

Will Power is accustomed to being the fastest at Barber Motorsports Park

Will Power refers to Barber Motorsports Park as his "happy place," and with good reason. Power has two victories and two other top-five finishes in his four starts in the Honda Indy Grand Prix of Alabama. And he sees no reason for that to change this year when the Verizon IndyCar Series returns to BMP April 25-27, especially after he posted the fastest lap time during a recent twoday test session at the track.

"When I come to Barber Motorsports Park, it feels like home," Power says. "I really enjoy this place. It's probably the best facility we go to as far as road courses. It's very well laid out and very well presented in every way."

Power's comfort level with BMP's 2.38-mile, 17-turn layout was on full display during the March 17-18 test session. The Australian native topped the timesheet both days, turning in a fast lap of 1 minute, 07.0608 seconds on the first day, and then following that up with a run of 1:07.6492 during the second day.

But as impressive as Power has been at BMP, he says there is no margin for error in the Verizon IndyCar Series these days. That was evident during the test session, as 17 drivers were less than a second off Power's pace. In fact, Justin Wilson – who has finished no better than seventh in his

four starts at BMP – was only .0038 of a second behind Power.

"A lot of teams now are really compressed. There's no one that sticks out," Power says. "Every offseason, all these teams close the gap, and it gets smaller and smaller. It's a different intensity of competition to what it was just two or three years ago. It's really ramped up. It's a good, tough series."

Power has been one of the top drivers in the series for several years. He has 21 victories and 32 poles since 2007, with wins in the Honda Indy Grand Prix of Alabama in both 2011 and 2012.

Yet for all his success, Power has been unable to capture the IndyCar championship, finishing as the series runner-up three straight years from 2010 to 2012. Power dipped to fourth in the point standings last season, though he still won three times and learned some valuable lessons about his driving style.

"I was a lot more relaxed in racing situations (last season)," Power says. "I had spent three years being very conservative, feeling the points. Last year taught me not to think about points, but just race hard and enjoy it no matter what. The results came a lot better when I did that. That's how I'll be racing this year."



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The Honda Grand Prix of Alabama is one of 11 races that will take place at Barber Motorsports Park the weekend of April



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