

## [Transcript] Sky Sports F1 Podcast / Ted's Podbook | Will Verstappen break his Singapore curse?

Hello everybody and welcome back to the Sky Sports F1 podcast feed and to Ted's podbook from the Marina Bay Circuit in downtown Singapore. Well you join us at the end of a Thursday evening here it's what's the time it's about 11 p.m. but just walking outside the paddock I'm just at the base of the Singapore Flyer so we're in a public area but we're still nestled between the last corner so the Singapore Flyer you might have seen it goes between the last corner the last two corners pit entry and turn three after they come out of the first left and right hander so then it doubles back to the back of the paddock and then the long drive down Marina Drive down to turn four so that's where we are and we are here to update you with what has been happening on media day here is everybody has flown out here from the end of the European season last time out in Monza and the start of a Asian Southeast Asian and Asian doublehead here and in Suzuka Japan in a week's time which has got some very swizz-looking Porsches presumably it's the Porsche Carrera Cup Asia race who have been doing something on the grid and are now trundling past me speaking and going back to their paddock which I think is in one of the car parks the car park that serves the Singapore Flyer the Ferris Wheel so sorry if you can hear them in the background and well if you like that kind of sound of them grabbing their cars and engines in the background and there you go but yeah everyone seems to have journeyed well to the circuit apart from George Russell which I'll tell you about in a moment and looking forward to getting this very very different well I say it's very different it's the same old Singapore in terms of its it's very hot it's extremely humid and it's a probably the toughest physical demands of the drivers of the season but it's a very different track in the bit at the end in the last sector where they go under the grandstand is gone they are doing some construction around that area and it's meant that they can't race on the bit of track road that they used to and that means that they have to miss out that section and then go well straight on instead so we don't have that left-hander when they go down and go under the grandstand then a right-hander then come back out of it and then go down towards the sort of last chicane I think underneath the road again down to the pit entrance and the last two corners they don't have that anymore it means that lap times are going to be about 10 seconds 9 to 10 seconds quicker so we can have a whole heap of new lap records and the statisticians who work on these kind of things are going to have to reset their their stats because I don't think it's going back to the old layout although that is to be confirmed actually I'll ask that I'll ask the organisers whether when they finished all the road works it will go back to the old layout I think if it works in terms of driver feedback and making the race a little less on the edge of having to time out at two hours and works in terms of good racing and possibly good overtaking they'll keep it the way it is now but that's why they have changed it but do you want to know well what do you want to know first well let's go through all the teams shall we on in championship order as they are and

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starting off with Red Bull and I get on Sergio Perez in a second but I put it first to Max Verstappen that this was one of the tracks on which he has not one dot dot dot yet I said which are the other ones he said well Katar I said yeah but we only had a couple of races there were racing half there Vegas yes well that doesn't count because nobody's one there yet where was the other one he hasn't China I don't think he's one in China but we haven't been there for a while he did point out that there's been COVID and stuff like that but my point was does this give you now that you've done 10 in a row that's never been done before is it kind of a fun thing to say oh well you know here we are tell you what I've never won this race I'd really like to and undoubtedly yes not least the fact that he wants to win every races because that's the way he's programmed he's driving brilliantly and on his way to the championship and is having fun with the car as well so that was that was that there's another thing for him to to be perfect for in the team to be perfect for this weekend he's never won around here Sergio Perez of course has one so I greeted him you can hopefully see these interviews on Sky Sports dot com slash F1 with you know reigning winner here at Singapore and Perez was a bit more downbeat than the max in terms of how he thinks it's going to go here Sergio said it's challenging you know that in life when people use the word challenging when they mean difficult well Sergio seems to have got the sort of challenging bug so he says I think it's going to be a bit more of a challenging weekend than possibly you might expect but it's going to be a bit more difficult don't know will it but you know maybe it's just the way that Sergio works that car the RB 19 and its tires that he thinks is going to be more challenging for him than it will be for Max Verstappen anyway now look with Sergio then we got on to his reaction from the comments of Helmut Marker now if you didn't see this Helmut Marker appeared on service TV's program sport and talk which means as you might expect sport and talk service TV is a Austrian TV channel I think it's on cable it's on free to it anyway which is owned by Red Bull and it's a very so it's so because of that it's a very for its guests obvious and I've been a guest on this a long time in the past this program you know it's filmed in a Red Bull location usually sometimes you know usually hang a seven in Salzburg or it's filmed somewhere else that's a very sort of you know Red Bull location and obviously Helmut Marker felt when he appeared on it after Monza that he was in a safe space or amongst friends or wasn't going to be asked anything difficult so I'll leave you to see what he said I put this to Sergio Perez Sergio Perez said look he he called me and wrote to me afterwards apologizing Sergio said he's not that's not the person he is and I've accepted his apology and we move on Max Verstappen said pretty much exactly the same thing I phrased it differently to Max just to just to be kind of well you know you're you're he's been Helmut Marker has been your mentor can you kind of educate him as to his language and and what he's saying and Max's looks not my position to educate you know anyone not least Helmut Marker but you know when you do something wrong the thing to do is to

