

= 2000 French Grand Prix =

The 2000 French Grand Prix ( formally the LXXXVI Mobil 1 Grand Prix de France ) was a Formula One motor race held on 2 July 2000 at the Circuit de Nevers Magny @-@ Cours , Magny @-@ Cours , Burgundy , France . It was the ninth race of the 2000 Formula One season and the 86th French Grand Prix . The 72 @-@ lap race was won by McLaren driver David Coulthard after starting from second position . His teammate Mika Häkkinen finished second with Rubens Barrichello third for the Ferrari team .

Coulthard started the race alongside Ferrari driver Michael Schumacher who began from pole position . Barrichello began from third on the grid and overtook Coulthard going into the first corner . Michael Schumacher maintained his start line advantage and kept the lead after the first round of pit stops . During the course of the second stint of the race , Michael Schumacher began to struggle with tyre wear , allowing Coulthard to close the gap and passed him on lap 40 . Coulthard maintained his lead through the second round of pit stops and won the race . Michael Schumacher retired on lap 59 with an engine failure promoting Häkkinen into second position . Barrichello took third , ahead of BAR driver Jacques Villeneuve in fourth .

The race was Coulthard 's third victory of the season , his first at Magny @-@ Cours , and the result meant that he reduced Michael Schumacher 's points advantage in the Drivers ' Championship to twelve points . Häkkinen remained third on 38 points , six ahead of Barrichello . In the Constructors ' Championship , McLaren 's one @-@ two finish allowed them to narrow the gap to Ferrari to be six points behind , with eight races of the season remaining .

= = Report = =

= = = Background = = =

The Grand Prix was contested by eleven teams , each of two drivers . The teams , also known as constructors were , McLaren , Ferrari , Jordan , Jaguar , Williams , Benetton , Prost , Sauber , Arrows , Minardi and BAR . Tyre supplier Bridgestone brought two different tyre types to the race : the Soft and the Medium dry compound tyres .

Going into the race , Ferrari driver Michael Schumacher led the Drivers ' Championship with 56 points , ahead of David Coulthard on 34 points and Mika Häkkinen on 32 . Rubens Barrichello was fourth with 28 points while Giancarlo Fisichella was fifth on 18 points . In the Constructors ' Championship , Ferrari were leading with 84 points , McLaren and Benetton were second and third with 66 and 18 points respectively , while Williams with 15 and Jordan with ten contended for fourth place . Ferrari and McLaren had so far dominated the Championship , winning the previous eight races . Championship competitors Fisichella and Barrichello had gained second @-@ place finishes while Ralf Schumacher and Heinz @-@ Harald Frentzen had achieved third place podium finishes .

Following the Canadian Grand Prix on 18 June , the teams conducted testing sessions at the Circuit de Nevers Magny @-@ Cours between 21 ? 23 June to prepare for the upcoming French Grand Prix . Coulthard set the fastest times on the first day , ahead of McLaren test driver Olivier Panis . Arrows driver Jos Verstappen lost control of his car after suffering a mechanical problem and crashed into the barriers at turn two . Verstappen sustained neck strain and withdrew from testing . He was later passed fit to compete in the Grand Prix . Coulthard remained fastest on the second day . Fisichella damaged the underside of his car 's chassis , limiting his testing time as Benetton made repairs to his car . Häkkinen was quickest on the final day of testing . Michael Schumacher stopped on circuit as his Ferrari engine failed , causing his team to fit a new engine into the chassis . Ferrari went to their private testing facility , the Fiorano Circuit , on 27 June where test driver Luca Badoer shook down three Ferrari F1 @-@ 2000 cars and also took part in pit stop practices .

After a poor race in Canada , where he stalled on the grid before the formation lap before receiving a ten @-@ second stop @-@ go penalty as his mechanics worked on his car 15 seconds before the race started , Coulthard said that Ferrari could still be caught in the season 's nine remaining races :

" We have to look towards Magny @-@ Cours and put this ( Montreal ) race behind us . The championship is not over yet and although we cannot change what happened in Canada , we can try to close the gap . " Former World Champion and President of the British Racing Drivers Club ( BRDC ) Jackie Stewart backed Coulthard to clinch the title after Häkkinen 's continuing run of poor results . Michael Schumacher came into the race confident that his car would perform well at the circuit . Benetton team principal Flavio Briatore played down his team 's chances saying , " We need a miracle to finish on the podium . "

