

Inside the Paddock: Qatar Grand Prix



Making Mistakes When It Matters

They have the drivers, they have the car. They have the pace, and they have the determination. McLaren's meteoric rise in the 2025 F1 season has seen many ups and downs, but more often than not, the root of their problems traces back to the team, not the drivers. Zak Brown is regularly the common denominator in McLaren's set of unsuccessful runs.

The title fight continues to narrow down, and McLaren can't seem to stop making mistakes. Last week, in Las Vegas, both drivers were disqualified after investigations found that the skidwear on both cars breached the standard width of 9mm. This week, in Qatar, the call was made stating that both McLaren drivers will stay out instead of pitting during the safety car. With the 25-lap limit on the tyres, this messed the strategy up completely, in turn costing McLaren a 1-2 and a much-needed victory for Oscar Piastri. Scathing, Piastri said, "Speechless. I don't have any words." Later, in the media pen, he stated that it was one of his best weekends and that it was gut-wrenching to throw a victory away.

McLaren CEO Zak Brown later admitted to the team's mistakes. He later pulled Oscar Piastri into a hug during his interviews to apologise, but it was clear that Piastri wasn't buying a second of his apology, nor his hug.



Oscar Piastri was left broken after throwing away a well-earned win on “one of the best weekends” of his career | 1st of December, 2025

Attacks toward Antonelli

Kimi Antonelli has been receiving numerous messages of hate from fans after what looked like he let Lando Norris through in the closing stages of the race after profusely defending prior to. Confirmed by Mercedes Team Principal, Toto Wolff, the Italian teenager has been sent over 1,000 harmful DMs from harsh fans. This led Antonelli to change his Instagram profile picture to a plain black photo. A source from the British Media suspected that the rookie received over 300 death threats over a small mishap. My personal thoughts on this: Kimi is a rookie, and a teenager at that. I think we need to all remember that he's a real person with feelings, and honestly, we're all watching cars go in circles while we're on a floating rock. This won't matter in 100 years. Even in 2 years, we'll all forget about this. It is never *really* that deep.

Toto Wolff was rightfully bewildered when he provided his take on this so-called controversy. “This is total, utter nonsense. That blows my mind to hear that. How

brainless can you be to even say something like this? Why would we even think about interfering with a driver's championship? You really need to check yourself.”



The teenager has reduced his Instagram profile picture to a plain black photo, and later thanked his fans for the support during the online hate. | 1st of December, 2025

Confirming the Rumours

Another rumour filling the paddock–Isack Hadjar's promotion (or what many F1 fans consider a *demotion*) to Red Bull Racing was pretty much confirmed by reporter Ted Kravitz on live TV. The following Tuesday, Isack Hadjar was fully verified to take Yuki Tsunoda's Red Bull seat for 2026, and current Formula 2 driver Arvid Lindblad was confirmed to take the Frenchman's previous seat.

From left to right, Max Verstappen, Arvid Lindblad, Yuki Tsunoda, Isack Hadjar, and Liam Lawson

