

Beat: Sports

Fan Forum Kicks off US GP

Austin is in full F1 Mode

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USPA NEWS - The US Formula 1 Grand Prix week is in full swing as the Fan Forum, kicks off the festivities in Austin, Texas. Racing fans got a rare up-closer-and-personal encounter with three current Formula One pilots; Felipe Massa, Esteban Gutierrez, and Sergio Perez.

In a sport which is considered to be exclusive and unexcessible, race enthusiasts in Austin, Texas were treated to an intimate fan conference featuring Williams Martini's Felipe Massa, Force India's Sergio Perez, and Sauber-Ferrari's Esteban Gutierrez. The discussion was hosted by CNBC's Brian Sullivan.

The select few who were in attendance were given a glimpse into the personal and professional worlds of the three South American drivers. Who is Felipe Massa's idol? Ferrari Legend Gilles Villeneuve. What is Sergio Perez's favourite track? Despite his infamous crash, Monaco. Guti's supercar of choice? A BMW M4 or Ferrari 458.

The pilots also gave opinions on more concrete issues such as driver safety regulations in light of teh Jules Bianchi crash in Japan.

"I hope it changes more [regulations]. I think it was a disaster to see his accident and it was pretty hard to see the way he hit the tractor," said Massa.

At the end of the session, the three drivers gave out autographed merchandise to several lucky fans.

The Fan Furum was presented by Circuit of the Americas and the Grand Prix Investors Fund. The GPIF is the brainchild of investment banker John Foti. The US based fund makes it easy for race fans to invest in some of the companies that sponsor and supply the world of F1.

Foti, a money manager and longtime Formula One fan choosed the best combination of companies which he believes will yeild the best result for his clients. Foti's company has no ties with Formula One Management.

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