Viva Verstappen: Dutchman claims fourth consecutive F1 title in Vegas

DPA
LAS VEGAS

RED Bull's Max Verstappen added a new crown to his glittering career and claimed his fourth consecutive Formula One title at the Las Vegas Grand Prix on Sunday.

Verstappen finished fifth, but that was enough to seal the championship since he outscored title contender Lando Norris of McLaren, who was sixth.

The race was won by George Russell, who lead a Mercedes one-two ahead of team-mate Lewis Hamilton. Carlos Sainz of Ferrari completed the podium.

"Oh my God, what a season, four titles. Thank you, thank you guys. It was a little bit more difficult than last year, but we pulled through and we gave it all," Verstappen said over the team radio.

It was a difficult weekend for Verstappen, who struggled with the cold and slippery track conditions. He wasn't among the top candidates to win in Sin City, as he did last year, but did enough to achieve his main goal.

"It's been a long season. We started off cruising, and we have to be proud of everyone. To stand here as a four-time world champion, I never thought it was possible. I'm relieved in a way, and very proud," Verstappen said in his post-race interview.

With four titles in his career, the Dutchman has now equalled the marks of former Red Bull driver Sebastian Vettel and of Alain Prost.

Vettel also won all of his four consecutive titles with Red Bull between 2010 and 2013.

"I want to congratulate Max on an incredible season and his fourth world title. He is a true great of this sport and has so much more to look forward to in his impressive career," F1 president Stefano Domenicali said.

Verstappen will now aim to help his Red Bull team to win the constructors' title. McLaren lead the way 24 points ahead of Ferrari, with Red Bull further 29 points adrift.

Mercedes rewarded for dominant weekend Mercedes have been far from being among the strongest teams on the grid this season, but were rewarded with a fourth win this year after a weekend in which they dominated all practice sessions and the qualifying.

Russell had a great start to retain his lead and only saw his win slightly threatened by team-mate Hamilton towards the end of the race.

But the British driver kept his cool to cross the line after leading the race from start to finish.

"To get pole, a dominant weekend, a one-two with Lewis as well - I was just waiting for something to happen, the last two I've had on pole have been crazy races with rain, red flags. But I'm so, so happy right now," Russell said in his post-race interview.

"I was planning on flying in a couple of hours, but I am definitely not getting on that flight - I'm going to enjoy this with all my team," he added.

Hamilton, who will join Ferrari next year and admitted he thought about walking away from Mercedes earlier after a difficult weekend at the Brazilian GP, had a strong performance to make his way to the podium from 10th.

"We don't know why the car was so quick but that's the best the car has felt. If the car drivers like that in the next couple of races, we'll be able to challenge the guys in front," he said and congratulated rival Verstappen for winning the championship.

Best of the rest Sainz and team-mate Charles Leclerc were third and fourth for Ferrari as the Italian team grabbed important points to close the gap to McLaren in the constructors' championship.

With two races left to the end of the season in Qatar and Abu Dhabi, the Scuderia will be dreaming of their first team title since 2008.

Verstappen was fifth, followed by Norris and Oscar Piastri in the other McLaren. Nico Hülkenberg of Haas, Visa RB's Yuki Tsunoda and Sergio Perez in the second Red Bull completed the top 10.

Pierre Gasly, who had a strong qualifying session and started in third, was forced to abandon the race due to engine issues.

Next on the schedule is the Qatar GP on December 1.



Oracle Red Bull Racing driver Max Verstappen waves to the crowd after capturing his 4th championship during the Formula One Heineken Silver Las Vegas Grand Prix 2024 on the Las Vegas Street Circuit. Verstappen finished fifth, but that was enough to seal the title since he outscored title contender Lando Norris of McLaren, who was sixth. (CSM via ZUMA Press Wire/DPA)

Results & Standings

1. George Russell (GBR/Mercedes) 1 h 22:05.969, 2. Lewis Hamilton (GBR/Mercedes) at 7.313, 3. Carlos Sainz (ESP/Ferrari) 11.906, 4. Charles Leclerc (MON/Ferrari) 14.283, 5. Max Verstappen (NED/Red Bull) 16.582, 6. Lando Norris (GBR/McLaren-Mercedes) 43.385, 7. Oscar Piastri (AUS/McLaren-Mercedes) 51.365, 8. Nico Hülkenberg (GER/Haas-Ferrari) 59.808, 9. Yuki Tsunoda (JPN/Racing Bulls-Red Bull) 1:02.808, 10. Sergio Pérez (MEX/Red Bull) 1:03.114, 11. Fernando Alonso (ESP/Aston Martin-Mercedes) 1:09.195, 12. Kevin Magnussen (DEN/Haas-Ferrari) 1:09.803, 13. Zhou Guanyu (CHN/Sauber-Ferrari) 1:14.085, 14. Franco Colapinto (ARG/Williams-Mercedes) 1:15.172, 15. Lance Stroll (CAN/Aston Martin-Mercedes) 1:24.102, 16. Liam Lawson (NZL/Racing Bulls-Red Bull) 1:31.005, 17. Esteban Ocon (FRA/Alpine-Renault) 1 lap, 18. Valtteri Bottas (FIN/Sauber-Ferrari) 1 lap

