



“I’ll be going all-out for a great end to the year...”

Alex Lynn – GP2 Yas Marina preview

London, November 24, 2016. The final round of the GP2 Series season is coming up for me and the DAMS team this weekend, supporting the Abu Dhabi Grand Prix at the Yas Marina circuit. I’m here already, just taking a quick opportunity to chill out and write this blog. I only had a 45-minute flight to get here so I’ve been here a couple of days – that’s because I came straight from Bahrain, where I was racing in the last round of the World Endurance Championship.

It’s been several weeks since the most recent GP2 round in Malaysia, but I’ve filled that time racing in the WEC, first at Fuji in Japan, then Shanghai in China, and finally Bahrain. I was racing in the LMP2 class with the Manor team, and it’s been really good. I’ve really enjoyed it and it’s so different to GP2.

The LMP2 class is the one behind the super-fast factory LMP1 class. One of the rules of LMP2 is that each car has to have a ‘silver’-rated driver, which is usually either an amateur or a young guy who hasn’t yet proved himself at an international level. Because those of us who you might call professionals are so evenly matched, that means the result is heavily down to the silver. So as a ‘platinum’ driver, my focus has been on doing the best job I can individually. I’ve been really happy with what I’ve done, and hopefully it will lead to some good things for the future. We’ll see what that brings.

Back to GP2, and you may be surprised to hear that, even though I’ve been concentrating on WEC, I’ve somehow managed to squeeze in a day of preparation for Abu Dhabi at the DAMS base in Le Mans. It’s been a long time since Malaysia so it was important we got this done, and I’m encouraged by what we learned at DAMS. I’m coming into the weekend keeping an open mind and I’m just going to try to do my best and have a good final weekend in GP2.

Last year we were very fast. So many times last year the pace was good but we didn’t get good results. If you remember, in Abu Dhabi I was in the leading group but my tyres were finished, and the virtual safety car was called, preventing me from coming into the pits. I managed to get back up the order to finish eighth, which put me on pole for the reversed-grid race. I took the lead at the start of that, and was looking really good for the win, when there was a massive pile-up that took so long to clear that they had to abandon the race...



So my main concentration this weekend is on being fast and getting as close to the pace as we can. Yas Marina is a difficult circuit to overtake on, so qualifying is crucial – it doesn't lend itself to the most exciting races but it is cool to come here. We do qualifying and the feature race in the evening under the floodlights, which is a nice touch. That makes Abu Dhabi not only a special place to come to but a very nice place to race.

We're running the medium tyre for the prime and the super-soft for the option. That's a big split and only really possible because we'll be doing our super-soft stuff in the cooler evenings. That tyre degrades very quickly even in the evening, as we found out last year, and even making it to six laps, the earliest you can come in for a pit stop, is a challenge in itself. If we had the feature race in the usual afternoon slot, the super-softs would be like spreading butter on the track! So it definitely adds a spicy element to the race.

I just hope that works to my advantage this weekend rather than against me as it did last year. We've had a disappointing season at DAMS, and I'm ninth in the points, but some good results would leave me with an outside shot at a top-five position. I'll be going all-out for a great end to the year and to sign off in style.

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