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recognize that to apologize to put it right and Helmut has done that and I accept that and I move on and he said we as a team Red Bull move on okay but then we also asked Lewis Hamilton because obviously he's been the most vocal in terms of pointing out that there is still racism in Formula One over the last you know three four five years he was a relevant Lewis is a relevant person to talk to because he's brought posts was it 2020 anyway his most attention to the fact that in his search you know his continued campaigning for racial justice Formula One is not exempt from its issues and Formula One and the FIA you know we race as one all of that support that they've done a lot of work to it which Lewis pointed to with Lewis's own Hamilton Commission and Mission 44 the Mercedes all the work they've done to draw attention to this there is still racism in Formula One I said look is it almost depressing to see it feels like we haven't come very far I said you know the last week there's this comments being made and Lewis said what's most unfortunate is that it's it's somebody at a high level you know this is one of the top two people it's together with Christian Horner in Red Bull Racing and he's you know racist comments like this are coming from Helmut Marco so what hope do any is it's anybody else have when that's unparalleled phrasing Lewis but please look at his quotes on as I say on Skye's social media channels or on our programs throughout the weekend why does anyone else have when this is guy one of the guys at the top and Lewis said I'm not surprised effectively I said now sorry now the pace cars going around on the race control cars anyway listen Lewis then also said it's no good just apologizing and expecting it to be all fine which is effectively what Max and check out was saying alright let's move on to Ferrari and Carlos Sainz I congratulated him on the podium in Monza he was saying you know look it's all part of I'm glad that people have noticed that's all part of me feeling better with the car recently and and the culmination of that over a few races where Leclerc's had podiums so far this year this year so but but Sainz hadn't that was particularly satisfying and why he was trying so you know doggedly at the end to to hold on to the to hold on to the podium and he was saying you know that's that's it's something I can build with build on coming here Carlos noted that or I asked him you know that there was a as Fred Vassar said there was a meeting in Maranello on the Monday after Monza did it come up about how stoutly you defended against your teammate he said well you know we talked about everything but it didn't come up particularly same kind of thing from Charles Leclerc he didn't really have a problem with Sainz's defenses he said he enjoyed the fight that's why he got into Formula 1 for but he didn't like that Sainz beat him in the end and he wants to put that right this weekend and Leclerc's always fast around here hasn't won around here of course I think the last Ferrari driver to win around here was Seb Betel but he always goes well around at Singapore he's lightning quick round here is Leclerc and he's hoping for the weekend where he can challenge Red Bull but doesn't expect anybody to actually beat them on

