

FORMULA ONE

RED BULL, IN

AZERBAIJAN JOY



Lewis' car is killing his hope

By **BEN HAMILTON**

LEWIS HAMILTON claimed that his dodgy Mercedes is "killing" him.

The English driver suffered back pain in his bouncing car at yesterday's Azerbaijan Grand Prix and could miss this weekend's race in Bahrain.

During the Bahrain race, in which Hamilton finished fourth, he complained on the radio: "Aghh, my back is killing me."

He had to be helped out of his car, which Mercedes chief Toto Wolff described as a "5...box" for the race.

Hamilton said: "That was the most painful race I've experienced. There were a lot of moments where I didn't know if I was going to make it to the end.

"Or whether I was going to keep the car on track as at high speed I nearly lost it several times. The battle with the car was intense.

"The thing was bouncing so much, there were so many times I was nearly going into the wall, that was a concern safety-wise — 150mph smashing into the wall.

"I don't think I've ever really had to climb about keeping it out of the wall at that high speed, very strange experience.

"The only thing was biting down my teeth with pain and just adrenalin.

"You are just praying for it to end.

When quizzed if he was worried whether Hamilton would be at the Azerbaijan Grand Prix, Wolff said: "Yeah, definitely. You can see that it is not miscular, it goes properly deep into the spine and there are some consequences.

"The solution could be to have someone on reserve, which we do at any race."

FERRARI are doing their best to stuff up this Formula One championship after a double flop handed victory to Red Bull's Max Verstappen.

Let us take nothing away from Verstappen's win, which moved him 21 points clear of his team-mate Sergio Perez, who was second and Charles Leclerc, who was third.

But it is the Italian team's implosion — coming after such a strong start to the campaign where they have produced the quickest car on the grid — that is the talking point.

Hamilton learned from F1's most famous team, it is that they know how to royally balls things up.

And that was the case here as drivers Charles Leclerc and Carlos Sainz Jr were unable to finish due to reliability issues.

They are without a title victory since 2008 but they are the undisputed champions of shooting themselves in the foot.

Ferrari boss Mattia Binotto was they are denying Leclerc his chance of fighting Verstappen for the title.

And with it the prospect of some thrilling racing.

We had the best of it in Bahrain and Saudi pen went wheel to wheel, but since then it has been all about Red Bull with an engine issue in

FROM BEN HUNT IN BAKU



Barcelona and a pit-stop cock-up to disqualify Verstappen.

He had taken pole, the previous day making a brilliant start to the race.

But on lap 20 there was a pop of his Ferrari and his engine was done and so was his race.

His team-mate Sainz had retired just a handful of laps earlier with the team suffering a hydraulic failure.

Alfa Romeo's Zhou Guanyu retired who appeared to struggle.

So on Azerbaijan, Hamilton pulled from tenth place on lap 22 and was on the six Ferrari-powered cars finished the race.

Ferrari boss Mattia Binotto was already dressed in his travel kit when he completed full race, Hamilton said to pack up for the next race in Montreal.

He said: "We are not going to do anything to solve them. We will be here, we will be here, we will be here. It takes patience sometimes. It can turn."

Maybe not the words Leclerc needed to hear after his second engine failure in three races by 30mins in the Azerbaijan Grand Prix.

Hamilton said: "We've been fast and

we didn't have particularly big problems in the first part of the season.

Now, it seems that we have a bit more compared to the beginning of the season. If anything, we made the thing better.

"So it's difficult to understand for now, but we will have to analyse it. We don't have the full picture into it for that to not happen again. I can't really find the right words to describe it. It's very disappointing."

Meanwhile, Verstappen, who said he doesn't care less about his rival's woes and that he will win the Azerbaijan Grand Prix, said he was "surprised" by the team's performance.

"I think it's a bit of a surprise," he said. "I think it's a bit of a surprise that we are not as quick as Ferrari."

George Russell was apologetic on the double DNF while team-mate Lewis Hamilton followed behind in fourth.