= = = Practice and qualifying = = =

Four practice sessions were held before the Sunday race ? two on Friday , and two on Saturday . The Friday morning and afternoon sessions each lasted an hour . The third and final practice sessions were held on Saturday morning and lasted 45 minutes . The Friday morning and afternoon practice sessions were held in dry and hot weather conditions . Michael Schumacher set the fastest time in the first practice session , a 1 : 16 @.@ 474 , two @-@ tenths of a second quicker than Häkkinen . Prost driver Nick Heidfeld was third fastest , ahead of Ralf Schumacher . The two Jaguar drivers were fifth and seventh , Eddie Irvine ahead of Johnny Herbert . The pair were separated by Fisichella in sixth . Jean Alesi , Pedro de la Rosa and Jenson Button completed the top ten fastest drivers in the session . Four drivers did not set lap times : Coulthard 's car developed an mechanical fuel pump problem , Barrichello drove one installation lap to conserve tyres and both Jordan drivers decided to sit out the session . In the second practice session , Coulthard had a trouble @-@ free session and was fastest with a time of 1 : 16 @.@ 253 ; Häkkinen finished with the second fastest time . The Ferraris were second and fourth , Michael Schumacher was faster than Barrichello . Sauber 's Mika Salo was fifth quickest , ahead of Fisichella . Trulli , Heidfeld , Ralf Schumacher and Frentzen followed in the top ten .

The weather remained dry and hot for the Saturday morning practice sessions . Coulthard set the fastest time of the third practice session , a 1 : 15 @.@ 965 . Häkkinen was second fastest , almost two @-@ tenths of a second off Coulthard 's pace . The two Jordan drivers were running quicker ; Trulli in third and Frentzen in fourth . Both Jaguars continued to be quick with Irvine fifth and Herbert eighth . The two were separated by Michael Schumacher and Button . Barrichello and de la Rosa rounded out the top ten . In the final practice session , Coulthard was unable to improve his time because of an engine failure though he remained fastest . Häkkinen managed to set a quicker time and remained with the second quickest lap . Barrichello ran quicker and was third fastest , in front of Ralf Schumacher . The Jordan drivers remained fastest ? Trulli was fifth and Frentzen sixth ? their best times two thousands of a second apart . Irvine was seventh quickest , ahead of Michael Schumacher who concentrated on qualifying set @-@ up . Button and Herbert completed the top ten ahead of qualifying .

Saturday 's afternoon qualifying session lasted for an hour . Each driver was limited to twelve laps , with the grid order decided by the drivers ' fastest laps . During this session , the 107 % rule was in effect , which necessitated each driver set a time within 107 % of the quickest lap to qualify for the race . The qualifying session was held in dry and hot weather conditions . The air temperature ranged between 27 ? 28 ° C ( 81 ? 82 ° F ) and the track temperature ranged from 33 ? 35 ° C ( 91 ? 95 ° F ) . Michael Schumacher clinched his fourth pole position of the season , his third at the circuit , with a time of 1 : 15 @.@ 632 . He was joined on the front row of the grid by Coulthard with his fastest time was 0 @.@ 102 seconds slower and used his team 's spare monocoque while the McLaren mechanics fitted his race car with a new fuel pump . Barrichello secured third having changed his car 's set @-@ up during the session which garnered confusion over changes in the ride height . Häkkinen took fourth and was pushed down to his position by Barrichello with the Finn struggling in the slow speed corners . Ralf Schumacher qualified fifth and was happy with his starting position . Irvine was pushed down by Ralf Schumacher to sixth in the closing stages of qualifying . BAR driver Jacques Villeneuve managed seventh . The Jordan drivers of Trulli and Frentzen took seventh and eighth positions respectively although both drivers were disappointed with their performance . Button rounded out the top ten fastest qualifiers . Herbert , who took

eleventh , missed out in qualifying in the top ten by nearly three @-@ tenths of a second . Salo captured twelfth on the grid with his fastest time set when air and track temperatures were lowered by cloud cover . He was ahead of de la Rosa in the faster of the two Arrows . Fisichella started from 14th position , nearly one @-@ tenth of a second in front of Benetton teammate Alexander Wurz ; both drivers complained that their cars had balance and grip issues . The two were split by Pedro Diniz in the other Sauber and Heidfeld . Alesi followed up in 18th . Ricardo Zonta set the 19th fastest time and used BAR 's spare car when an engine failure on his race car occurred . Verstappen and the two Minardi drivers Marc Gené and Gastón Mazzacane qualified at the rear of the grid , covering positions 20 to 22 . After the qualifying session , but before the warm @-@ up period , the Fédération Internationale de l'Automobile ( FIA ) safety delegate , Charlie Whiting announced that he had banned practice starts at the pit lane exit after observing the drivers ' behaviour in the area during the Saturday free practice sessions .

