## POST RACE INTERVIEWS GRAND PRIX D'ALGIERS AT STAOUÉLI



The cars and drivers line up for the green flag at the starting line of Grand Prix d'Algiers at Staouéli.

## $1^{\text {st }}$ Place Interview

## Louis de Montignac, Principality of Monaco

Car: Alfa Romeo Tipo B P3 2.7L Interview by Claude d'Étoile, Grand Prix Committee Chairman (France)

Claude d'Étoile: What a tremendous race. Could you summarize it from the driver's perspective?

Louis de Montignac: Yes, it was a pretty difficult race and only one lap doesn't mean that it will be easy. The start was not so bad but we were quite rapidly in the first corner and it was pretty difficult to handle nine cars. I say nine because I saw in my mirrors that two cars stalled at the start and the British car also was far away in front. Right away, in just a few square meters, everybody wanted to gain position to be better placed for the next corner.


I managed the curve at Place Staouéli not too badly and did pretty well in Ibn Ziri and the curve at El Wahid. I was then already in second place at the exit of Sinistere. I positioned my car well at the beginning of the first long straight, with just Britain in front. I saw that there was a crash behind me and that was when poor Aristide went out at Sinistere. Bad luck for him. He's a great driver and doesn't deserve this.

At the end of the straight, I already had into my mind to try to pass this Britisher in 6th gear but then we saw the goats up ahead!! Goats on the track, at that speed! It's just unbelievable.

I succeeded in passing the Englishman in 6th gear but didn't do it well enough and wore my tires a lot. My Czech friend did it much better than me. Congratulations for this move, Vitez!

The next long straight leading to La Bridja was okay - and I felt relieved seeing the British approaching the curve without decelerating. He was really struggling to keep the pace with us. I was $90 \%$ sure he would crash. It was then that I felt certain I would have at least second place as Vitez was once again well placed just at my level.


The wreckage is cleared after the race in the exit from the curve at La Bridja.


Fortunately, I managed to get out of the corner well and ready to accelerate quickly while dodging to avoid the wreck of the British car. It was too bad, John, you could have held back and ended in second or third place but I understand that you gave it everything to win. Great champions are just like that!

All in all, it was a pretty exciting race. Congratulations are deserved to all the drivers whatever their place as it was far from being easy.

Claude d'Étoile: How do you see the next race in Nice, your home town? With this result today, it will for sure be amazing along the Côte d'Azur in a few weeks.

Louis de Montignac: (Smiling) Yes, I am originally from Nice, though I live in Monaco which is my home now. Therefore, I'm really eagerly awaiting my arrival in Nice to be able to really feel at home. I'm sure that with the support of the crowd, I will do my best to achieve a great result there. I'm really excited and motivated to show them good driving. But alas, I will not be the only one on the track. And it might be that some of the supporters (and more women than men) will look more at Aristide La Fontaine, in his French blue Salmson 8C, than at me!

Claude d'Étoile: Do you have anything else to say before we ask some questions to the others that share the podium?

Louis de Montignac: Just a short word to thank once again the Prince and Royal Family of Monaco. It is only thanks to them that I participated in today's race. We all owe our thanks to them as well for a great party at the embassy. It was with their help that I won the race today. I have a good car, my Alfa Romeo Tipo B, probably the best car on the circuit, and it's thanks to their money and their support, with maintenance crews and managers that they gave me that I have this advantage. I am sure they will be present also in the next race and it already gives me high confidence in my race. See you all in Nice!


Monaco's driver, Louis de Montignac, on the side streets of Old La Bridja before taking the track in his Alfa Romeo Tipo B P3 at the Grand Prix d'Algiers at Staouéli. He would go on to win the race in an all-out dash to the finish against the Czech driver, Vitez Rychly.

