

Conway puts F1 on alert



ON THE CREST OF A WAVE . . . Mike Conway salutes the crowd after his dominant win at Monaco

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GRAND PRIX wannabe Mike Conway hopes he has put himself on the shopping list of Formula 1 team bosses following his brilliant GP2 win at Monaco.

It was the 24-year-old Brit's first victory in the feeder series that has catapulted Lewis Hamilton, Nico Rosberg, Heikki Kovalainen and Nelson Piquet into F1.

Conway, already a member of the Honda F1 team's Young Driver Programme, hopes to follow in their wheel tracks.

And he could not have chosen a more special place to impress motor sport's movers and shakers as he scored a dominant win from pole position in the second of two GP2 races at Monaco.

Conway, whose career is being guided by former F1 aces Martin Brundle and Mark Blundell, said: 'It was amazing to see the chequered flag there.'

'It's a historic place where so many great drivers have won. And it's an extra challenge because the barriers are so close and there is nowhere to hide.'

'Half way round the last lap it finally sunk in that I was going to win and there was a rush of emotion. I was tearful and happy at the same time – it was a fantastic feeling.'

Conway, whose previous best GP2 result was a second at Silverstone last year, admitted the win got a monkey off his back.

And he said he was now 'feeling very good' about mounting a championship challenge.

The Trident Racing driver added: 'Hopefully this is the shape of things to come but I need to be strong at all the circuits. I'm in my second year in GP2 now and really need to get the results.'

Conway, who tested Honda's F1 car before the season started, said everyone in the watching Grand Prix team was 'really happy' at his performance in Monaco.

He might yet claim a seat alongside Jenson Button in the Japanese team should Rubens Barrichello retire or be dropped.

Conway – British Formula 3 champ in 2006 – knows he will have to put a string of wins together to fulfil that ambition.

But he said: 'Honda is a good place to be. They are starting to get results and next year they will be even stronger.'

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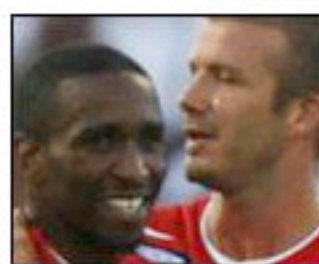
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