

Faith

Optimism | Confidence | Trust | Hope | Expectation



When things were too easy, he got bored. When it got tough, this is where his determination came out.

Niki Lauda was an Austrian racing driver who competed in Formula One. Whilst leading the 1976 championship, he was seriously injured in the German Grand Prix amidst a fierce title battle with James Hunt. He was trapped in the racing car after his Ferrari swerved, hit the embankment and burst into flames. He suffered serious burns to his head and hands and life changing injuries having inhaled hot toxic gases. Although he could stand immediately after the accident when an Italian driver pulled him from the car, he later lapsed into a coma in hospital.

He returned to racing six weeks later at the Italian Grand Prix, having only missed two races. He appeared at the press conference with his fresh burns still bandaged. He admits being absolutely petrified to drive again. He had to wear a specially adapted crash helmet to reduce the pain.

'I had so much fear I could not drive on the first day,' said Lauda. 'But once I analysed everything, the next day I was the fastest Ferrari. My confidence came back, the fear disappeared and everything was back in order.'

In Lauda's absence, McLaren driver James Hunt had reduced Lauda's lead to three points by the final race of the season. Lauda retired in this race as he felt it was unsafe to drive due to

the torrential rain. James Hunt won the title by a single point.

Lauda's 25 wins in Formula 1	
Races	173
Wins	25
Championships	3
Pole positions	24
Teams	March, BRM, Ferrari, Brabham, McLaren
1949	Born in Vienna, Austria
1971	First F1 race at Austrian Grand Prix
1974	First F1 race win at Spanish Grand Prix
1975	Secures first World Championship title
1976	Nearly killed in crash at Nurburgring, Germany
1977	Wins second World Championship title
1984	Wins third World Championship title
1985	Last race win at Dutch Grand Prix
1985	Last race at Australian Grand Prix

Niki Lauda's 25 F1 wins