

65,000 enjoy Sato win and demonstrations in Zandvoort

TAKUMO SATO UNBEATABLE AT MARLBORO MASTERS

Zandvoort, August 5, 2001 – “Winning here is beautiful; it’s the biggest step in my career so far, the first major International win for Japan and for me,” said a delighted Takuma Sato after winning the Marlboro Masters at Zandvoort today(Sunday).

Sharing the limelight with Sato today were members of the Ferrari, Yamaha and Mitsubishi World Championship Teams, with regular team members entertaining the crowd which numbered 65,000 for the weekend. Today it was the turn of World Rally Championship leader Tommi Mäkinen to practise an endless series of doughnuts in the Mitsubishi, Max Biaggi and Carlos Checa to burn rubber with their bucking Yamahas, and for Luca Badoer to smoke the Ferrari’s tyres. “This isn’t work, this is fun,” said the Italian driver, who works so hard to perfect Ferraris for regular drivers Michael Schumacher and Rubens Barrichello. “It’s a game. There’s no stress, you don’t have to think, it’s a little holiday.”

But the final star is one in the making. Sato scarcely looked back after taking the lead at the start of the 25 lap race, even though he admitted that it wasn’t the perfect start. “It was very close at the first corner.” From then, Sato steadily drew away. “The tyres were consistent, and I was able to lap as quick at the end as at the start,” he explained. Behind, fellow front row man Benoit Treluyer missed the start and Bruce Jouanny spun out on lap two. Andre Lotterer came through to overtake three other cars by the first corner, and after missing the spinning Jouanny, it was Anthony Davidson who emerged in third place. Davidson steadily gained on Lotterer ahead of him but felt that the German Jaguar Racing driver had superior straight line speed, and had to be content with two unsuccessful overtaking attempts.