

WET PORTUGAL PRACTICE FOR A1 TEAM LEBANON IN A1 GRAND PRIX

21 October 2005.../A1 Team Lebanon were greeted by the typical unpredictable weather conditions of Estoril today for the first day of practice in the A1 Grand Prix of Nations, Portugal. Basil Shaaban is set to drive throughout the weekend, returning to the car after sitting out the German round of the Series while team mate Khalil Beschir took the wheel. In the first of the two official practice sessions Shaaban posted 20th fastest time and in the second session 23rd quickest in appalling weather conditions.

Shaaban was able to gain valuable test mileage in two additional all-team testing sessions in the morning, although the changing conditions challenged all the drivers, with a drying circuit forcing teams to continually change car set up to suit the track. After the sessions Shaaban was positive for tomorrow, saying, "It's been a difficult day with the changing weather. No two laps were the same and the red flags were flying regularly which made it difficult to find a good rhythm. We'll review the data tonight and we should be able to make some improvements for tomorrow."

Martin Dixon, A1 Team Lebanon Team Manager, adds, "It's not easy for Basil to get back on the pace after a few weeks out of the car - we have to remember he hasn't driven since the first day of practice at Brands Hatch nearly one month ago. We spent most of our sessions on wet set up, so we didn't optimise the car for the drying track in the late afternoon. This type of weather, when it's raining hard one minute, light rain the next makes it a challenge for the drivers and engineers to get the best out of the car. Many more experienced drivers than Basil left the track on numerous occasions.

A1 Team Lebanon will be back out on track tomorrow morning for a third practice session with four segments of afternoon qualifying in the afternoon.

The A1 Grand Prix of Nations in Portugal concludes the European leg of the Series, with the 25 national teams moving eastwards to Australia, Malaysia and Dubai, the final three races of 2005, with the Series resuming action in 2006 in Indonesia, then heading to South Africa, USA, Mexico, Brazil and China.

For further information on A1 Team Lebanon visit www.A1TeamLib.com.

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A1 Team Lebanon photographs are available for download from www.a1gp-photos.com/lib.

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