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pure pace said something would have to happen for Red Bull to upset them from being at least first and probably second as well but the final place on the podium then we get to Mercedes now George Russell apparently was getting a car from his hotel wherever that is which should to the track which was should only have been a five-minute car journey but they end up taking a wrong road out of the circuit or out of the hotel onto a flyover that they then couldn't get back on to so he said we were half an hour out of town and halfway to Malaysia he said before we realized we could actually get off one of the expressways probably got to Changi Airport and then back towards the circuit so it's a little bit of a confused journey trouble trouble getting in to Singapore which I was talking about earlier but yeah he was saying that he enjoyed his time going to the Rugby World Cup the opening game he used to play rugby which I didn't know George Russell was a fly half at school so when he played rugby so who knew that that's new for me but enjoys watching all sports and met Richie McCaw from the Kiwis from the All Blacks and was very happy to see that would love like to see an England game but his timings didn't work Hamilton thinks I said to Lewis do you think you know you're gonna go better here than Monza he said look I don't know you never know until you drive the car hopefully we will you know you need to George also said you spend FP1 getting your confidence with the car right and then you can work on setup and tyre wear and all of that but Lewis was yeah you know we might be we might not we'll have to wait and see. Alpine Esteban Ocon was looking for positivity in terms of is this track a bit like Monaco where he was on the podium and while it's not really especially as they've removed all the twiddly bits at the end it's better for them than Monza which was one of their most disappointing races of pretty much all time since Alpine came back into Formula 1 so there's optimism at Alpine it can't get any worse can't get any worse than Monza where I don't think they scored any points from memory and Ocon had to retire no they didn't just check my notes in front of me and but they can actually do better sorry I'm holding my yeah Gassley was 15th the knock on was a DNF in Monza of course they certainly didn't score any points there and a good line from Oscar Piazzari about how I put into that there are lots of Australians who were coming into Changi Airport the aforementioned Singapore Changi Airport when I was coming in at the same time and well attended by our friends from Australia and does that sort of feel like a you know nice place Oscar said well yeah it is still you know seven hours from the East Coast Sydney Melbourne or you know Canberra or wherever from or Adelaide I said yeah but that's a local flight it's a bit closer I think it's five hours from from Singapore to Perth but he said look you know this is somewhere that you know I love coming just as a person and I'm waiting can't wait to drive in Formula 1 and Lando oh yeah I said to how about the how about whether Oscar and Lando were called into a meeting with Andrea Stella after the race in Monza and said or you to no more hitting each other or touching each other on track with your

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cars and Oscar kind of downplayed that sort of as did Lando Lando said what do you mean Andrea Stella was absolutely fine with what we did not what we heard after Monza I've got to say but anyway an Oscar understood how the team had to undercut Lando which got Lando past him before his clash with Lewis Hamilton to defend from I think it was Fernando Alonso so the team had to do what was right strategically for the team even if it didn't work out particularly well for Oscar Piastri so yeah I did point out to Lando Norris that while I was delighted that Lando.jpg on Instagram is back he hasn't posted for three and a half months now and when he does he posts five selfies from inside of an aircraft toilet and did he not have a cabin crew member on the door knocking and saying hello sir are you alright in there do you need help well after he'd been in there for half an hour taking lots of pictures and seeing which was the right one and and did people not think it was funny when he took his camera into the toilet with him but he said no and he thought he looked cool and it was something different so I would look forward to seeing the return as Lando.jpg started here a few years ago of more pictures of aircraft toilets from Lando Norris actually no I don't talk about at Sauber which will be called Sauber next year. Joe Guan Yu is staying to be a Sauber driver next year of course how from here are disappearing as a sponsor next at the end of this season so well done Joe Guan Yu I'm really pleased about that because there was some doubt as to whether it was going to be him or Theo Porcher I thought I talked about oh I did talk about it on the notebook at the end of the Italian Grand Prix but Joe Guan Yu has confirmed that he can build on the progress that he's made with the team he's getting faster with every race he says and he's delighted to continue this journey with Sauber as Valtteri Bottas who already had a contract for next year anyway as Valtteri Bottas his teammate for next year so congratulations to Joe Guan Yu. Valtteri Bottas is optimistic about this weekend one of the many drivers are optimistic here on the Thursday as the upgrade that they've been waiting for for half the season has arrived it's here it's a new floor and it's a new diffuser and given that's where most of the downforce is found on these generation of Formula One cars Valtteri Bottas is extremely optimistic that Sauber can score some more points this weekend to add to the one point he scored for them in Monza. Lance Stroll was talking about wrist and hand breakages well he wasn't talking about it I asked him about it with Daniel Ricciardo who is in the paddock by the way and was saying look you know I understand how difficult it can be for Daniel because it all depends on where you dislocate and where you break and which bone you break and how you know whether it's a bad break there is such a thing as a bad break and a good break and he was lucky that it was quite a good break that Lance had when he came off his bike when he hit a pothole but Daniel it seems has got a bad break and is still recovering from his. I'll talk about Daniel in a second Fernando Alonso thinks that they can be back to the pace they had at Zandvoort where Fernando was pressuring Max for the race win at the end after the restart and he was a