== Race ==

The drivers took to the track at 09 : 30 CEST ( UTC + 2 ) for a 30 @-@ minute warm @-@ up session . Both McLaren cars maintained their good pace from qualifying ; Häkkinen had the fastest time of 1 : 19 @.@ 329 . Coulthard was second in the other McLaren car . Michael Schumacher set the third fastest time with Trulli rounding out the top four . Michael Schumacher drove the spare Ferrari car and his race car , making adjustments to the changeable weather conditions .

The race started at 14 : 00 local time . The conditions on the grid were dry before the race . The air temperature ranged from 27 ? 28 ° C ( 81 ? 82 ° F ) and the track temperature was between 38 ? 39 ° C ( 100 ? 102 ° F ) ; conditions were expected to remain consistent throughout the race . All drivers started on the Extra Soft dry compound tyres . Coulthard managed to achieve a better start of the front runners off the line , though Michael Schumacher moved into the McLaren driver 's path to defend his lead . Coulthard then moved to his right allowing Barrichello to pass him for second position . Salo made the best start in the field moving from twelfth to ninth by the end of the first lap , while Irvine lost four positions over the same distance as Ralf Schumacher dropped from fifth to seventh . At the completion of the first lap , the order was Michael Schumacher , Barrichello , Coulthard , Häkkinen , Villeneuve , Frentzen , Ralf Schumacher , Trulli , Salo , Irvine , Button , Herbert , de la Rosa , Heidfeld , Alesi , Fisichella , Verstappen , Zonta , Diniz , Wurz , Gené and Mazzacane .

Michael Schumacher began to pull clear from the rest of the field and set consecutive fastest laps . Barrichello began to hold up the McLaren drivers to allow his teammate to extend his lead . Further down the field , Trulli passed Ralf Schumacher to take seventh position on lap two . Heidfeld was overtaken by Alesi for 14th on the same lap . On the following lap , Ralf Schumacher retook seventh position from Trulli . Heidfeld lost a further position to Fisichella on lap four . Ralf Schumacher started to challenge Frentzen for sixth position on the fifth lap . At the front of the pack , Michael Schumacher was in control , extending his lead over Barrichello to five seconds by lap ten . Button took tenth position from Irvine on lap twelve , while Heidfeld collided with Alesi , sending his teammate into a spin who rejoined down in 18th . Button moved into ninth place when he passed Salo on lap 13 . Zonta , who was running 17th , suffered brake problems on lap 17 and collided with the tyre barriers which caused him to retire from the Grand Prix .

By the 18th lap , Michael Schumacher had extended his lead over Barrichello by 6 @.@ 2 seconds , who in turn was continuing to hold up Coulthard in third . Häkkinen was a further 1 @.@ 4 seconds behind his teammate but was drawing ahead of Villeneuve in fifth . Herbert made an unscheduled pit stop due to a gearbox issue and retired two laps later . Meanwhile , on the same lap , Alesi became the first driver to pit for tyres on the same lap . Trulli became the first front runner to pit on lap 21 , followed by Villeneuve , Frentzen and Ralf Schumacher . Coulthard managed to take Barrichello on lap 22 for second place at turn five . Häkkinen , Button , Michael Schumacher , Coulthard and Barrichello all made pit stops over the following three laps . Verstappen pulled onto the side of the pit straight to retire with gearbox problems on lap 26 . Coulthard was able to close the gap on Michael Schumacher to under a second by lap 32 , having set the fastest lap of the race in

the process , a 1 : 19 @. @ 479 on the 28th lap . He attempted to overtake his rival two laps later but the Ferrari driver defended his position . Coulthard lifted off the throttle to avoid a collision and made a hand gesture towards Michael Schumacher . The manoeuvre allowed Häkkinen to close up on the two leading drivers . On the previous lap , Mazzacane spun off at the third corner and retired .

Wurz locked his brakes going into turn 15 , causing him to beach his car in the gravel trap and retired on lap 36 . Button became the first driver to pit twice on lap 39 . Coulthard replicated his manoeuvre into turn five on Michael Schumacher on lap 40 , with the Ferrari driver pushed to the side of the track by Coulthard who took the lead . Michael Schumacher 's right front wheel made slight contact with Coulthard 's left front tyre in the process . Michael Schumacher then immediately withstood Häkkinen 's attempts to overtake him . Frentzen and de la Rosa became the next two drivers to make pit stops on the same lap . Michael Schumacher and Häkkinen made pit stops for the second time on lap 43 and both emerged in third and fourth respectively . Barrichello 's pit stop on the 44th lap saw him drop to fifth after his team had issues with fitting his right front tyre . Coulthard and Ralf Schumacher made pit stops over the next two laps . At the completion of lap 48 , with the frontrunners completing their pit stops , the order was Coulthard , Michael Schumacher , Häkkinen , Barrichello , Villeneuve , Trulli , Ralf Schumacher , Frentzen , Button , Fisichella , Salo , Diniz , Heidfeld , Irvine , Alesi and Gené .

