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GRANDE PRÉMIO DE MACAU  
MACAU GRAND PRIX

GAZETTE

# FAMILY SCHUMACHER AND MACAO

The Schumacher family has an illustrious relationship with the Macau Grand Prix, beginning with Michael Schumacher's first trip to the circuit in 1989. He had been competing in his rookie season in the German Formula 3 Championship with the team of his manager, Willi Weber, who would support Schumacher into F1 on his way to seven world titles.



A THRILLED MICHAEL SCHUMACHER FOLLOWING HIS DRAMATIC 1990 MACAU GRAND PRIX VICTORY

Schumacher won the first heat after Heinz-Harald Frentzen, his rival in the German championship, crashed out of the lead. And he was heading for victory in the second when he was sidelined by a broken gearbox.

Back he came in 1990, recently crowned as

German F3 champion, and the Macau Grand Prix became the scene of one of the most famous battles in its history: Schumacher versus fellow future F1 world champion Mika Häkkinen. As that year's British champion, Häkkinen was one of the favourites for honours with West Surrey Racing, running under the Team Theodore

banner, and the Finn beat Schumacher to honours in the first heat by 2.66 seconds.

Even though Schumacher got the jump in heat two, all Häkkinen had to do was sit in his wheel tracks to take overall victory. But, entering the final lap, he went for broke. The two collided,



MICHAEL'S BROTHER RALF SCHUMACHER MADE HIS MACAU GRAND PRIX DEBUT IN 1994, BEFORE WINNING THE RACE THE FOLLOWING YEAR

Häkkinen crashed, and Schumacher continued with his rear wing at a bizarre angle to beat Mika Salo and Eddie Irvine to glory.

By 1994, Schumacher's younger brother Ralf had established himself as a quick contender in German F3 with WTS. At the end of the season, he made a highly accomplished Macao debut to finish fourth, and that boded well for his return in 1995.

Ralf, who would go on to win six F1 Grands Prix with Williams in 1997, was truly at one with the Guia Circuit. In the 1995 edition of Formula 3 Macau Grand Prix, he qualified on pole and stayed calm out in front of the first heat. First he was challenged by Max Angelelli, then he weathered the storm of the challenge of Jarno Trulli and Pedro de la Rosa. It was just as well that this gave him pole for heat two. He was out in front when an enormous pile-up at San Francisco Bend caused the race to be red-flagged. When the restart was also halted, the fading light meant it was all over and Ralf was declared the deserving winner.

Twenty-two years later, the Schumacher name was back on the Macau Grand Prix grid in the form of Michael's son Mick. After a season in the FIA F3 European Championship with Prema Powerteam - running under the Theodore Racing banner of Teddy Yip Jr in Macao - Mick was the fastest rookie in qualifying for the 2017 race, taking seventh on

the grid. Just like his father, he was scuppered by gearbox problems in his maiden Macau Grand Prix but, after repairs in a pit stop, he rejoined to set fastest lap.

Mick returned to Macao in 2018 with Prema and Theodore as the new FIA F3 European champion, but clipping the wall hampered him in qualifying, and the amiable youngster could manage no better than sixth in the Qualification Race and fifth in the Grand Prix as Dan Ticktum made it two wins on the trot.

The following year, it was Mick's cousin David

Schumacher on the grid with the Sauber Junior Team of Charouz Racing System. It was always going to be tough for Ralf's son: he had only contested one F3 event when he arrived in Macao. For him, it would be a case of keeping it on the track, which he did to claim 21<sup>st</sup> position.

And so the affinity between one of the greatest names in motorsport history and the legendary Guia Circuit continues. How many more generations of Schumachers will make the pilgrimage to Macao in the decades ahead? 🏁



MICHAEL'S SON MICK THE FIRST OF TWO MACAO PILGRIMAGES IN 2017



RALF SCHUMACHER'S SON DAVID AT MACAO IN 2019