

17th May 2023**2023 EMILIA-ROMAGNA GRAND PRIXVIEW****Nyck de Vries**

"Miami was a great show. Clearly, the promoters had invested a lot. I wasn't racing there last year but I did attend and this year they've made improvements to make it an even better event; it was great! It's just very different from European races. The Americans really know how to create entertainment around sport! However, having said that, I'm now also very pleased to be back in Europe and to be racing on tracks that I know well. That all starts this weekend in Imola, a home race for Scuderia AlphaTauri, and having raced for Italian teams in other categories I know just how important this event is. The factory is such a short distance from the track, so a lot of staff will be able to attend and see the results of all their hard work and cheer us on, and this will make it even more special. The Imola track is interesting, it's quite narrow compared to more modern circuits so overtaking is tricky and there's a real variety of corner types, so you need a car that performs well through all of them. We did a bit of pre-season running there, which will be useful. It's going to be a busy time with three races on consecutive weekends. That can be tough especially for the mechanics, but personally I have no concerns about it.

"Since the last race, I've been back in the UK in the simulator, where we started with some Miami correlation work and then looked at the next three circuits. After that I was home very briefly before heading to Poland for an Orlen event with Yuki, where we celebrated his birthday together.

"It's great that the first race in Europe is a home one for the team. We really hope to deliver a strong result there. Of course, the last two weekends have been tough, but I think there have been encouraging moments as well. We just have to be able to put the pieces together and I'm sure the results will come."

Yuki Tsunoda

"We've done nearly a quarter of the season now and although it's been a pretty tough start, I think I can be quite pleased with my performance overall, never finishing lower than eleventh, including two tenth places. Miami had been particularly difficult and so I hadn't expected to find the pace we did on Sunday. The team did a really good job to achieve that.

"I've been very busy since then, flying to the UK to work in the simulator and then, I celebrated my birthday on the Thursday after Miami by going to an event for our sponsor Orlen, in Poland. I got a nice gift from them for my birthday: a Polish national football team jersey from Robert Lewandowski, who plays in La Liga for Barcelona.

"Now it's time for Imola, a home race for the team and for me, so I'm looking forward to it. Last year, I finished seventh after qualifying 16th, so I have good memories of that weekend. It's an event that means a lot for many reasons. First of all, we are bringing several upgrades to the car, so I hope they work well. We have high expectations for them, which we believe could allow us to make a significant step forward. If that is the case, then we must really maximise the opportunity to try and score some points. To achieve that, I have to continue getting everything I can out of the car, as I have done at the past five races. Being the home Grand Prix, a lot of the factory staff will attend and so it's important for me to be able to show them that they are doing a good job and to motivate them for the future.

"I'm excited obviously, as Imola is a fun track which I've already experienced this year, after doing some pre-season running there. It's a great track to drive and you have to be careful because once you cross the white lines, you're on the grass. Because of this, it has some similarities to Suzuka with a combination of corners and esses, like Turns 2 through to 5. Also, at this time of year, the weather can be quite tricky, as we saw last year. It really is a home race, as I can sleep in my own bed rather than stay at a hotel. It worked last year, with a great result, so I think that's a good thing!"

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