

CORSE

YOU WANT TO LAUGH, YOU WANT TO CRY

FORMULA ONE

A DIFFICULT SEASON BRINGS VICTORY AND HEARTBREAK... REPORTS FROM COMPETITION EDITOR KEITH BLUEMEL

F1 – BELGIUM – SEPTEMBER 7...

After the Friday practice sessions, things looked promising for Ferrari in the Saturday qualifying sessions, but overnight rain changed the conditions, and both Ferraris struggled to match the pace of the McLarens, particularly that of Hamilton. Once again, it was Massa who was the quickest of the two Ferrari drivers, and the pole battle was between him and Hamilton, with Raikkonen's Ferrari squabbling



Ferrari: SpA Images

with the second McLaren of fellow Finn, Kovalainen, for third and fourth slots on the grid. At the end of the qualifying sessions, it was the McLaren of Hamilton sitting on pole by, in modern F1 terms, a massive 0.34 seconds advantage over the Ferrari of Massa. Raikkonen made a small error on his final qualifying lap, which allowed

the McLaren of Kovalainen to take the third slot on the grid; thus, they lined up behind their respective teammates. Nick Heidfeld in his BMW Sauber was quickest of the rest, but he was nearly a second off the pole position time.

As is frequently the case at Spa, the weather can play an important part in the proceed-

ings and this year it was no exception. There was a heavy shower about 20 minutes before the race start, which saw all the runners leave the pit garages on intermediate tires. However, they found conditions drying and all opted to start on dry rubber. When the lights went out, Raikkonen made a great start to out-drag third place sitter

Top, Felipe Massa victorious in Brazil, but just a point shy of the Drivers' Championship. Above, Massa in his F2008 in Belgium, where he was also the winner.

Kovalainen to the La Source hairpin, where the latter had a coming together with Heidfeld's BMW Sauber, losing both driv-