

Highlights: F1 Pre-Season Testing

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With the inaugural race of the 2024 season just around the corner, here's what Formula 1 teams have been up to during the official pre-season testing in Bahrain.

It's worth noting that due to a multitude of factors, testing results should be taken with a grain of salt. The presence or absence of things such as [flow-vis paint](#), [aero-rakes](#), etc and the use of different [tire compounds](#) can greatly affect lap times.

Day 1: 21 February 2024

As a shock to absolutely no one, Red Bull's Max Verstappen topped the time sheets with an impressive lap time of 1:31.344, a whole 1.40 seconds faster than the next driver, that driver being McLaren's Lando Norris. Norris put down a 1:32.484, with Ferrari's Carlos Sainz exactly a tenth of a second behind him to complete the top three.

As Aston Martin's Lance Stroll was making his way around the track, one of his wing mirrors came flying off. Daniel Ricciardo in the RB was narrowly able to avoid it, but Nico Hulkenberg's Haas was not so lucky. No significant damage was reported to the colliding car, but it was still a series of unfortunate events for Stroll and Hulkenberg.

Misfortune fell upon both Williams drivers as Logan Sargeant and Alex Albon finished 11th and 15th, respectively. Sargeant was seen spinning off track and into the gravel (thankfully avoiding the wall) after hitting a bump, thus ruining a set of tires. He had to end his session after only 21 laps due to a suspected driveshaft issue. Albon faced issues of his own as well, suffering from a fuel system issue that only allowed him to complete 40 laps.

Day 2: 22 February 2024

With Verstappen taking the day off to allow for teammate Sergio Perez to get more track time, Sainz was able to reach the top of the leaderboard with a fantastic pace of 1:29.921. Following 0.758 seconds behind was Perez with a time of 1:30.679, and finally Mercedes's Lewis Hamilton with a 1:31.066 to complete the top spots.

The session was red flagged early on when Ferrari's Charles Leclerc ran over a drain cover, dislodging it from the track around Turn 11. Debris was then scattered as Hamilton ran over it, and as Leclerc came back around, he ran over the remnants himself, damaging the Ferrari's floor

and mandating a replacement. Due to this mishap, the morning session was abandoned, and the afternoon session was extended by one hour.

Day 3: 23 February 2024

Surprisingly, Verstappen did not top the times on his third day of practice; the Dutch driver's fastest lap put him at a solid fourth place. Leclerc was actually the man to beat, with a lap time of 1:30.322. Mercedes's George Russell was just 0.046 seconds behind, and, to much surprise, Zhou Guanyu of Sauber finished off the top three with a solid 1:30.647.

Just half an hour into the morning session, a drain cover was once again knocked loose at Turn 11, having been run over by Red Bull's Sergio Perez. No substantial damage was reported, but the delay brought on by fixing the track meant that the scheduled lunch break was canceled.

For More Information

For a more visual recap, you can watch the official Formula 1 YouTube channel's highlights videos here: [day 1](#), [day 2](#), [day 3](#).

You can also visit the official Formula 1 website for a more detailed recap of each day here: [day 1](#), [day 2](#), [day 3](#).

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