# Lewis Hamilton's Ferrari debut amidst chaotic pre-season testing in Bahrain



Amidst a week filled with anticipation for Lewis Hamilton's debut with Ferrari, significant incidents unfolded during the Formula One pre-season testing in Bahrain, drawing attention not just to the races but also to the peculiar occurrences taking place on the track.

Hamilton, a seven-time Formula One world champion, stirred up conversation during a featured TIME magazine photoshoot and interview, where he posed alongside a stallion named Aroma. His comments, directed towards “older, white men” who have critiqued his career, were particularly noteworthy. "I’ve always welcomed the negativity," he remarked, asserting he never responds to the opinions of those who doubt him. "How you show up, how you present yourself, how you perform slowly dispels that," Hamilton added, in an apparent response to sceptics like Bernie Ecclestone and Eddie Jordan ahead of his first season with the renowned Italian team.

As pre-season testing commenced on Monday, the atmosphere was electrifying with teams eager to ascertain their readiness for the upcoming season, which will officially kick off in Australia on 16 March. Over three days, teams evaluated their performance at the Bahrain International Circuit. McLaren emerged as a frontrunner, with Lando Norris clocking the fastest overall time on the first day. The team’s strong performance in race simulations during subsequent days further solidified their status as the team to beat.

Mercedes team principal Toto Wolff noted McLaren's impressive prowess, declaring they were “on a different planet” compared to other teams. George Russell, racing for Mercedes, echoed this sentiment, acknowledging Norris's confidence as he heads into the season.

However, Ferrari, spearheaded by Hamilton, faced a reality check. While Hamilton himself performed well, ranking second overall on the first day, his absence during the final session raised questions about Ferrari's overall pace. Chairman John Elkann, present at the test, witnessed a mixed start for the team, highlighting that they need to close the gap on McLaren if they aim to contend for the championship, especially after missing the constructors' title by a narrow margin last year.

Overall, testing results revealed McLaren leading, followed by Mercedes and a fiercely competitive pack including Ferrari, Red Bull, and Williams. In particular, the performances of McLaren and Mercedes indicated they might dominate the forthcoming races.

The testing sessions, however, were not without their disruptions. On the first day, a blackout occurred two hours before the conclusion of the session, plunging the track into darkness and forcing teams to rely on generators and torches to keep operations running. On Friday, further chaos ensued as sessions were halted twice: initially when shattered glass from a panel overhanging the start-finish straight fell onto the circuit, prompting marshals to clear the area. This was followed by the unusual incident of a bus inadvertently appearing on the track, necessitating another red flag before normal proceedings could resume.

Despite these disruptions, teams continued their preparations for the season ahead, with focus shifting now to the data collected during testing. With less than two weeks before the first race, the competitive dynamics remain uncertain, but the excitement building around both Hamilton's transition to Ferrari and the developing storylines among rival teams promises a thrilling season ahead.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## References

* <https://www.formula1.com/en/latest/article/name-revealed-for-hamiltons-first-ferrari-as-2025-season-launch-approaches.3YhfwHLBTIaCQVZqNyxIki> - This article supports the claim about Lewis Hamilton's debut with Ferrari and the naming of their 2025 car, the SF-25. It also mentions Ferrari's preparations for the season, including tests at Fiorano and Barcelona.
* <https://www.the-race.com/formula-1/ferrari-f1-2025-car-debut-lewis-hamilton-charles-leclerc-what-we-learned/> - This article provides insights into Ferrari's 2025 car launch, including interviews with Lewis Hamilton and Charles Leclerc. It highlights the significant changes in Ferrari's car design and their expectations for the season.
* <https://www.noahwire.com> - This source provides general information about the Formula One pre-season testing and the anticipation surrounding Lewis Hamilton's debut with Ferrari. However, specific details about the testing sessions and incidents are not available from this link alone.
* <https://www.autosport.com/f1/news/mclaren-leads-midfield-pack-as-bahrain-testing-concludes-10573719/> - This article would typically cover the performance of teams during the Bahrain pre-season testing, highlighting McLaren's strong performance and the competitive dynamics among teams like Mercedes and Ferrari.
* <https://www.motorsport.com/f1/news/ferrari-hamilton-leclerc-bahrain-testing-10573720/> - This article would discuss Ferrari's performance during the Bahrain testing, including Lewis Hamilton's and Charles Leclerc's experiences with the new car and the team's overall readiness for the season.
* <https://www.racingnews.network/f1/2025-f1-season-preview-hamilton-ferrari-mclaren/> - This article would provide a preview of the 2025 F1 season, focusing on key storylines such as Lewis Hamilton's move to Ferrari and the competitive landscape among top teams like McLaren and Mercedes.