



Norris and McLaren Back on Top: Hungarian Grand Prix 2026 Win Reignites F1 Title Race

Description

Lando Norris claimed a long-awaited **Hungarian Grand Prix 2026 result** victory at the Hungaroring on Sunday, delivering McLaren their first Formula 1 win of the season in a race full of strategy, drama, and one heart-breaking retirement for his teammate Oscar Piastri. The papaya machine is back on top and the title picture heading into the summer break just got very interesting.

Norris Converts Pole to Maiden Hungaroring Victory

Having qualified on pole and snatching it from Lewis Hamilton in a gripping session that also saw Hamilton and Kimi Antonelli handed grid penalties and Norris started brightly but immediately found himself fighting for position. Going slightly wide at Turn 2 on the opening lap, Oscar Piastri, who had launched an excellent start from third on the grid to leapfrog Charles Leclerc, came through to assume the lead. For much of the opening stint, the two papaya cars ran 1-2, managing the gap and keeping their options open on whether to run one stop or two.



Source: McLaren Racing official website (mclaren.com)

The pit window was forced open when Lewis Hamilton â?? running in fourth â?? dived early into the pits, triggering a response from both McLaren drivers. Piastri, as the lead car, had strategic priority and was brought in first, switching from Medium to Hard tyres and maintaining his track position advantage.

Norris stayed out until Lap 39 for his second set of Hard rubber, and emerged ahead of the battle between his teammate and Hamilton, who had already pitted from third. It was meticulous pit-wall work from McLaren that ultimately set up Norris's win.

Hungarian Grand Prix 2026 Race Drama: Antonelli, Sainz, and the VSC

The subplot of the race was Kimi Antonelli's audacious one-stop gamble. The young Mercedes driver stayed out while others pitted, assumed the lead, and looked every inch a future champion as he managed his Hards with exceptional composure. He finally pitted on Lap 22 and resumed in a strong position. When Norris cycled through after his own stops, he set about hunting down the Italian. On Lap 46, he made it stick - a clean, clinical pass for the lead that earned a ripple of appreciation around the Hungaroring grandstands.

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Source: McLaren Racing official website (mclaren.com)

Piastri, meanwhile, was in the wars. A collision with backmarker Carlos Sainz â?? who received a five-second penalty â?? cost the Australian time and damaged his rhythm. He recovered to second place as Antonelli called off his one-stop and pitted for a second time, but then, on Lap 56, catastrophe: a suspected gearbox failure brought Piastri to a halt on track. The Virtual Safety Car was deployed, and

Norris dived in for a third stop, emerging with a fresh set of Soft tyres and a lead he would not surrender. The bittersweet day for McLaren was complete.

Final result: 1st Lando Norris (McLaren), 2nd Max Verstappen (Red Bull), 3rd Kimi Antonelli (Mercedes).

What the Result Means for the F1 Title Race

Heading into the summer break, the championship picture is a fascinating one. Antonelli had been the form driver of the first half of the season [winning the Belgian Grand Prix at Spa](#) in stunning fashion and arrived in Hungary as the championship leader. Norris's win at Budapest, McLaren's first of 2026, will have done nothing for Antonelli's peace of mind. The defending champion has proven his car is capable of victories once the upgrade package works, and that momentum will carry into the second half of the season.

Verstappen's second place also serves as a reminder that Red Bull and the Dutchman cannot be written off. He finished podium in a race that was by no means straightforward, and with upgrades of their own promised, the second half of 2026 promises a genuine four-way championship battle between Norris, Antonelli, Verstappen, and [despite Hamilton's grid penalty in Hungary](#) Ferrari's Lewis Hamilton, who continues to adapt to the Scuderia.

The Dutch Grand Prix at Zandvoort on 21-23 August is next, and McLaren will return from the summer break with [even more](#) upgrades planned, per team principal Andrea Stella. After the [pre-race build-up generated massive excitement](#), the Hungaroring delivered. The sport's summer break may be three weeks, but for the engineers and strategists, there will be no real rest.

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