Fastest lap: Lando Norris (GBR/McLaren-Mercedes) 1:34.876 on 49th lap (average speed: 227.779 km/h)
Did not finish: Pierre Gasly (FRA/Alpine-Renault), Alexander Albon (THA/Williams-Mercedes)

World championship
Drivers: 1. Max Verstappen (NED) 403 pts, 2. Lando Norris (GBR) 340, 3. Charles Leclerc (MON) 319, 4. Oscar Piastri (AUS) 268, 5. Carlos Sainz (ESP) 259, 6. George Russell (GBR) 217, 7. Lewis Hamilton (GBR) 208, 8. Sergio Pérez (MEX) 152, 9. Fernando Alonso (ESP) 62, 10. Nico Hülkenberg (GER) 35, 11. Yuki Tsunoda (JPN) 30, 12. Pierre Gasly (FRA) 26, 13. Lance Stroll (CAN) 24, 14. Esteban Ocon (FRA) 23, 15. Kevin Magnussen (DEN) 14, 16. Alexander Albon (THA) 12, 17. Daniel Ricciardo (AUS) 12, 18. Oliver Bearman (GBR) 7, 19. Franco Colapinto (ARG) 5, 20. Liam Lawson (NZL) 4, 21. Zhou Guanyu (CHN) 0, 22. Logan Sargeant (USA) 0, 23. Valtteri Bottas (FIN) 0
Constructors: 1. McLaren-Mercedes 608 pts, 2. Ferrari 584, 3. Red Bull 555, 4. Mercedes 425, 5. Aston Martin-Mercedes 86, 6. Haas-Ferrari 50, 7. Alpine-Renault 49, 8. Racing Bulls-Red Bull 46, 9. Williams-Mercedes 17, 10. Sauber-Ferrari 0.

Formula 1: World champions roll of honour

2024: Max Verstappen (NED/Red Bull)
2023: Max Verstappen (NED/Red Bull)
2022: Max Verstappen (NED/Red Bull)
2021: Max Verstappen (NED/Red Bull)
2020: Lewis Hamilton (GBR/Mercedes)
2019: Lewis Hamilton (GBR/Mercedes)
2018: Lewis Hamilton (GBR/Mercedes)
2017: Lewis Hamilton (GBR/Mercedes)
2016: Nico Rosberg (GER/Mercedes)
2015: Lewis Hamilton (GBR/Mercedes)
Drivers with most world titles:
7: Lewis Hamilton (GBR): 2008 (McLaren-Mercedes), 2014, 2015, 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020 (Mercedes)
7: Michael Schumacher (GER): 1994 (Benetton-Ford), 1995 (Benetton-Renault), 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003 and 2004 Ferrari)
5: Juan Manuel Fangio (ARG): 1951 (Alfa Romeo), 1954 (Maserati/Mercedes-Benz), 1955 (Mercedes-Benz), 1956 (Ferrari) and 1957 (Maserati)
4: Max Verstappen (NED): 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024 (Red Bull-Honda)
4: Sebastian Vettel (GER): 2010, 2011, 2012 and 2013 (Red Bull-Renault)
4: Alain Prost (FRA): 1985, 1986 (McLaren Tag Porsche), 1989 (McLaren-Honda) and 1993 (Williams-Renault)
3: Ayrton Senna (BRA): 1988, 1990 and 1991 (McLaren-Honda)
3: Nelson Piquet (BRA): 1981 (Brabham Ford), 1983 (Brabham-BMW) and 1987 (Williams Honda)
3: Niki Lauda (AUT): 1975, 1977 (Ferrari) and 1984 (McLaren-Tag Porsche)
3: Jackie Stewart (GBR): 1969 (Matra Ford), 1971 and 1973 (Tyrrell-Ford)
3: Jack Brabham (AUS): 1959, 1960 (Cooper-Climax) and 1966 (Brabham-Repco).

Las Vegas winner Russell explains why he avoided fountain plunge

PA MEDIA/DPA
LAS VEGAS

GEORGE Russell said he abandoned plans to celebrate his brilliant Las Vegas Grand Prix victory by jumping in the Bellagio fountains after revealing he suffered a four-month battle with pneumonia.

Russell completed the most dominant drive of his life in a Mercedes which came alive on the Strip to take his third career win on Saturday night.

Russell's team-mate Lewis Hamilton drove back from 10th to complete a British one-two for the Silver Arrows.

"I really wanted to do it (jump in the fountains), but I was so cold after the race I thought I would get super ill," said the 26-year-old.