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solid P2 so watch out for Aston Martin around here that is my tip for the weekend but he will have some competition from Ferrari and Mercedes so Ferrari Mercedes and Aston Martin again fighting with actually with with the upgrades that I forgot to tell you McLaren have got some upgrades but most all of them are only on Landon Orris's car. Oscar says he's got a couple of the little ones but he doesn't have all of the bits of the the upgrades which I think incorporate the new rear wing that was meant to come for Zandvoort but they didn't use it that will come for Oscar's car in Suzuka Japan next time round so that is why Landon might if there is a reason why Landon is a bit quicker than Oscar this weekend that'll be why because Landon has the upgrades and Oscar doesn't. Lance, yes Fernando, yes and well as quickly before we get on to Daniel Ricciardo they have expecting they're expecting lower tire degradation here they also have a new front wing Sidney Carlkenberg which he's quite excited about and Kevin Magnussen was saying that he thinks that with the lower tire degradation and a bit of luck and them taking opportunities that always arise here in Singapore then he is optimistic that word again that they can get some points here that they really need in their constructors fight with our Romeo Sauber. Now Daniel Ricciardo is here I will try and get a word with him at some point through the weekend maybe a little fly-by on the notebook. Have you noticed that Daniel Ricciardo is still in the Formula One titles at the beginning of the the feed before we joined Crofty and he says hello everybody have they not shot a Liam Lawson one? Maybe not or maybe they think if he's just debutizing then they're not going to redo the titles anyway maybe we'll get different titles I'm not sure they're not green screened Liam Lawson and something that has appealed to Liam Lawson is the fact that he was always badgering his dad to come here as a kid because it was quite near to New Zealand to this race and his dad was like I can't you know you can't get the time whatever never came and now he's brought his dad here now that he's a Formula One driver for the weekend that his dad never gave him so I think it's all very you know nicely intentioned but I was like right dad we finally got our trip to to the Singapore Grand Prix and it's and I'm paying for you so that's quite sweet. Lawson was saying that he is certainly in for here obviously and expecting to be Japan I don't think there's any question that Daniel Ricciardo will be ready with his hand for next week I think they're targeting Qatar in about three weeks time optimistically I think we said that in Monza last time anyway but Lawson of course wants to do Suzuka because having done a couple of races there already in Japanese Super Formula that's the circuit he knows best so if he can star and score points anywhere it's going to be Suzuka it wouldn't make much sense for him to be in the car and not do Suzuka so I think we can safely say that Liam Lawson is in for here Singapore and Suzuka next week and that's it for Alphatar oh yeah Yuki was saying there is this rumour going around I Yuki had seen it that he is going to be promoted to Red Bull Racing but in the kind of Alex Albarn reserve driver

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and apprentice role next year not driving Yuki of course said he doesn't want to do that whatever he's doing next year he wants to be race driving and he wants to stay at Alphatar in he says or whatever they're going to be called next year he says I think I know he says I know what I'm doing next year and it's going to be driving and then he said actually do I know what I'm doing started to question himself so we might play it to you this week throughout the weekend or look out for it because it was quite a funny moment I don't know whether he does know what he's doing maybe he does he should know his own I think he knows the contract trying to work it out with us and which leads us on mentioning Alex Albarn to finally Williams and I've shot a very nice piece with Alex Albarn in his home at heart Thailand we spent a couple of days with him early on this week so watch out for that on I think we're showing it on race day with Alex Albarn and he's saying it's nice to be here this year rather than last year when he was still recovering from his emergency appendectomy and the complications arising after that when he wasn't really fit last year but did come back and it's nice to be here feeling fully fit and ready to go thinks they're not going to be Williams are not going to be quite as quick as they were in Monza but they did go well in Zandvoort in Holland which is a more sort of higher downforce twisty layout like we have here and given that we've now lost three or four of the corners with a new layout maybe Williams could get a point or two here in there but Alex Albarn arrives here having been in Southeast Asia Bangkok just a couple of hours flight north of here in good form and ready for the weekend which leaves us looking forward to your company throughout the weekend as well free practice one 10 a.m. Friday free practice to these UK time so working out from there if you want free practice to 145 in the afternoon Friday afternoon free practice three 10 15 a.m. Saturday morning qualifying 1 p.m. on Saturday afternoon and the race at 11 30 we're on air on Saturday on Sunday morning with a midday 1 p.m. lights out for the Singapore Grand Prix where we hope to have your company will it be Max Verstappen 11 in a row wow or someone else come up with a Singapore sling that can put them into first place and on the top of the podium join us to find out thanks very much for listening bye bye