

'Twas Brillig During the GP2 Series Winter Testing



*American Jake
Rosenzweig during
GP 2 testing in Jerez,
March, 2013*

■ *By Cyril Nikitenko*

Photos by Cyril Nikitenko

some hesitation from GP2 cars, that's your difference in speed between Formula 1 and GP2. Where F1 men would just press KERS button and put the power down, GP2 boys would use a bit of power sliding and erratic steering wheel movements to point the car in the right direction for the next corner. It's good fun to watch though.

The next morning I tactically positioned myself behind Barwa Addax Team garage for a bit of driver-media interface with Jake Rosenzweig, the only American currently competing in the GP2 Series since Scott Speed. I guess our levels of fitness were slightly different since I was still trembling like Red Bull's front wing on the main straight (despite 2 cafés con leche), whereas Jake didn't seem to pay much attention to the atrocious 2013 winter weather in Spain – impressive. You have to believe it when they say drivers are athletes these days.

► ***I started by asking Jake to summarize the test.***

“Yeah, so far it's been quite productive, we've done a few race runs with high fuel, which has gone quite well. With qualifying simulation, we'll try a few things later in the year, the set-up wasn't quite right for here. Today is our last day at the track, so we're back to our best set-up for Jerez. If it dries out (after morning showers), maybe we can do one quick lap but generally I'm happy with the test.”

► ***So it's more about gathering data then?***

“Exactly! Gathering data, practicing starts, seeing how the new tires work because there's quite a big difference.”

► ***Is it tough to switch from the World Series by Renault car (where Jake was racing before) to GP2 car?***

“To be honest, they're very different and a lot of it has to come from the difference between Michelin and Pirelli tires. Both chassis are made by Dallara, the World Series car actually has a bit more downforce I believe, so it's a bit quicker through the corners, but the GP2 car is very good on the brakes.”

► ***No DRS in GP2 though.***

“No, but the system in the WSR was not like Formula 1, it wasn't very sophisticated. It would've been nice to have it in GP2 but it's not a big deal, it's only for lap time really.”

American Jake Rosenzweig during GP 2 testing in Jerez, March, 2013



► **We heard your favorite driver is Michael Schumacher, is it true?**

“Well, when I was younger I’d always watch him on TV, when I was 5 or 6 years old and he was always winning and always doing a very good job, this is from a child’s point of view. Now, looking at the current Formula 1 grid, I’d say (my favorite drivers) are the usual two: Hamilton and Alonso who are doing a very good job.”

► **How about Vettel or is it just a matter of preference?**

“Just a matter of preference, I think those two are maybe faster!”

► **What’s racing for you now? Is it a hobby, passion or a job?**

“Everyone always wants to say, ‘I want to be a Formula 1 driver’ and I can give you the same answer, but when you

get to this level it is not just a hobby it’s quite serious, a lot of time, a lot of travel, a lot of money, so it’s a job and you have to treat it seriously with the training away from the circuit, spend the time with the engineers to maximize the effort. I enjoy it very much, I can’t think of anything else I might want to do but it’s a lot of work.”

GP2 Series 2013 race calendar kicks off in Malaysia, at the Sepang International Circuit on the 22nd of March and it’s safe to say we have a great little championship on our hands that’s been going from strength to strength. I’m excited, how about you? 

Follow Cyril Nikitenko on Twitter at @knownasiberian

