Beat: Sports

INSIDE FORMULA ONE - PERFECT CHOREGRAPHY OF A MODERN PIT STOPS

UNDERSTANDING F1 RACING

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USPA NEWS - The precisely timed, millimetre perfect choreography of a modern pit stop is vital to help teams to turn their race strategy into success - changing a car´s tyres, replacing damaged parts and adjusting front wings in a matter of seconds...

The precisely timed, millimetre perfect choreography of a modern pit stop is vital to help teams to turn their race strategy into success - changing a car´s tyres, replacing damaged parts and adjusting front wings in a matter of seconds.

The car is guided into its pit by the "˜lollypop man´, named for the distinctive shape of the long "˜stop/ first gear´ sign he holds in front of the car. The car stops in a precise position and is immediately jacked up front and rear. Three mechanics are involved in changing a wheel, one removing and refitting the nut with a high-speed airgun, one removing the old wheel and one fitting the new one.

On tracks with debris or rubbish you often see mechanics removing this from the car´s air intakes during a stop, ensuring radiator efficiency is not compromised. And there is always a mechanic on stand-by at the back of the car with a power-operated engine starter, ready for instant use if the car stalls.

When they have finished their work the mechanics step back and raise their hands. It is the responsibility of the "˜lollypop man´ to acknowledge these signals and to control the car´s departure from the pit box, ensuring no other cars are passing in the pit lane. To improve this transition, many teams use semi-automated traffic light systems instead of the lollipop.

Given the importance of pit stops, it´s perhaps unsurprising that pit crews spend a considerable amount of time practising wheel changes. In fact, so well-honed are mechanics up and down the pit lane that routine tyre stops are now regularly completed in well under three seconds.

Formula One racing remains a team sport even during the race itself.

Source : Formula 1

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