

Raging Red Bull

Upfront with F1 racing legend David Coulthard

What have been your highlights from the season so far? Seeing Red Bull Racing develop into a front line winning team was tremendously satisfying when I was part of the growing pains from 2005 onwards.

What do you know about Yas Marina Circuit in Abu Dhabi?

I will have the chance to drive the track after the Japanese Grand Prix for the BBC so I will be able to comment more after that. I was in Abu Dhabi for a Red Bull Air Race and found the place to be liberal and enjoyable so I am looking forward to the end of season party.

As the final leg of the championship, how important to the F1 world will the Abu Dhabi Grand Prix be?

If the championship is balanced then Abu Dhabi will be the decisive race weekend where the champion is crowned. This year looks like that will happen so hopefully the next seven years will prove as exciting.

How successful can Sebastian Vettel be? Could he be the next Schumacher?

He doesn't need to be the next anyone, he simply needs to try and maximise his opportunities and develop his talent to the maximum. Michael Schumacher had an amazingly successful career but there are some grey areas over certain events that happened during that period, which unfortunately take away a little from his results.

FAST FACTS
David Coulthard, often called DC, is the top scoring British F1 driver of all time. In his home village of Twynholm, there is a museum dedicated to him

From what I can see of Sebastian he is a true sportsman and humble given such young years.

How hard will the track be for both Vettel and Mark Webber?

In comparison to Monaco it's unlikely that it will be a challenge they can't easily meet. How the car performs is the bigger question and it depends on many variables that we don't yet know.

Could you see yourself coming out of retirement in the future the same way that Schumacher almost did during the summer?

If the opportunity or need was great enough then why not. I raced for 26 years so it is firmly in my DNA.

Overall, has it been a good season so far for Red Bull Racing?

Once you have tasted victory you want more so the team can always look back and see areas where they could have been stronger. That's part of competing on the world stage and you only have to look at Ferrari, BMW, Toyota, Renault to see teams that would have loved our results this year.

Have you enjoyed your first season as a consultant with Red Bull?

Dealing with the lack of adrenalin in my life is the biggest challenge but otherwise I have slipped into my new role easily and - like always - whatever I do I just want to do it well and with no regrets. 🙄

WORDS Mike MacEacheran

