



Inside Track – Istanbul Preview

[Opening credits]

Christine: Hi everyone, welcome to Inside Track, video coverage of the 2008 F1 season brought to you by Sidepodcast. All our teams, well, almost all, are raring to go in Turkey, so we'll be taking a look at what to expect from the fifth round of the championship.

Coming up on Inside Track, we catch up with the state of the championship so far, we take a trip round the Istanbul Park Circuit, and as ever, Nico Rosberg shares his thoughts.

Christine – Voiceover

The last race in Spain was more exciting than we had anticipated but the results don't reflect the incidents we saw out on track. Raikkonen and Massa secured a Ferrari 1-2 with Hamilton joining them on the podium. Kubica finished 4th, Webber in 5th, and Button picked up Honda's best finish for a long time in 6th.

Going into the Turkish Grand Prix, the championships are starting to settle down a little now. Raikkonen leads on 29 points, with Hamilton behind him on 20 points. Kubica and Massa are close behind on 19 and 18 points respectively, and Heidfeld and Kovalainen have 16 and 14 points.

Ferrari now have a clear lead in the championship of 47 points to next place BMW on 35, with McLaren just behind on 34. Then a huge leap to Williams on 12, Toyota on 9 and Red Bull on 8.

Chris: The Sidepodcast community doesn't stop at just the website, we're also on Facebook. You can befriend me, by searching for my profile under Christine Blachford, or you can join the Sidepodcast Facebook Group. We add photos and videos, we share links, we post on the wall, and most importantly, we discuss things on the message board. Current discussions include the inconsistencies of Bernie Ecclestone, and whether Alonso would ever fit in at Ferrari. There's also talk of a Sidepodcast meetup at the Canadian Grand Prix, so if you want to get involved, search for Sidepodcast and join the group on Facebook.

[Footage of Spain. Cut to Rosberg.]

Rosberg: Turkey has one of the most challenging corners of the year, which is a very, very fast corner going left which is unusual for us. Most of our corners are always going clockwise and right. It has four parts to it, so it's very, very difficult to get the car in the right position in the beginning to still be in the right position at the end of the corner. So it's really a big challenge and the better drivers get an advantage through there.

[Cut to Christine.]

Chris: Technically, this is a Turkish GP preview, but I think it's worth a quick trip down memory lane to see what happened last year. In 2007, F1 descended upon Turkey much later in the year, it was the 12th round of the championship. The season was swinging between McLaren and Ferrari, and with both red cars on the clean side of the grid it was an easy 1-2 for them. Hamilton suffered a dramatic tyre explosion which ruined his race, and Alonso appeared to either be struggling or sulking. Notably, Kovalainen was beginning his fight back in the slow Renault, finishing two places behind Nick Heidfeld as best of the rest.



Usually at this point, we'd go into my commentary of the circuit, however things are a little bit different this time round. We held a competition for you guys to submit an audio lap of the circuit and we have our winner. So, I'm happy to present to you Scott Woodwiss taking you on one lap of the Istanbul Park Circuit.

Scott – Voiceover

Thank you Christine. Let's take a look at one lap of this magnificent Istanbul Park Circuit built by Hermann Tilke in 2005, and now some three years later we are hosting the fourth Grand Prix. Down the front straight you've got some beautiful buildings on the left and right but you're not focusing on that, you're focusing on Turn 1. Watch for your braking here, the circuit will fall away from you and a good exit is imperative. Turn 2 is a sweeping, flat out, right hander, uphill and out towards turns 3, 4 and 5. This complex of corners, if you go wide here or mess up one of the apexes, and that means you could ruin the lap altogether. Turn 6, downhill exit, nice entry out of there, and now coming up towards Turn 7. Turn 7, nice easy corner on the entry, exit is quite difficult though. It's uphill, so they could struggle and put strain on the engine. Turn 8 is coming up now, a driver's favourite. 4 apexes here, there's the first one. If you carry good speed out of here, you could reach 280km/h. That'll go up to 310 as you come up towards Turn 9. Heavy, heavy braking is required here, you come here at nearly 200 km/h. Then you have to clip the apex and Turn 10, good exit out of here and you'll be set up for Turn 11. This corner is not as tight as it looks, it's flat out, it's downhill on the entry and uphill on the exit, and you'll be going over a crest. You're coming up towards Turns 12, 13 and 14, the last three corners. You miss your braking here, you could ruin the whole lap, and you could spoil your chances of getting pole position. Brake down to about 100 km/h and maintain that speed through 12 and also through 13. 14, the last corner, coming up here. You need a good exit out of here, you need good, good speed through here. And now, coming across the line and that is one lap of Istanbul

Chris: Thanks to Scott for his lap of the circuit there. Let us know what you think of the idea, and we may hold another competition later in the year. We'll make F1 commentators of all of you.

That wraps up our preview of the Turkish Grand Prix. Enjoy the race, and don't forget to come along to Sidepodcast.com during all the sessions to join in the Live Commenting. I look forward to seeing you there.

Next time on Inside Track, it will be our Monaco preview, where we will update the championships with the results of this weekend, and tour one lap of the Monaco street circuit. See you then.

[End Credits.]