"We picked up on Ferrari's performance. As a team, we take that as a positive. We know we are quick, but we need a long way to go to bring that as a positive. We know we are quick, but we need a long way to go to bring that as a positive."

"We're experimenting and trying things. A one will week turnaround to Montreal but hopefully we'll get there soon."

Hamilton, however, hinted that his team could be forced to re-examine the design of their car due to the back-breaking bouncing he is experiencing.

He added: "There is so much potential in this car we just can't bounce it at all until we stop this bouncing. We have a much different look but we need to see if that's right or wrong."

You have to prevent these issues from happening" (below) has won five of the eight races this year but only had one pole position.

And the world championship considers his Red Bull's lack of pace to be his main weakness.

He added: "Each weekend is a bit different but we know with the car as quick as Ferrari, we are not as quick as Ferrari."

I also want a bit more performance from myself on a Saturday but George Russell has apologetic on the double DNF while team-mate Lewis Hamilton followed behind in fourth.

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BAKU IN BUSINESS... Verstappen wins in Baku in his Red Bull after Ferrari's Charles Leclerc (above) suffered engine failure

AZERBAIJAN GRAND PRIX RESULT

1	Max Verstappen	+1:34:05.941
2*	Sergio Perez	+20.822s
3	George Russell	+48.995s
4	Lewis Hamilton	+51.679s
5	Pierre Gasly	+77.299s
6	Sebastian Vettel	+84.099s
7	Fernando Alonso	+88.596s
8	Daniel Ricciardo	+92.207s
9	Lando Norris	+92.207s
10	Esteban Ocon	+108.194s
11	Nyck de Vries	+1lap
12	Alexander Albon	+1lap
13	Yuki Tsunoda	+1lap
14	Mick Schumacher	+1lap
15	Nicholas Latifi	+1lap

* HASTY LAP

DID NOT FINISH

DNF	Lance Stroll
DNF	Kyrill Tereshchenko
DNF	Charles Leclerc
DNF	Camillo Sart
DNF	Carlos Sainz Jr

STANPENN

FALTERING Ferrari gifting title to Max

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CONSTRUCTOR STANDINGS

1	Red Bull	279
2	Ferrari	199
3	Mercedes	161
4	McLaren	65
5	Alpine	47
6	Alfa Romeo	41

Rams rushed

THE EFL has piled pressure on Derby to find a buyer in time for next week's fixture. Chairman Chris Kinshir (right) missed Friday's deadline and administrators have now resumed discussions with other interested parties.

And the EFL said it was increasingly concerned Rams are in risk to the integrity of next season's competition.



ALL THE GOSSIP ALL THE NEWS ALL THE DEALS



Guendouzi fires Sal-vo

By **MARK IRWIN**

MATTEO GUENDOUZI is still causing trouble for Michel Arteta by yowling to persuade William Saliba not to return to Arsenal.

The fasty French midfielder (right) has been by his Arsenal manager since he was banished from his first-team squad two years ago.

Now Arsenal have sold him to Marseille for £25m, no rush to forgive and urged pal Saliba, on loan at Marseille last season and yet to play for Arsenal after his £27m signing in 2019, to join Guendouzi.

The Gunners want the defender, 21, back in London.

Guendouzi, 28, said: "I am sure William Saliba will return to Marseille. I am going to keep pushing so that he stays."



NEWS TICKER

PARIS SAINT-GERMAIN are set to announce the departure of boss Maurice Pochettino this week. The former Spurs manager's exit comes after axed sporting director Leonardo was replaced by Luis Campos on Saturday.

ANDREA PIRLO has returned to management with Turkish Super Lig club Fenerbahce. The ex-Italy playmaker, 43, signed a one-year deal after being out of work since being sacked by Fenerbahce in January.

ON BRINK

Portugal on Saturday to hold crunch talks to get the deal over the line.

The Uruguay ace will fly into Merseyside to finalise the deal — which could reach a total of £85.3m — if all the add-ons are hit after being granted an early exit from international duty.

