

Schumacher puts brakes on pitstop to take up Ferrari job

By Edward Gorman, Motor Racing Correspondent

It was always hard to imagine the hard-working Michael Schumacher doing nothing as a retired Formula One driver — which is what he claimed he would do once he had finished on the track — so it came as no surprise yesterday that Ferrari should announce he is to take up a new job as “super-assistant” to their chief executive, Jean Todt.

A week after his final race at the Brazilian Grand Prix, a fighting performance that will live long in the memory, Schumacher was presented at a special Ferrari racing weekend at Monza as a potentially key player in the *Scuderia*'s team management for next year.

Todt described the seven-time world champion's role as acting as “an indispensable interface in the process of taking decisions for the future of Ferrari's sporting arm”, a description that could refer either to a consultancy role or something more fully involved.

“Michael is one of the greatest drivers in the history of motor racing,” Todt said. “He has a unique knowledge of racing, so we'll try to take advantage of his knowledge in the best way to make choices for the team at a sporting and technical level. He will be very close to us [but] he won't have any particular obligation to be present either at the factory or at the races or at private tests.”

Todt believes that Schumacher has a talent for spotting up-and-coming drivers and this will be part of his remit, together with monitoring the progress of present drivers. Next season Ferrari will continue with Felipe Massa, who won two races including the Brazilian Grand Prix last season, and are bringing in Kimi Räikkönen from McLaren Mercedes to replace Schumacher.

“Michael has always been interested in following young drivers,” Todt said. “I remember Michael talking to me about Felipe when he was in a lesser series. He also talked to me about Kimi before he entered F1. So he has a unique eye and it will be important to allow us to make choices on the drivers of the future and also to follow the current drivers.”

Schumacher, who was fêted by thousands of the Ferrari faithful at Monza, said that he needed to take two months off to clear his head before he thought about his new job. “I don’t think right now there is any need to specify in concrete terms exactly how and what I will do,” he said.

“Jean has just said what I’m interested in and where Ferrari feel I could be helpful. I’m very happy to be involved in this way, but I look forward first of all to getting some rest and then I’ll have a much clearer view on what I’d like to have.”

Schumacher’s presence should strengthen a team that will feel the shock of his absence on the track when they get to the first race of next season at Melbourne in March. Among his first duties could be helping Räikkönen to settle into Ferrari, which will be no easy task, not just because he is following Schumacher but also because Massa has made it clear that he will fight the Finn for team leader status.

While Schumacher has a new role after ten years with Ferrari as a driver, the technical director, Ross Brawn, who helped to mastermind all seven of Schumacher’s world titles, including two with Benetton, explained yesterday why he is taking a break after 30 years in Formula One.

“I just feel I need a little break to recharge my batteries and also to give some other guys at Ferrari, some of the guys with great prospects, an opportunity to show what they can do when they are given full responsibility,” Brawn said. The plan is for Brawn to take a year’s sabbatical, with the possibility of returning to the team in 12 months’ time. His place is being taken by Mario Almondo.

Brawn said that he had no plans to work for any other team and he has agreed with Todt and the Ferrari president, Luca Di Montezemolo, to have a meeting midway through next season to discuss a potential role for him.

“We’ll have a meeting to discuss how I feel about my sabbatical and how they feel about how the team is running and if it is possible for me to play a part in the future,” Brawn said.

LINK:

<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/article/0,,5923-2428218,00.html>

30 unknown words:

claimed – terjati

announce – naznaniti

super-assistant – glavni asistent

chief executive – izvršni šef

potentially key player – pooblaščen ključni igralec

management – vodstvo

champion's role – šampionova vloga

indispensable interface – nujno potrebna ploskev

refer – nanašati

consultancy – svetovalec

unique – edinstven

advantage – prednost

obligation – obveznost

spotting up-and-coming – opazovanje in prihajanje

remit -spregledati

lesser – manj vreden

unique eye – edinstveno oko (žilica)

feted – slaviti

faithful – zvest

specify – specializirati

concrete terms – konkretni termini

strengthen – okrepiti

absence – odsotnost

among duties – izmed dolžnosti

settle – nastaniti

mastermind – vodilna osebnost

opportunity – priložnost

sabbatical – svečana obleka

Journalist Mr. Gorman in his article is writing about situation after finished season F1 racing. He is talking about three important persons in F1: Michael Schumacher, Jean Todt and Ross Brawn.

Schumacher has stopped racing, after he won 7 world champions in F1. Now he is before important decision, what he will do in his future. After the racing in Monza he said, that he needs 2 months to get some rest and to clear his head, before he decides about his new job. But Ferrari has yesterday announced that he will accept a new job as super-assistant to their chief executive. His first duty will be helping Räikkönen to settle into Ferrari. It will be no easy task, because

Massa as the second driver at Ferrari has made it clear that he will fight the Finn for the team leader status. Jean Todt described Schumacher as one of the greatest drivers in history of moto racing. Schumacher has always been interested in following young drivers. He knows very good Massa and Räikkönen and also he has a unique eye to make choices on the drivers of the future. The technical director Ross Brawn, who has helped Schumacher to mastermind all 7 world titles, also explained why he is taking a break after 30 years in F1. He just needs long break, he is recharge his batteries and gives some other guys an opportunity to show what they can do. Brawn is planning a year's sabbatically with the possibility to returning to the team in 12 month's time.