEX ALBON

AGE: 27
DEBUT: Aus 2019
STARTS: 80
BEST QUAL: 4th (x5)
PODIUMS: 3
BEST RESULT: 3rd (x2)
AVG 2023 FINISH: 10.88
BEST UAE GP: 4th 2020



TEAM PRINCIPAL JAMES VOWLES

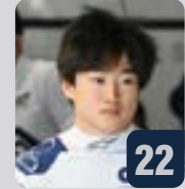
Williams started Vegas with great hope as Alex Albon qualified in the top five. But he was disappointed not to get any points and finish 12th. Held a top 10 spot for most of the race before the race took a sudden turn for the worse towards the finish. Has always been a solid performer at Abu Dhabi.

14TH
13
POINTS

ALPHATAURI

YUKI TSUNODA

AGE: 23
DEBUT: Bah 2021
STARTS: 61
BEST QUAL: 7th (x2)
PODIUMS: 0
BEST RESULT: 4th (x1)
AVG 2023 FINISH: 12.5
BEST UAE GP: 4th 2021



TEAM PRINCIPAL FRANZ TOST

It was a tough weekend for Yuki Tsunoda in Las Vegas. Qualified last, almost 2s slower than the nearest car. Completed 46 of the 50 laps before gearbox issues ended his weekend. Although AlphaTauri is searching for pace, Tsunoda has a strong record in the UAE with a brilliant 4th in 2021

15TH
10
POINTS

ALFA ROMEO SAUBER

VALTERRI BOTTAS

AGE: 33
DEBUT: Aus 2013
STARTS: 220
BEST QUAL: 1st (x20)
PODIUMS: 67
BEST RESULT: 1st (x10)
AVG 2023 FINISH: 12.69
BEST UAE GP: 1st 2017



TEAM PRINCIPAL ALESSANDRO ALUNNI BRAVI

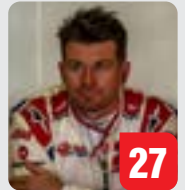
Valtteri Bottas is in the middle of a rut and would want nothing more than a positive end to the year. An early run in with Perez cost Bottas "at least a second per lap" as he eventually crossed the line 17th. Won the Abu Dhabi Grand Prix for Mercedes in 2017 and is coming to the Adelaide Motorsport Festival next year.

16TH
9
POINTS

HAAS

NICO HULKENBERG

AGE: 35
DEBUT: Bah 2010
STARTS: 202
BEST QUAL: 1st (x1)
PODIUMS: 0
BEST RESULT: 4th (x3)
AVG 2023 FINISH: 14.11
BEST UAE GP: 6th 2014



TEAM PRINCIPAL GUENTHER STEINER

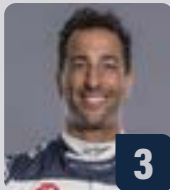
Nico Hulkenberg fell 5 laps short of finishing the maiden Las Vegas Grand Prix. Started 13th but ultimately could only be 19th due to a late power unit failure. Started with a solid points scoring run at Abu Dhabi from 2013-2017 until 2018 when he was "hanging like a cow" in an upside down Renault.

17TH
6
POINTS

ALPHATAURI

DANIEL RICCIARDO

AGE: 34
DEBUT: GB 2011
STARTS: 237
BEST QUAL: 1st (x3)
PODIUMS: 32
BEST RESULT: 1st (x8)
AVG 2023 FINISH: 12.75
BEST UAE GP: 4th 14,18



TEAM PRINCIPAL FRANZ TOST

Twelve months ago when Daniel Ricciardo did donuts in his McLaren, many feared it would be the last sight of the "Honey Badger" in F1. But here he is at AlphaTauri and wants to bounce back from a "painful weekend" in Vegas where he managed 14th. Has come close but never got a podium in Yas Marina.

18TH
6
POINTS

ALFA ROMEO SAUBER

ZHOU GUANYU

AGE: 23
DEBUT: Bah 2022
STARTS: 41
BEST QUAL: 9th (x2)
PODIUMS: 0
BEST RESULT: 8th (x1)
AVG 2023 FINISH: 13.45
BEST UAE GP: 12TH 2022



TEAM PRINCIPAL ALESSANDRO ALUNNI BRAVI

Zhou Guanyu was able to greet the chequered flag in Vegas and had a rather unremarkable race, starting 17th and finishing 15th. Rued the timing of the Safety Car which could have changed things. Had a solid performance at Abu Dhabi last year, finishing 12th.

19TH
3
POINTS

HAAS

KEVIN MAGNUSSEN

AGE: 30
DEBUT: Aus 2014
STARTS: 159
BEST QUAL: 1st (x1)
PODIUMS: 1
BEST RESULT: 2nd (x1)
AVG 2023 FINISH: 15.07
BEST UAE GP: 10th 2018



TEAM PRINCIPAL GUENTHER STEINER

Kevin Magnussen believed Haas took a step forward in Vegas. The Dane had "good pace" but still fell short of points, finishing 13th. His best result since Singapore. Only has one points finish from seven attempts at the UAE GP achieved in 2018.

21ST
1
POINT

WILLIAMS

LOGAN SARGEANT

AGE: 22
DEBUT: Bah 2023
STARTS: 21
BEST QUAL: 10th (x1)
PODIUMS: 0
BEST RESULT: 6th (x1)
AVG 2023 FINISH: 15.29
BEST UAE GP: N/A



TEAM PRINCIPAL JAMES VOWLES

The Las Vegas Grand Prix started so well for Logan Sargeant. He blitzed his quali PB and started sixth. Retained sixth early but he struggled to retain grip and quickly dropped back. Lamented the second SC believing it cost him "any hope of points" Pressure on to prove he deserves to stay.