## $2^{\text {nd }}$ Place Interview

## Vitez Rychly, Czechoslovakia

Car: Bugatti T51A 1.5L Interview by Marcus al-Wasir, Broadcaster, Radio Algiers

Claude d'Étoile: I would like to turn the microphone over to Marcus al-Wasir, who did a fantastic job today announcing the race on 745 kilohertz for Radio Algiers.

Marcus al-Wasir: Thank you, Monsieur d'Étoile, for that kind introduction. Let us turn our attention to Vitez Rychly of Czechoslovakia, who today took $2^{\text {nd }}$ Place in the Grand Prix d'Algiers....

Vitez Rychly: Yes, before I answer your questions, I would like to assure our fans that my fiancée, Veronika, is well. Obviously, she is under quite a bit of stress after what she has been through. A doctor is looking her over now to be sure that she does not

suffer a fainting spell or go into shock. But I spoke with her and she is just fine. Don't be fooled by her exquisite femininity - she's as tough as they come, as she proved on the track today. Now, please, your questions?

Marcus al-Wasir: Are you surprised that Miss Vilhelmova ran onto the track like that, putting herself in such grave danger to rescue Italy's driver, Sebi Orsi, from the wreck at the finish?

Vitez Rychly: No, I am not. Veronika is a passionate woman who always seems to rise to the situation. This is just an example of the kind of extraordinary woman she is. There really is no one like her. She has been around these fast cars for nearly two years now and she understands the danger. I am certain she knew the risks exactly, but did it anyway because it was the right thing to do.

She saw things as they were - a man is nearly dying before everyone's eyes, yet she is the only one to actually do something about it! That's Veronika. She has a bigger heart than any man here and I am very proud of her heroics.

But with the world as it is today, there will undoubtedly be some who will say that she did it for attention. Those people are jealous and simple-minded. But it is true that Veronika is misunderstood. Yes, she thrives on the attention of others, but it is born from a generosity. She has so much to give. Her light burns very brightly and she wants to share it with everyone.

Of course, I pray to God that Orsi is fortunate enough to recover from his injuries.
Marcus al-Wasir: Speaking of Sebi Orsi, have you ever seen a situation like that with the tires? He appeared to be losing tread throughout the last half of the race with the tires giving out progressively at each of the turns.

Vitez Rychly: Sure, I have seen it before. This is a dangerous sport and anything can happen. The tires are under a lot of pressure. He must have had a bad set from the factory. It is a shame. If he was having difficulty, perhaps he should have taken some precautions earlier. But it is difficult for a man like Orsi to not go full speed ahead, even faced with such danger. That's what makes a champion. You have to think that he came from the last position early on and, despite the tire problems, he pressed all the way to $4^{\text {th }}$ Place. It is really amazing.


Italy's famed driver, Sebi Orsi, and his Maserati 4CM, as seen before the race. His car is repairable and he will soon be released from the hospital. His injuries were minor from the crash at the finish line.

Marcus al-Wasir: Your fiancée was not the only hero on the track today. How happy are you for finishing in second place?

Vitez Rychly: To be honest, I am disappointed. Not to take away from Louis' victory today, because he certainly earned it, but coming down the back stretch as we headed into La Bridja, my Bugatti was clearly the strongest. I was in perfect position to take the checkered flag. I wanted so much to win, I could feel the bubbles of champagne on my lips.

The fact that I finished in second rests entirely on my shoulders and is something that will take me a while to get over. But again, I must salute de Montignac. I gave him a little opening and he took full advantage of it. All the drivers here are world-class - well, nearly all of them - and I can't afford to let my guard down for even a second.

I am sorry to be so brief, but I really must go check on VV.
(Rychly stands and starts to leave, but then commotion erupts at the back of the room.)

## Veronika Vilhelmova: "Vitez!"

(Every reporter and observer in the room turns and the photographers rush toward Veronika Vilhelmova as she enters the room. She ignores them and races up to Vitez, throws her arms around him and kisses him passionately.)


Marcus al-Wasir: Excuse me for cutting in, Veronika, but I must ask for all those here a question: what made you run out onto the track like that?

