



F1 track at Circuit de Catalunya, Barcelona.

Spanish race may spring a surprise

There are so many updates and changes for the start of the European season that could make it almost anyone's race.

ANYONE in the top eight is capable of winning this weekend's Spanish grand prix at Catalunya in Barcelona.

Spanish national, Fernando Alonso will be pulling out all the stops at his home track and could well be the man of the moment.

If not the winner, I expect him to be high in the placings with Felipe Massa also in contention.

The 'McLaren twins' are both capable of doing the job and Jenson Button, current leader of the championship, is in top form and driving beautifully.

Don't forget speedster Lewis Hamilton, who is the one driver who can always upset the apple cart.

The Red Bulls are still the quickest cars around

and Sebastian Vettel must start as favourite, provided he has reliability on his side.

Teammate Mark Webber meanwhile is deserving of some good luck and has the ability to win the race. The Mercs are the jokers in the eight pack, with Nico Rosberg driving at his best and lying second in the championship.

His prospects are good and updates to his car can only help him. Michael 'Schumi' Schumacher might spring a surprise – he loves to be looked after and is getting special attention (a new long wheelbase chassis) which will improve the weight distribution and counter the understeer of his current car.

Michael has always preferred a car which turns in well and leans towards oversteer. This new chassis might make a big difference for him. He needs

to regain confidence in his ability and this could be the occasion.

As always at the Circuit de Catalunya, overtaking will be very difficult and qualifying position will be paramount.

A bit of rain in Spain would add spice to the spectacle!

TV times: practice 1 on Friday at 9.50am on SS2 with practice 2 following at 1.50pm on SS5.

Practice 3 is on Saturday at 10.50am on SS6 and qualifying is at 1.50pm, also on SS6.

The race on Sunday starts at 2pm on SS1.