At the tail @- @ end of the field , Gené and Alesi made contact on lap 52 and both drivers were sent spinning sideways . Both drivers continued in their respective positions . Further up , Ralf Schumacher passed Trulli to clinch sixth position at turn five . Häkkinen , meanwhile , was less than one second behind Michael Schumacher by lap 53 and continued to battle the Ferrari driver for second position as his tyres degraded quicker than the McLarens . Irvine overtook Diniz for twelfth position two laps later . Michael Schumacher pulled over to the side of the track with an blown engine on lap 59 . Häkkinen was promoted to second place as a result of Michael Schumacher 's retirement . Coulthard crossed the finish line on lap 72 to take his third victory of the season in a time of 1 ' 38 : 05 @. @ 538 , at an average speed of 116 @. @ 330 miles per hour ( 187 @. @ 215 km / h ) . Häkkinen finished second 14 @. @ 7 seconds behind , ahead of Barrichello in third , Villeneuve in fourth , Ralf Schumacher in fifth and Trulli rounded out the points scoring positions in sixth . Frentzen , Button , Fisichella , Salo , Diniz and Heidfeld followed in the next six positions , with Irvine , Alesi and Gené the last of the classified finishers .

== = Post @- @ race == =

The top three drivers appeared on the podium to collect their trophies and in the subsequent press conference . Coulthard described his race weekend as " exhausting " because of the problems his team encountered during the event . He also apologised for the hand gestures he made towards Michael Schumacher after his first overtaking manoeuvre on the Ferrari driver . Häkkinen stated that he was happy with his second @- @ place result and praised his team 's efforts . He also spoke of how he watched Michael Schumacher 's racing lines and believed he would have passed him had he not retired with an engine failure . Barrichello revealed that he was ordered by Ferrari to reduce his pace in the race 's closing stages as he held a large gap of 35 seconds to Villeneuve .

After Ferrari 's victory at the previous race , their team principal Jean Todt , said that " we seemed to be in a strong position but , of course , it is the order at the finish that counts " , while Michael Schumacher said that his car 's tyres dropped in performance after taking his first pit stop . McLaren technical director Adrian Newey said that the pit stop strategy was crucial in winning the race : " The tyre wear did not spring any surprises on us and we were able to trust our estimations and co @- @ ordinate the pit @- @ stops to our best advantage . " Villeneuve was happy with his strong finish and was surprised by his good start . Heidfeld , who made contact with his teammate Alesi during the race , apologised for the collision . Ralf Schumacher said that he reduced his pace to secure his fifth position . Trulli described his race as " difficult " because of the hot temperatures though he praised his mechanics for their work .

The overtaking manoeuvres made by Coulthard on Michael Schumacher received much media attention after the race . Coulthard accused the Ferrari driver of unsporting behaviour and

dangerous driving , saying : " I had a clean run at Michael on the outside and equally I felt he drove me wide . You could say he had the right to do that because he had the track position , but I think it was a deliberate gesture in trying to run someone wide like that and I was very angry . " Michael Schumacher later denied any wrongdoing and cited an similar incident at the 1999 Japanese Grand Prix where Coulthard pushed him wide although no objections were made . He also admitted that he did not see Coulthard 's hand gesture . Coulthard sought clarification with the FIA over such overtakes with a source from Formula One 's governing body noting : " It was hard racing -- they are racing drivers aren 't they ? " GrandPrix.com said that Coulthard 's overtake meant that " He is ready to stand up to Michael and he is not afraid of what will happen if Michael does not lift . "

The race result meant that Coulthard narrowed the gap to Michael Schumacher in the Drivers ' Championship to twelve points . Häkkinen remained in third place , six points ahead of Barrichello . Fisichella behind them maintained fifth position . In the Constructors ' Championship , McLaren 's one @-@ two finish reduced the lead of Ferrari to six points . Williams made up two points on the Benetton team , although they were still one point behind . Jordan retained fifth on eleventh points , with eight races of the season remaining .

= = Classification = =

= = = Qualifying = = =

= = = Race = = =

= = Championship standings after the race = =

Note : Only the top five positions are included for both sets of standings .