

Third Driver?

Contributed by Mark Talbot
Thursday, 12 February 2009

Well, as I said in my goodbye piece, "He says he has unfinished business in F1 - and I have learned to believe him completely."

True to form we now learn from Autosport.com "Red Bull boss Dietrich Mateschitz has confirmed the talks, and admitted that although not chosen for a race seat there was still interest in using the Japanese. "He has a good reputation in Japan," said Mateschitz. "He could work with us very well"."

Of course, his access to a race seat will depend on someone else being unavailable in either Red Bull or Torro Rosso.

No-one here wishes any driver ill, but we are at least bolstered by the fact that crashes and other sports can take drivers out. Webber is of course recovering ahead of schedule, but who knows?

If this comes to be it will be a bitter-sweet appointment. Taku would be at all the GP's just in case, but mostly watching others race. Anthony Davidson will tell you what a torture that can be - he once stood in for Taku at Malaysia and then had engine failure on the first lap (that was a bad weekend to be sat anywhere near me in Sepang).

The massive advantage though, is that Taku will be on hand and familiar with the car and the teams as soon as one of the other drivers messes up or gets hurt. It also keeps him in the pitlane and on people's mind. A year as an under-used third driver is heaps better than a year in the wilderness.

More hope, more waiting, more torture for us fans!