

Vettel looking to enjoy his Formula One success now

FORMULA 1

By IAN PARKES

SEBASTIAN VETTEL is finally ready to relax following a whirlwind 48 hours in the wake of becoming Formula One's youngest world champion.

Vettel, team-mate Mark Webber, team principal Christian Horner and design guru Adrian Newey initially flew to Salzburg on Monday, the home of owner and energy drinks billionaire Dietrich Mateschitz.

After a party for 1,000 people, the quartet then conducted their first press conference yesterday since their heady night at the Yas Marina circuit in Abu Dhabi on Sunday.

Immediately afterwards they were whisked off to the factory at Milton Keynes where they were reunited with the 700-odd staff who played a part in the team's success in winning both the drivers' and constructors' titles this season.

Reflecting on what has unfolded, Vettel said: "The past couple of months have been a unique experience for me.

"I have experienced great moments I will never forget, but there were also some difficult situations.

"I am very proud of what we have achieved, a great moment for me and the whole team.

"I'm now looking forward to some relaxing moments to realise what's just happened. Now is the time to enjoy the success."

Vettel has claimed his rivalry



2010 Formula One World champion Red Bull driver Sebastian Vettel of Germany blows a horn upon his arrival at the airport in Salzburg, Austria, on Monday.

Picture: AP Photo

with Webber, which resulted in those "difficult moments," was exaggerated during the course of the year.

That was despite their crash in Turkey which sparked the furore and remarks from the Australian at various stages in which he felt the team were favouring the 23-year-old German.

Confirming he had spoken with Webber since winning his title, Vettel described it as being good for both of them.

He added: "We were able to put it all into words quite well.

"It would be wrong to say that what happened during the season was all rubbish and now everything is rosy.

"Of course there were moments, but it never went as far as people on the outside thought it did."

Expressing his thoughts, Webber was certainly magnanimous as he said: "The constructors' championship was very important for Red Bull and shows that this season has bound the team together.

"We can all be very proud of

what we have achieved, even though it has not always been easy for either of us during the year.

"But this is normal when you're competing against each other at this level. We both wanted to become world champion and therefore we pushed the whole team to perfection.

"At the end of the season, we are honestly able to show respect for each other's performance, which is very important.

"Congratulations to Sebastian, he really deserves the title."

Bulls sneak a super win over the Rockets

BASKETBALL

DERRICK ROSE led a fourth-quarter rally as the Chicago Bulls snuck a 95-92 win over the Houston Rockets to maintain their impressive start to the season.

The Central-leading Bulls went on a 32-21 run in the final stanza to clinch a win that improves their lead in the division with a 6-3 win-loss record.

Rose had the hot hand with four-of-five from beyond the arc in a game-high haul of 33 points.

The Los Angeles Lakers ended a two-game skid with a 118-107 win over the Milwaukee Bucks.

Kobe Bryant led the charge with 31 points as the Lakers shook off their recent defeats to improve to a league-best 9-2.

The Denver Nuggets kept themselves above .500 with a last-gasp 120-118 win at home to the New York Knicks.

Star man Carmelo Anthony steadied the Nuggets with 26 points as they almost wasted a 12-point lead going into the final period.

Wesley Matthews contributed 30 points as the Portland Trail Blazers edged the Memphis Grizzlies 100-99 while Daniel Gibson's game-high 18 points from the bench helped the Cleveland Cavaliers beat the Philadelphia 76ers 101-93.

The Atlanta Hawks coasted by the Indiana Pacers 102-92 and the Washington Wizards won 109-94 over the Toronto Raptors.

Canadiens sink Philadelphia

ICE HOCKEY

THE Montreal Canadiens beat the Philadelphia Flyers 3-0 to exact some revenge for their defeat in last season's Eastern Conference Final play-off series.

Netminder Carey Price made 41 saves to earn his third shut-out of the season, while Brian Gionta scored a goal and provided two assists.

Tomas Plekanec and Michael Cammalleri completed the scoring for the Northeast-leading Canadiens.

The Toronto Maple Leafs ended their eight-game losing run with a comeback 5-4 win over the Nashville Predators.

The Predators had led 4-1 before the Leafs stormed ahead with four powerplay goals in the second period.

Kris Versteeg scored two of those before Nikolai Kulemin completed the rally.

In another game, Brad Richards scored a third-period winner as the Dallas Stars beat the Anaheim Ducks 2-1.

Clowns to the left of midfield, put Coleman on the right

IT'S rare that you feel sorry for Australian sportsmen. They are usually too brash, not to mention too good.

But last night was such an occasion.

They were blown away. As good as Munster's defence was in the second half, you got the feeling that even if the men in yellow had been allowed to waltz by, unhindered by tackles, they have still would have been halted somewhere near the Munster 22 by the gate.

Or if they had got that far even once, that someone would have knocked on. Do these guys never train with the sprinklers on?

Tonight our international soccer team will give us the opportunity to

feel sorry for ourselves instead (Ireland 13-10, Draw 11-5, Norway 11-5 with Paddy Power).

Earlier in the year President McAleese launched an initiative called *Your Country, Your Call* where the two best ideas to help stimulate the economy would win prizes of €100,000.

The most original idea was mandatory clown suits for social welfare recipients.

Its proposer suggested resentment toward welfare recipients would diminish, since people love looking at clowns and recipients would feel positive about themselves, knowing that as they walked the streets looking for work, they were cheering up



others.

Local textile enterprises could receive a lifeline making the suits and tourism would get a massive boost from people longing to visit such a happy place.

The organisers deleted the suggestion from the *Your Country, Your Call* website and I know this because it happened the same day they deleted

my suggestion that we sell Donegal back to Britain.

My idea does not look so clever now, with land in Meath being sold at €1 an acre.

It would also mean we would lose tonight's captain Shay Given, and the young Donegal man Trap has no place for in the starting 11, Seamus Coleman.

"I cannot put three or four young players in together, I need to mix them with the senior players," said the manager. "But Seamus can play good football and he is not frightened of the ball." Just as some people are inexplicably afraid of clowns, so some footballers are afraid of the ball and Trap usually

picks several of them in his line-ups.

Everton's Coleman (who was born on the exact same day as Galway hurler Joe Canning) was recently the man of the match in a Merseyside derby and in his home debut last season he created both goals in a 2-2 draw with Tottenham, outshining his marker, and the latest best English player of all time, Gareth Bale.

If we can't get more clowns walking the streets, the least we ask is to have less pulling on green jerseys.

Recommendation: Expect Coleman to come on at half-time and he is 20-1 to be the last goalscorer with Paddy Power.