Bayern Munich-bound forward Sandro Mané, 30, who has just one year left on his deal, is expected to join Manchester United and Newcastle.

Reds sporting director Julian Ward flew out to

SOUTH DUBLIN COUNTY

Local planning applications for permission for retention of 2no. industrial units at Plant Ave 2, 20, 22, 24, 26, 28, 30, 32, 34, 36, 38, 40, 42, 44, 46, 48, 50, 52, 54, 56, 58, 60, 62, 64, 66, 68, 70, 72, 74, 76, 78, 80, 82, 84, 86, 88, 90, 92, 94, 96, 98, 100, 102, 104, 106, 108, 110, 112, 114, 116, 118, 120, 122, 124, 126, 128, 130, 132, 134, 136, 138, 140, 142, 144, 146, 148, 150, 152, 154, 156, 158, 160, 162, 164, 166, 168, 170, 172, 174, 176, 178, 180, 182, 184, 186, 188, 190, 192, 194, 196, 198, 200, 202, 204, 206, 208, 210, 212, 214, 216, 218, 220, 222, 224, 226, 228, 230, 232, 234, 236, 238, 240, 242, 244, 246, 248, 250, 252, 254, 256, 258, 260, 262, 264, 266, 268, 270, 272, 274, 276, 278, 280, 282, 284, 286, 288, 290, 292, 294, 296, 298, 300, 302, 304, 306, 308, 310, 312, 314, 316, 318, 320, 322, 324, 326, 328, 330, 332, 334, 336, 338, 340, 342, 344, 346, 348, 350, 352, 354, 356, 358, 360, 362, 364, 366, 368, 370, 372, 374, 376, 378, 380, 382, 384, 386, 388, 390, 392, 394, 396, 398, 400, 402, 404, 406, 408, 410, 412, 414, 416, 418, 420, 422, 424, 426, 428, 430, 432, 434, 436, 438, 440, 442, 444, 446, 448, 450, 452, 454, 456, 458, 460, 462, 464, 466, 468, 470, 472, 474, 476, 478, 480, 482, 484, 486, 488, 490, 492, 494, 496, 498, 500, 502, 504, 506, 508, 510, 512, 514, 516, 518, 520, 522, 524, 526, 528, 530, 532, 534, 536, 538, 540, 542, 544, 546, 548, 550, 552, 554, 556, 558, 560, 562, 564, 566, 568, 570, 572, 574, 576, 578, 580, 582, 584, 586, 588, 590, 592, 594, 596, 598, 600, 602, 604, 606, 608, 610, 612, 614, 616, 618, 620, 622, 624, 626, 628, 630, 632, 634, 636, 638, 640, 642, 644, 646, 648, 650, 652, 654, 656, 658, 660, 662, 664, 666, 668, 670, 672, 674, 676, 678, 680, 682, 684, 686, 688, 690, 692, 694, 696, 698, 700, 702, 704, 706, 708, 710, 712, 714, 716, 718, 720, 722, 724, 726, 728, 730, 732, 734, 736, 738, 740, 742, 744, 746, 748, 750, 752, 754, 756, 758, 760, 762, 764, 766, 768, 770, 772, 774, 776, 778, 780, 782, 784, 786, 788, 790, 792, 794, 796, 798, 800, 802, 804, 806, 808, 810, 812, 814, 816, 818, 820, 822, 824, 826, 828, 830, 832, 834, 836, 838, 840, 842, 844, 846, 848, 850, 852, 854, 856, 858, 860, 862, 864, 866, 868, 870, 872, 874, 876, 878, 880, 882, 884, 886, 888, 890, 892, 894, 896, 898, 900, 902, 904, 906, 908, 910, 912, 914, 916, 918, 920, 922, 924, 926, 928, 930, 932, 934, 936, 938, 940, 942, 944, 946, 948, 950, 952, 954, 956, 958, 960, 962, 964, 966, 968, 970, 972, 974, 976, 978, 980, 982, 984, 986, 988, 990, 992, 994, 996, 998, 1000.