

Azerbaijan GP 2025 – Qualifying Report

A Wild Baku Qualifying

What a rollercoaster qualifying session! Despite the chaos, **Max Verstappen** once again proved why he's the benchmark in Formula 1. With the **RB21** in his hands, the Dutchman pulled out a lap of pure precision and bravery to secure **pole position**. As anticipated in our preview, Red Bull's pace, especially with Max behind the wheel, was always going to be a threat, and today confirmed it.

Standout Performances

- **Carlos Sainz** delivered one of his strongest qualifying laps of the season, putting the Ferrari where it didn't really belong.
- **Liam Lawson** surprised many with a brilliant effort, right up there with the top runners.
- At Mercedes, **Kimi** outqualified **George Russell** for the first time in a while, giving the Silver Arrows a promising **P4 and P5** starting spot.
- **Yuki Tsunoda** also impressed with a composed lap for **P6**.

The Big Losers

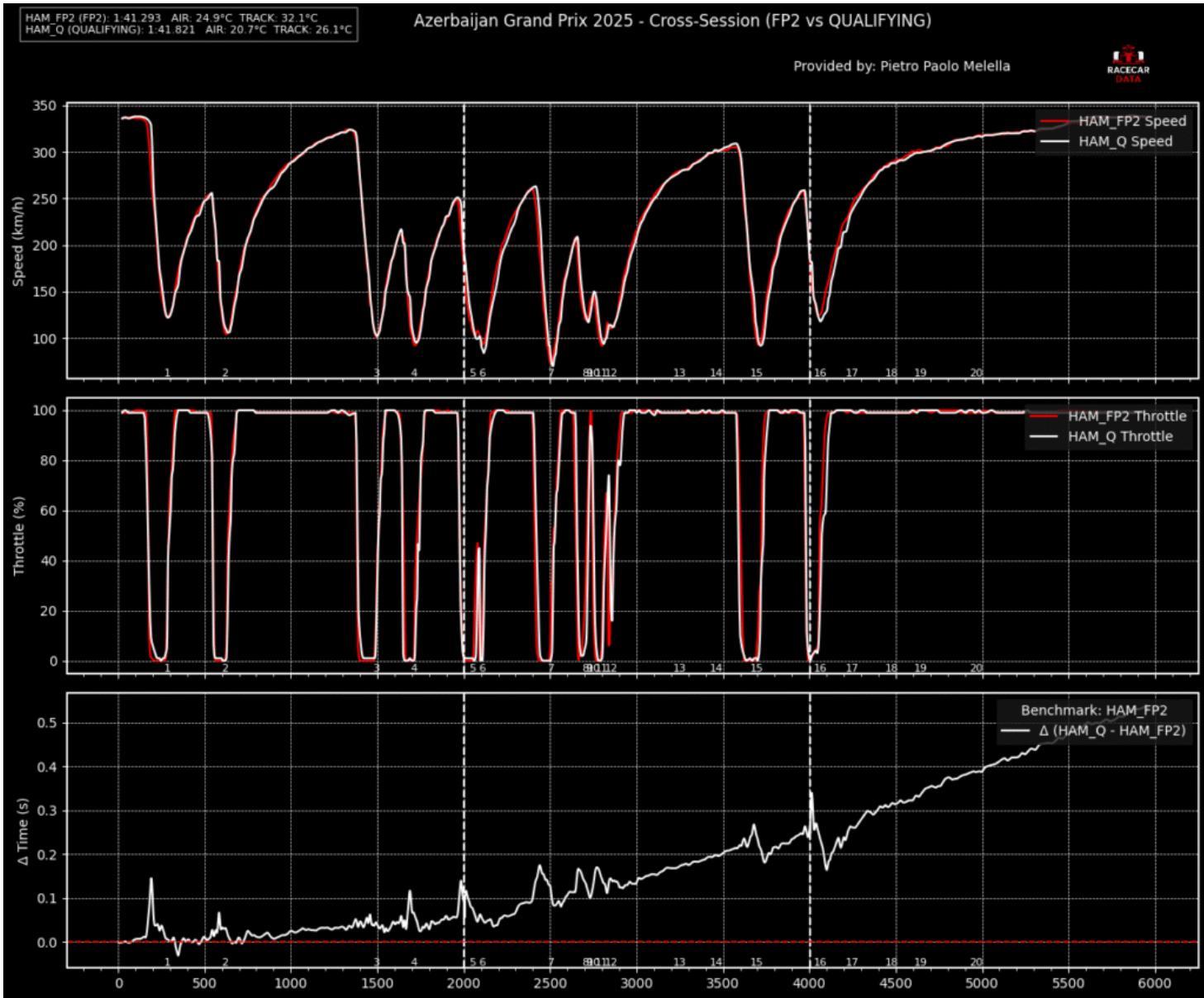
- **Ferrari (SF-25)** fell apart as track temperatures dropped, Leclerc made a mistake under pressure, while Hamilton couldn't even reach Q3.
- **McLaren** were caught out badly: Piastri hit the wall, and Norris exited too early, missing the best track conditions.

