

CONCLUSION TABLES

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A QPRS TABLE AND AN ALL-TIME TABLE?

QPRS is the basic math formula rating system used to assess the Driver, Car and their Overall Ratings for each annual F1 Championship Year. This can be viewed as the basic 'report card' on how the driver and car each fared in head-to-head competition against the opposition each year. QPRS grades drivers against other contemporary drivers whom they actually raced out on the circuits.

In the 'Rating Game Feature,' I take this one step further in trying to explain how you might compare the QPRS Career ranking and rating numbers of two drivers who never actually met face-to-face in competition. On page 15, I point out that Swedish driver Ronnie Peterson, active during the 1970s, has a QPRS Career Rating of 305.6, while Frenchman Jean Behra, active in the 1950s, has a QPRS Career Rating of 267.3. At this stage, the only conclusion one should draw is that Ronnie Peterson did a better job against his competition during the 1970s than Jean Behra did against his respective competition during the 1950s.

Does that make Ronnie Peterson a better driver than Jean Behra or would he have beaten Jean more often than the other way around if you could somehow bring them both together in a mythical time-machine season of head-to-head racing? No. You cannot draw that conclusion just yet. In an effort to more fairly assess the relative merits of drivers who drove in

different eras, we add the average Competitiveness Index of the years during which they raced to their QPRS ratings. As it turns out in our Peterson versus Behra comparison, it is indeed possible to state that Peterson was an 'All-Time' greater driver than Behra because the years during which he raced in the 1970s were, on average, slightly more competitive than those during which Behra raced in the 1950s. Consequently, Peterson's All-Time Career Rating jumps to 386.7, while that of Behra is up to 344.0.

The relative competitiveness of F1 Grand Prix seasons matters very much when attempting to make valid all-time comparisons between drivers whose careers never overlapped. In 1950, only Fangio and Farina won races and both drove for Alfa-Romeo. In 1988, McLaren teammates Prost and Senna won 15 out of 16 races and they would probably have won every race if Senna had displayed a bit more patience at Monza. As a betting person, you would put your money down on Fangio or Farina in 1950 and Prost or Senna in 1988. 1982, however, turned out to be an extremely competitive season for a variety of reasons, ranging from brilliance to tragedy. Eleven different drivers and seven different car makes won races that year. As a betting person, you would have been far more hard-pressed to correctly guess the possible outcome of any of the 16 races in that year beforehand.

For the All-Time tables, I strongly encourage the reader to consult Tables I (The Most Competitive Decade in F1 History) and Table J (Annual F1 Grand Prix Season Competitiveness Index) to better understand how competitiveness has an impact on a driver's All-Time ratings.

TABLE A – QPRS: THE TOP 100 F1 GRAND PRIX DRIVERS

This measures how the drivers performed against their contemporaries, taking into account the competitiveness of their cars and the extent to which mechanical reliability impacted their race results.

TABLE B – THE ALL-TIME TOP 100 F1 GRAND PRIX DRIVERS

As A above, but this ranking also takes into account the competitiveness of the years during which each driver was rated.

TABLE C – QPRS: THE TOP 50 F1 GRAND PRIX DRIVERS 'AT THEIR PEAK'

This ranking only takes into account the highest three rated years of a driver's career so as to not unduly handicap those who raced well past their prime or who stayed in uncompetitive machinery for lengthy periods.

TABLE D – THE ALL-TIME TOP 50 F1 GRAND PRIX DRIVERS 'AT THEIR PEAK'

As C above but this ranking also takes into account the competitiveness of the drivers' highest three rated years.

TABLE E – QPRS: THE TOP 50 F1 GRAND PRIX CARS

This table ranks each car on the basis of its best performance in a single year of F1 Grand Prix Racing.

TABLE F – QPRS: THE GREATEST F1 WORLD DRIVING CHAMPIONSHIPS

The most dominating annual F1 World Driving Champions in rank order.

TABLE G – THE ALL-TIME GREATEST F1 WORLD DRIVING CHAMPIONSHIPS

As F above but this ranking also takes into account the competitiveness of the drivers' championship year.

TABLE H – QPRS: THE DRIVER MADE THE DIFFERENCE

F1 World Driving Championships ranked by the importance of the role played by the driver in winning over opponents who sometimes had superior or closely-matched cars.

TABLE I – THE MOST COMPETITIVE DECADE IN F1 HISTORY

Just how hard was it to win F1 Grand Prix races each year during a particular decade.

TABLE J – ANNUAL F1 GRAND PRIX SEASON COMPETITIVENESS INDEX

A year-by-year rating of the competitiveness, taking into consideration how many different drivers and car marques were able to win in that year.

TABLE K – FATAL ACCIDENTS IN F1 GRAND PRIX RACING

A sad roll call of real heroes.