

For immediate release

GAINS IN SPAIN FOR BAR HONDA

BARCELONA, SPAIN, January 10, 2000 – Lucky Strike Reynard BAR Honda continues an intensive pre-season testing programme with its new car, today concluding a three-day test at the Circuit de Catalunya, near Barcelona, before moving to Jerez, in southern Spain. After losing some running time on the first two days of the test while technicians dealt with niggling software issues, regular driver, Jacques Villeneuve, today put in a total of 55 laps, unofficially recording the second fastest time of the session.

The second BAR002 chassis is nearing completion at the team's Brackley headquarters and is currently scheduled to be shaken down at Silverstone, on January 26, by the team's newly signed test driver, Darren Manning.

JACQUES VILLENEUVE

"We lost a bit of time on the second day of the test because we kept having small problems, but these were then fixed and we learned some useful things in the process. We did quite a lot of work today figuring out suspension geometry and helping the Honda engineers to collect engine data. We're not quick enough yet, but it's coming along."

CRAIG POLLOCK, Managing Director, British American Racing

"We have done a great deal of useful work in our tests to date, the car's improved reliability allowing us to work on performance enhancement prior to the season in a way we weren't able to in 1999. What is heartening from my standpoint is that we are not encountering the same problems as we were at this time last year. The team is working cohesively and the atmosphere during the whole test has been extremely positive. We still have to work on our performance levels, though."

ROBERT SYNGE, Team Manager, British American Racing

"We feel that we are a lot further on now than at this time last year, but we're continuing to learn and have a lot to do before March 12, and 'D-Day' in Melbourne. Our test schedule sees us going straight from here to Jerez, where we will be running this coming Friday, Saturday and Sunday, with Ricardo Zonta having his first taste of the new car. Our next major test after this one will be in Kyalami, South Africa, the second week of February. We're looking forward to having the opportunity of testing the car in very high temperatures there and learning lessons that should be valuable to us in the first two races of the year, in Australia and Brazil."

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TAKEFUMI HOSAKA, F1 Project Leader, Honda R & D

"During the two tests in December, we checked the installation and performance level of RA000E and we have already addressed the issues arising from those tests. The purpose of this test was to gather basic data for new technical developments and make progress in performance level. I am very sorry we took a long time to solve the minor trouble we encountered on the second day, but in the end, we have managed to gather much of the information we required. For the next test, in Jerez, we will have to push forward with the new technology based on the new data we have found here."

Unofficial times**January 8 – overcast, damp track, cold**

Driver	Team	Time
R Barrichello	Ferrari	1:22.181
J Villeneuve	BAR Honda	1:23.750
P Diniz	Sauber	1:24.034
S Sarrazin	Prost	1:24.420

January 9 – clear, dry track, cold

Driver	Team	Time
M Salo	Sauber	1:24.090
J Herbert	Jaguar	1:24.264
R Barrichello	Ferrari	1:24.462
S Sarrazin	Prost	1:24.627
E Irvine	Jaguar	1:24.710
J Villeneuve	BAR Honda	1:26.283
P Diniz	Sauber	1:36.909

January 10 – clear, drying track, cold

Driver	Team	Time
R Barrichello	Ferrari	1:20.988
J Villeneuve	BAR Honda	1:23.059
M Salo	Sauber	1:23.324
S Sarrazin	Prost	1:23.581
J Herbert	Jaguar	1:23.831
E Irvine	Jaguar	1:24.009

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