As we've often said, Ferrari remains an unpredictable wildcard, sometimes stagnating, sometimes regressing from Friday to Saturday. Unfortunately for them, that trend continued here.

Still, today was about Verstappen, Sainz, and Lawson, who all shone under pressure. Tomorrow's race promises pure chaos.

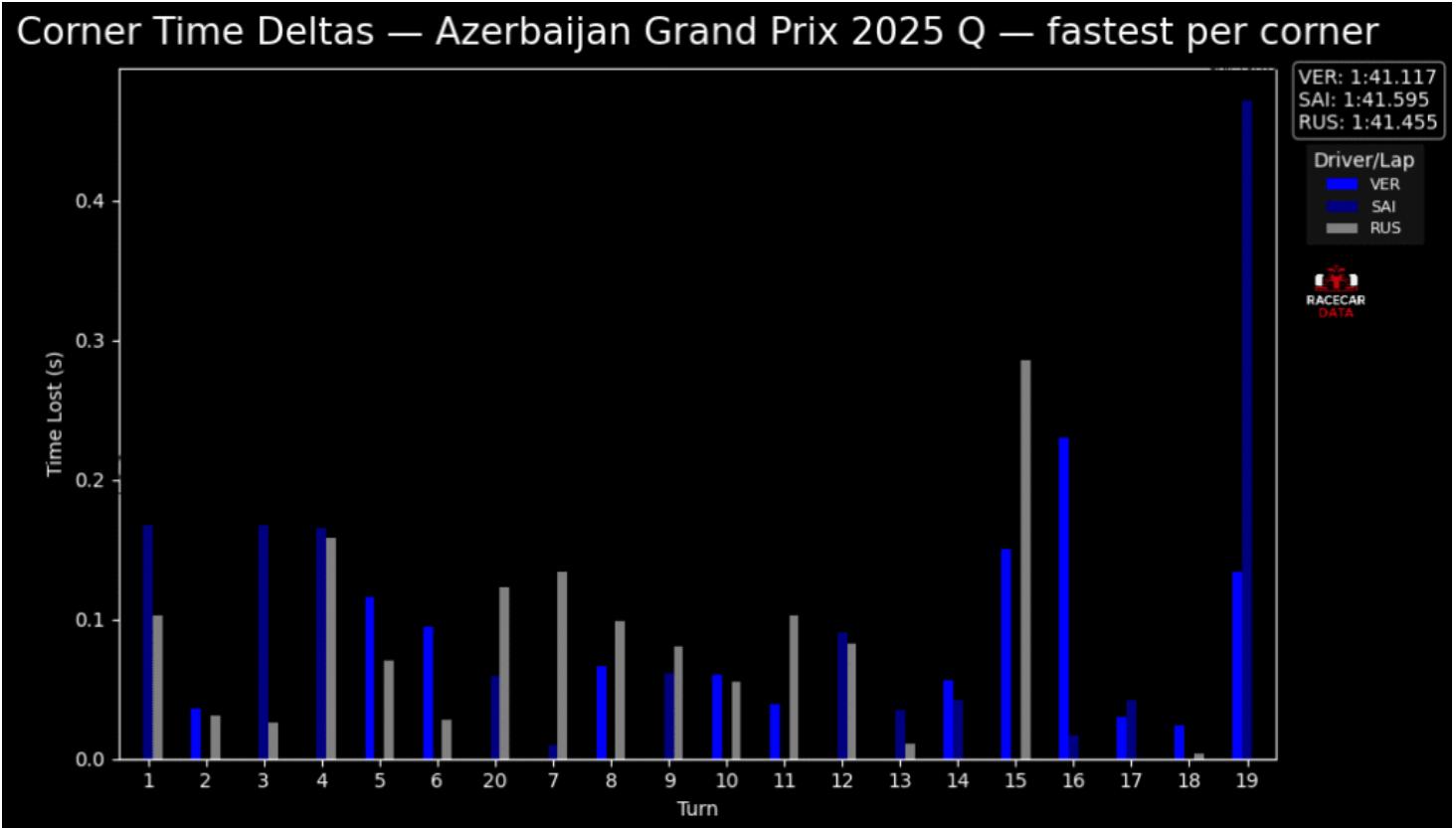
Data Insights from Qualifying

FP2 vs Qualifying – Hamilton's Struggles



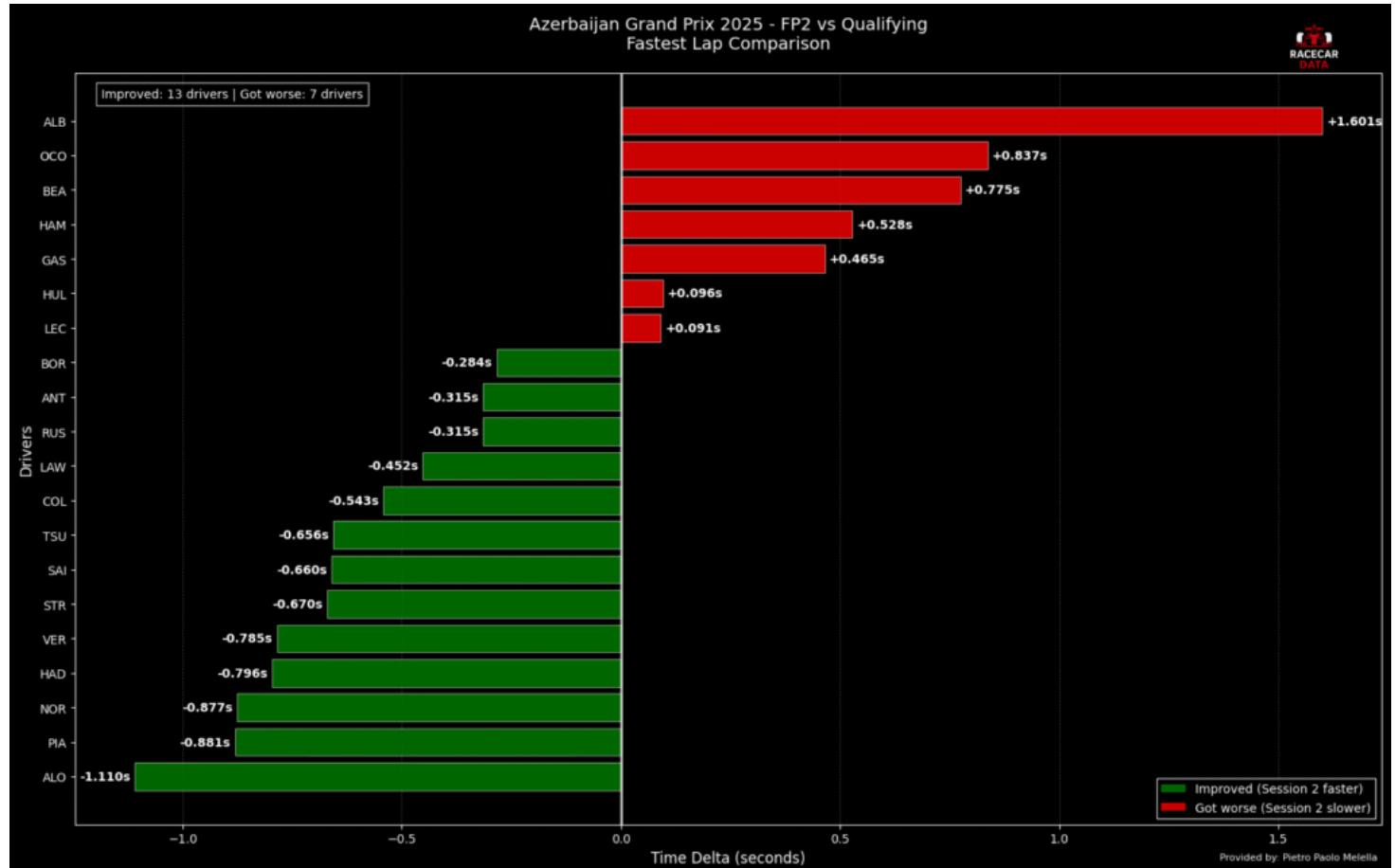
Hamilton couldn't carry his promising FP2 pace into qualifying. Comparing throttle traces and speed profiles, it's clear that he lost consistency in the traction zones and couldn't maximize the car under cooler track conditions.

Corner Time Deltas – Verstappen's Edge



Verstappen didn't dominate everywhere, but crucially, he was consistently quicker in the castle section (T8–T12) and the final braking zones, where confidence and commitment made all the difference.

Who Improved from FP2 to Quali?



