

Teams regroup for Sepang

AFTER Melbourne, teams are hard at it, analysing their problems and correcting faults in order to make a much better showing in Malaysia.

Red Bull says it already has 'a better understanding of the KERS system' and may use it at Sepang.

McLaren is very pleased with the early form shown by its new car and believes there is huge development potential to come. Mercedes feels it could even spring a surprise this weekend, such is its faith in its new car and the team's understanding of what went wrong in Australia.

Renault is on a high, with both driver, Vitaly Petrov and car expected to repeat their success of 'Down Under'.

Of the top five teams, only Ferrari is a bit concerned with why its performance was so poor in Australia. Its resources and ability are so great that one can expect team members to dig deep and make a quick comeback. All in all, I expect Malaysia to show us a much more representative form book.

The long straights of Sepang will also provide a better test for movable wings and KERS so I look

forward to some exciting overtaking manoeuvres.

Also expect the tyre challenge between drivers and teams to hot up in Malaysia as we get closer to the equator. This could be the joker in the pack, but may sort out the clever men from the not so clever boys.

Sebastian Vettel, followed closely by Mark Webber should still be favourites but expect some hard charging from Lewis Hamilton and the smoother Jenson Button in the McLarens and the same from both Nico Rosberg and Michael Schumacher in the Mercedes.

Ferrari must be up there as well, with Fernando Alonso squeezing every bit of potential out of the F1 50 Italia, with Felipe Massa hopefully in close support.

Petrov and perhaps Nick Heidfeld in the Renaults should also be in the mix.

It will be a fascinating weekend that begins to establish who is really who in the grand prix zoo!

TV times: practice 1 on Friday at 4am; practice 2 at 8am; practice 3 on Saturday at 7am and qualifying at 10am, all on SS2.

The race on Sunday is on SS1 and HD and starts at 10am.

