



CHINESE GRAND PRIX

SHANGHAI INTERNATIONAL CIRCUIT



SPRINT RACE

CHARLES LECLERC #16

Pos	Time	Gap	Laps	FL	Lap
4	32'22"146	17"486	19	1'41'003	4
	Tyres at start		---	Medium	---

CARLOS SAINZ #55

Pos	Time	Gap	Laps	FL	Lap
5	32'25"356	20"696	19	1'40'962	4
	Tyres at start		---	Medium	---

Weather: cloudy, dry. Temperatures: air 20°, track 27°

QUALIFYING

CHARLES LECLERC #16

P6

1'34"289

CARLOS SAINZ #55

P7

1'34"297

Weather: cloudy, dry. Temperatures: air 22°, track 33°

NINE POINTS ON SATURDAY, NOW A FIGHT IN PROSPECT

Shanghai, 20 April 2024 – It was a Saturday of mixed fortunes for Scuderia Ferrari in China. The morning's first Sprint Race of the season proved yet again that the SF-24 operates better in race trim than in qualifying. Charles Leclerc and Carlos Sainz were both able to move up the order over the 19 lap race, but in the afternoon, when it was time to allocate grid positions for tomorrow's Grand Prix that starts at 15.00 local time (07.00 CEST), the Maranello cars were once again vulnerable over a flying lap, to the extent that Leclerc will line up sixth and Sainz seventh on the grid. It will be a tough race, with plenty of unknown factors to deal with, linked to tyre degradation over the 56 laps of this track that has not seen F1 action since 2019. Data from the Sprint Race will of course be analysed tonight in preparation for a race that will require the Scuderia drivers to try and move up the order.

Sprint Race. The day got underway with the Sprint Race at 11am (05.00 CEST) and Charles and Carlos both managed to get past Lando Norris shortly after the start to move up to fourth and sixth places and then a DRS train developed behind Fernando Alonso, made up of Carlos, Sergio Perez, Charles and Norris with a great battle starting on lap 15. Carlos attacked Alonso into turn 8 and the two cars touched at the next corner, which allowed Perez to slip by both of them. Charles also got ahead of his team-mate to move up to fourth and so the team duly brought home nine points for the Constructors' championship, five for Charles and four for Carlos, despite some damage to his car, to help the team maintain second place in the Constructors' classification on 129 points.

Qualifying. Just under three hours on from the Sprint Race, the cars

were back on track to establish the grid positions for tomorrow's Grand Prix. Charles made a relatively straightforward job of getting through to Q3, but Carlos struggled a bit. In Q2, the Spaniard crashed into the barriers at the final corner, which brought out the red flag, but the spin into the tyre barrier, with contact on the right hand side, did not do too much damage, only the front wing being affected and he was able to get the SF-24 back to the pits. The car was repaired in plenty of time for the restart so that Carlos also made the cut to Q3.

Q3. In the final part, the Ferrari pair each one two sets of new Soft tyres available. The contest was as usual fought to the nearest thousandths of a second. Charles' best lap was a 1'34"289, which put him second briefly, with Carlos third in 1'34"297. However, once they had crossed the finish line, four drivers managed to do better, which dropped them to sixth and seventh respectively. It means the pair have a fight on their hands tomorrow, knowing they have a package that should allow them to aim to move up the order.



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We compromised our qualifying by prioritising the race tomorrow and struggled slightly more than we expected. Our race pace is strong and it will be a long one, with tyre degradation playing a big role here. Even the smallest change of wind can influence the car balance, so anything can happen. We will push tomorrow and let's see what is possible.

Charles Leclerc #16



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This qualifying session didn't go as well as we hoped, but even after the incident in the last corner we managed to keep it together and reacted positively right away.

Overall it was a tough session for us, as we struggled a bit too much in sector 1 and our total lap time wasn't enough to fight for better positions. However I'm confident that in the race, with this set up, we will be faster than some of the rivals starting in front of us. We are up for an interesting race tomorrow where strategy will also play an important role.

Carlos Sainz #55

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We were expecting a better result to be honest. This afternoon our performance was quite inconsistent not just from one session to another, but from one run to another. I think both our drivers did the maximum today as the fact that they set basically the same time in Q3 is there to show but it was definitely a chaotic afternoon. Carlos made a mistake in Q2 but was able to manage the crash and bring the car back to continue the session. Of course, we need to keep working on where we are lacking over a flying lap.

Now, let's focus on tomorrow: from what we saw this morning in the Sprint Race it seems that we have a good pace over a long stint. It's going to be a long race in which tyre degradation will play a part and good pitstops and strategy can also make a difference. We will prepare in detail for the race, as we have seen that overtaking is

possible unless you are stuck in a DRS train as was the case this morning.

Fred Vasseur
Team Principal

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