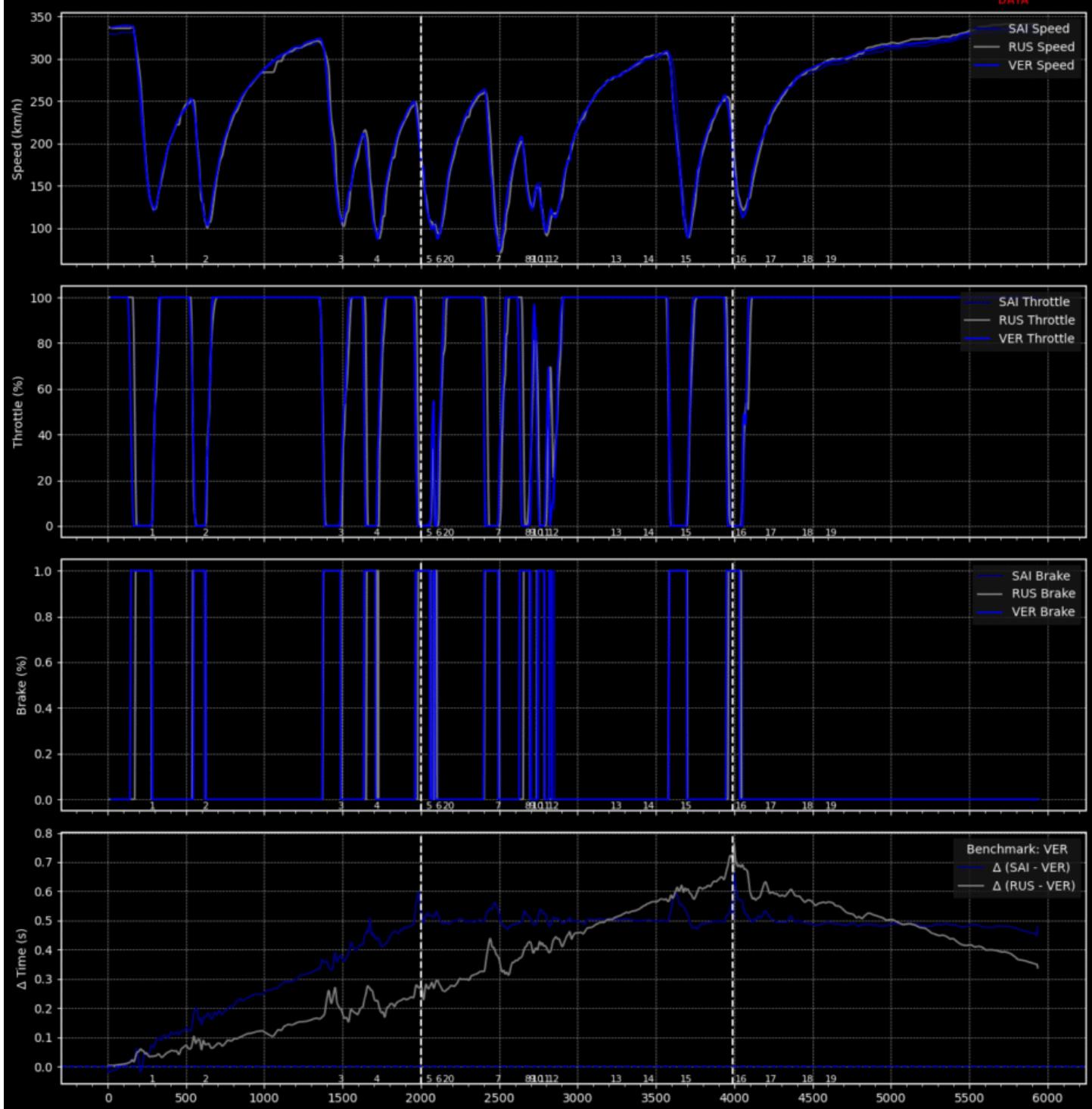
A fascinating split: 13 drivers improved, 7 went backwards. Alonso, Norris, and Verstappen all found big chunks of time, while Albon and Ocon were among the biggest losers. Ferrari again struggled to adapt, with Leclerc unable to extract more than a tenth between FP2 and Q.

Telemetry Comparison – Verstappen vs Sainz vs Russell

SAI: 1:41.595
RUS: 1:41.455
VER: 1:41.117 AIR: 20.7°C TRACK: 26.1°C

Azerbaijan Grand Prix 2025 Q

Provided by: Pietro Paolo Melella



Overlaying Verstappen, Sainz, and Russell's laps shows how Max carried more speed into low-speed corners and was braver on throttle application out of the slower turns. That made the decisive difference.

With a chaotic qualifying behind us, tomorrow's race promises to be nothing short of

spectacular. The narrow streets of Baku have a way of turning strategy upside down and exposing every weakness, while rewarding the bravest drivers with glory. With Verstappen on pole, Sainz and Lawson ready to strike, and Ferrari and McLaren desperate to recover, we're set for a Grand Prix that could deliver drama from lights out to the very last lap.