Veronika Vilhelmova: Sebi Orsi needed help. I am there. Why of course, I go! It is only to make sense.

Marcus al-Wasir: Didn't you fear for your own safety?
Veronika Vilhelmova: No, no, no. Why would another car wish to hit me? I did fear for ruining my dress, though! But this old dress I can replace. Sebi, I cannot replace. Solgo.

Marcus al-Wasir: Veronika, I have heard several talk of sponsorship opportunities that could come your way from this - would you be interested in that?

Veronika Vilhelmova: That is good idea, darling. What you want me to sell for you? Tell your companies and sponsors that I will bring you many riches!

Marcus al-Wasir: Miss Vilhelmova, surely you deserve some kind of award for your heroics. If it is not out of place for me to say this, let me add on behalf of the Government of Algeria that I would like to extend our appreciation for what you did today in rescuing one of the drivers. It would have been a bad day for motorsports in Algiers if one of the drivers had been killed, and it is only due to your fast action that this was avoided.

Veronika Vilhelmova: Thank you. Perhaps they should make a movie of me, no?
Marcus al-Wasir: Veronika, I must also ask if you ever worry that something might happen to Vitez on the track?

Veronika Vilhelmova: No. Vitez has an angel to watch over him - me!
Vitez Rychly: (Cutting in to end questions...) Thank you, gentlemen. I think that is enough excitement for one day. We must really allow VV to get some rest.
(Rychly ushers VV away as she blows kisses to the reporters.)
Veronika VilheImova: See you in Nice!


## $3^{\text {rd }}$ Place Interview

## Estebàn Blanco of Spain

## Car: Bugatti T35B 2.3L S-8

Interview by the Prince of Monaco
Marcus al-Wasir: Veronika has left the building. So now, I will turn the microphone over to the Prince of Monaco, who has attended the events today with great enthusiasm. He will ask a few questions of Estebàn Blanco of Spain, who placed $3^{\text {rd }}$ today in his all black Bugatti T35B....

Prince of Monaco: Estebàn, you have finished at third place, at the bottom of the podium. Do you think you could have done better if you had managed to draw a better position off pole for the start?

Estebàn Blanco: I think that at the beginning of the race, the start was not very good for me. I was quickly positioned to the end of the group and had to fight my way forward. After a good race, avoiding crashes and respecting the turns here at Staouéli, which are very sharp and difficult, I successfully managed to finish the race and gain the podium. I'm very happy with the results. I was threatened at the end by Orsi, it is true. However, with my "sang-froid," I performed well enough to keep my podium place.


Spain's all black Bugatti T35B after the race, showing off its beautiful lines.


Prince of Monaco: About crashes, how can you avoid being hit and also avoid colliding with others at such speeds, particularly when you are in the corners?

Estebàn Blanco: I think that with a race like this, here at Staouéli, it is quite easy to crash - high speeds and everyone seeking the right line to attack the curves, with tremendous braking and everyone seeking to pass the other for even the slightest margin of a lead. Some drivers were not able to navigate the course so well with the other cars so near them. I think I did pretty well managing this part of the race. In the end, my Bugatti was reacting well and staying clear of the danger.

Prince of Monaco: First Staouéli, then coming up the Grand Prix at Nice. Both have quite the same climate and same weather. Do you plan to use the same strategy in the next race as well?

Estebàn Blanco: I will not reveal my strategy for now. It is worth noting that from a mechanical perspective, my car fared better than any of the others and I proved to be able to work my way forward in the pack without taking on so much wear overall. Nice will be more trying, and I'm really motivated to end with a better place on the podium. Thank you!


Germany's famed driver, Godeschalk Hegkman von Grebeneck, in his highly modified Bugatti T51A, on the approaches to the curve at La Bridja. Unable to slow down, Hegkman ended up spinning out of control into the hay bales less than 100 yards from the finish line.

