



Ferrari SpA Image



extremely quick performances for one so young and relatively inexperienced. The BMW-Sauber of Heidfeld didn't manage to beat the Ferraris on this occasion, and the Ferrari duo filled the second row of the grid, Massa ahead of Raikkonen, followed by Heidfeld, with the Renault of Kovalainen completing the third row of the grid, the rookie's best qualifying performance of the year, eclipsing team leader Fisichella.

Searing heat was the order of the day for both qualifying and the race, probably not quite as hot as in Malaysia and Bahrain, but still a test of stamina within the confines of the

Brickyard. Once again, Hamilton made a perfect start, and although his team leader had a look on the run to turn one, he held his line and the lead. Meanwhile, Massa slotted into third with Raikkonen making a tardy start to drop two places, which cost him a lot of time during the race trying to regain his start position. Towards the rear of the field, there was a first turn incident which eliminated a trio of cars comprising Barrichello's Honda, Coulthard's Red Bull and Ralf Schumacher's Toyota, with Fisichella dumping his Renault on the following lap.

In the early stages, the McLarens held close station at

Above, Felipe Massa takes a very nice first in Spain, thank you very much. Left, home away from home – the new command post for Scuderia Ferrari, in the paddock at the Grand Prix races. Motorhomes are now so... last year. Below, Ferrari makes some renovations at its company-owned track of Mugello, with this new bit of whimsy at the front gate.



Ferrari SpA Images

the front of the field, with the Ferrari of Massa about 3 seconds adrift, being chased by the BMW-Sauber of Heidfeld, whilst Kovalainen had the Ferrari of compatriot Raikkonen climbing all over him, only getting a respite when Raikkonen pitted earlier than him for fuel. Raikkonen jumped the Renault when it made its stop, but was then stuck behind the Williams of Rosberg for a number of laps, who was on a one stop strategy. Once clear, he closed in on his teammate, so there was the spectacle of the two McLarens

running close together at the head of the field, followed by the Ferrari duo, but obviously there weren't going to be any silly antics, so the race played out, with Hamilton taking his second F1 Victory in a week, and the French sporting newspaper *L'Equipe*, which I picked up in Paris on the Monday morning, proclaimed as its front page headline: "Roi Des Ameriques" (King of the Americas)! A fitting tribute to a totally dominant performance by Lewis Hamilton in the two Americas rounds.