



Racing Engineering's Giorgio Pantano sets new GP2 record in Barcelona

The second 2008 GP2 Series joint test, held over two days at Montmeló (Barcelona), allowed Racing Engineering to confirm the positive feelings achieved last week at Paul Ricard on their maiden run with the new cars. Both drivers, Giorgio Pantano and Javier Villa, have again been amongst the best during the two days and it ended with Giorgio on top of the timing sheets after setting a new GP2 record for the track, and Javi setting the eight best time, just four-tenths of a second shy of his team mate.

Telefonica

The two drivers have once again worked really well together and that makes possible an important improvement in the setup of the two Repsol and Telefónica liveried cars. Giorgio has been improving his lap times as the test sessions progressed as well as getting more and more used to the team, finishing as fastest overall with a great 1:26:351 (a new GP2 record) set after fitting a fresh set of tyres near the end of the Wednesday afternoon session. Javi, for his part, was already in the top three on Tuesday, and only an unlucky puncture when he was about to run with new tyres denied him a better position on the time list.



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In addition to the very good lap times scored by both drivers, the importance of these tests is in how the engineers of the Spanish team are getting to grips with the new Dallara. The data gathered in these two days will be of great importance in fine tuning the cars for a track that will hold the first race meeting of the season. The fact that the two drivers have got a quite similar driving style is also quite an advantage as it allows them to have to very close setups so if one car is fast they can be sure the other will also be just as competitive.

Snap-on



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With just one test session remaining before the beginning of the season, to be held next week at the French track of Paul Ricard, at Racing Engineering there are every day more reasons to be optimistic. The team is working very well, the two drivers are really fast and everybody is already looking forward to the first race.



Alfonso De Orleans Borbon: *"I am extremely happy with the work of everyone. Not only have the mechanics done a fantastic job, but the engineers have really gotten to grips with the car. I'd like to thank everyone for the hard work they've done and I'd like to congratulate Giorgio on the fantastic time. Let's hope that this is a good omen for the first race of the season here in Barcelona."*



Javier Villa: *"Well, step by a step we were testing and adapting the car to the track. Yesterday we ran very well finishing third and today I think we were even stronger. But in the morning I couldn't run a lot because a slight off and in the afternoon I think we'd have set the best time but I had a puncture with the new tyres and that was it."*

Giorgio Pantano: *"First of all thanks to everyone, the mechanics, engineers, all the team as they did a very good job. They prepared a good car for me, and I am sure we can do even better than we did during these two days. We got to know each other better and better and this shows that there still is a lot of potential. Now I am looking forward to next week's test in Paul Ricard as we want to do a good job there as well. It was very important for me to be fast here in Barcelona and we were. We are all focused on doing a good job for the championship."*