

Tuesday, 26th February 2019



BARCELONA TEST 02 – DAY 1

Circuit de Barcelona – Catalunya

Driver: **Alexander Albon** - Car: **STR14-02**

Best time: **1:18.649** - Laps: **103**

Alexander Albon (Car 23):

"It wasn't a bad day today, we started off a little slow after a couple of issues in the morning, but we quickly made up for the lost time and completed a lot of laps. We made a lot of progress in the afternoon session learning more about the car and how it performs in longer runs, so hopefully we can build on that momentum for tomorrow. I'm still getting used to the car and there's a few things I need to work on and improve, but I think it's more a case of fine tuning. I'm still getting comfortable with the high-speed of the car and race management of when I can and can't push, but that will come with the more laps I do. We did a lot of runs to see what suits the car best and also help me prepare for my first race in a couple of weeks."

Jody Egginton (Deputy Technical Director):

"Alex took on driving duties today with a long and varied list of test items to get through. As per normal, the day's running started with a block of aero tests including some running with aero rakes fitted and then, with increasing track and ambient temperatures, the general test programme commenced. Even if this block of work yielded some useful data, a few small but unfortunate time-consuming niggles meant a couple items remained on the to do list for later. However, the impact of this was minimised thanks to the hard work of the mechanics. The early afternoon was focused on the C2 compound, which provided an opportunity to get a good read on tyres in the highest temperatures of the day. The final runs of the session allowed a few of the remaining test items from earlier in the day to be evaluated, which meant more boxes were ticked. On the PU side, Honda has picked up where they left off at T01, continuing to run through their test programme with minimal impact on the chassis plan, which is a further positive indicator of the hard work they put in over the winter. Alex had a solid day today, gaining mileage and further important experience of the car's operating window, which has contributed to the team learning more about the 2019 car. We have a lot of data to go through and process tonight to continue moving forwards in the next days of this second test and be best prepared for Melbourne."

Toyoharu Tanabe (Honda F1 Technical Director):

"Today was the start of the final four days of testing before we go to Melbourne. Therefore, our main aim was to ensure that both our teams got as much track time as possible prior to the first race of the season. Today, we managed 239 laps between our two teams, without any major issues. It meant we acquired a lot of data, making it another smooth day. It has also been useful as we continue to learn together with our teams regarding the operational side and from the drivers' perspective they are gaining in understanding about the PU and indeed the whole car package."

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