"This time last year I actually caught pneumonia and I was ill all the way into mid-February after Las Vegas and Abu Dhabi.

"So I was like, 'I really want to do it', but then I was thinking back to the struggles I had this time 12 months ago because it took such a toll on the body."

Russell's second win of the season - which takes him nine points clear of Hamilton in the championship standings - rarely looked in doubt after he nailed his start from pole position.



George Russell with his trophy.

Norris praise for Max

Lando Norris praised Max Verstappen after his chances of a maiden Formula One title were shattered. The McLaren driver needed to outscore Verstappen by at least three points to take the title race into the Qatar GP next week. But he finished sixth, one position behind Verstappen. "Congrats to Max. I'm disappointed I'm out of it, but Max deserved to win it. He drove a better season than I did, he deserved it more than anyone else, Max just doesn't have a weakness," Norris told reporters.

F1 Qatar Grand Prix 2024 promises more action & entertainment

TRIBUNE NEWS NETWORK
DOHA

THE wait is finally over for the region's motorsport fans, as the Formula 1 Qatar Airways Qatar Grand Prix 2024 gets ready to speed into Lusail International Circuit (LIC) next Friday, 29 November, for three days of world-class racing and entertainment.

Thousands of racegoers have already snapped up tickets to the hotly-anticipated penultimate race of the 2024 Formula 1 season. Following Max Verstappen's victory in clinching the Formula 1 World Champion title during the Las Vegas Grand Prix, this event is expected to witness fierce competition among top teams, including McLaren Formula 1 Team, Scuderia Ferrari, and Oracle Red Bull Racing, as they strive for the coveted Constructors' Championship title.

With a jaw-dropping array of action on and off the track, LIC has put together an indispensable guide featuring everything you should know ahead of next weekend's F1 extravaganza.





Family Friday:
Friday 29 November

Affectionately known as Family Friday, children under 12 can get free access* to the general admission area on Lusail Hill (when accompanied by a parent or guardian who has purchased a full price ticket) enabling them to enjoy a myriad of activities in the Fan Zone. A maximum of four free child tickets can be booked by an adult purchasing a full price ticket only for Friday General admission.

A wide range of other activations will be featured throughout the circuit including virtual reality laser tag, two-in-one go karting for children and teens, face painting, an immersive AI photobooth and kids car racing.

This year, the on-track action is bigger and better than ever.

Offering the weekend's first opportunity to watch top-flight racing, fans can catch Porsche Carrera Cup Middle East, F1 Academy and FIA Formula 2TM Championship drivers get behind the wheel for their practice races which will take place at intervals throughout the day.

At 4.30pm, spectators will be able to get the first glimpse of their Formula 1 heroes when teams and drivers take to the track for the inaugural F1 practice session whilst the qualifying for the nail-biting Formula 1 Sprint Race will take place at 8.30pm.

And once the sun goes down, Lebanese singer, performer and songwriter, Myriam Fares - dubbed 'Queen of the Stage' - will headline the main stage in the concert area kicking off the weekend's musical programme.

For the first time in Qatar, fans will also be able to see the heroes of the track at the F1 Fan Forum. Across Friday and Saturday, F1 drivers will take to Fanzone's main stage for a series of exclusive question and answer sessions.

Super Saturday:
Saturday 30 November

On Saturday, race goers of all ages will be able to enjoy a plethora of racing, including the Porsche Carrera Cup's first competitive race at 2.20pm, in addition to a dazzling array of activities in the fan zones.

From F1's own Pit Stop Challenge, where spectators have the chance to try their hand at changing the tyres on a Formula 1 car, to F1 SIM which offers racegoers the chance to experience how it feels to drive the famous cars. The fastest lap of the day wins prizes including signed merchandise and paddock tours!

The F1 Driver Selfie is an opportunity for fans to walk away with a digital or physical photo with their favourite Formula 1 team's drivers whilst the the F1 Static Podium gives fans the chance to experience what it's like to celebrate pole position!

At 5pm, all eyes will be looking to the track when the high-octane Formula 1 Sprint Race takes place. It will be followed by the all-important Formula 1 qualifying session at 8pm, which will determine the grid for Sunday's Grand Prix.

LIC is one of just six locations chosen to host the 100km dash, which gives teams another opportunity to score points for their respective championships.

And for the first time, the F1 Academy's maiden 14-lap race will take place on Super Saturday from 11.05pm. The highly competitive all-female racing series is designed to nurture and propel young female drivers towards higher echelons of competition.

Race Day:
Sunday 1 December

The final day of the Formula 1 Qatar Airways Qatar Grand Prix 2024 promises a packed schedule of racing and entertainment.

Fans will have an opportunity to visit the support paddock to see Porsche Carrera Cup Middle East, F1 Academy and FIA Formula 2 Championship cars up close before they take to the track for their final competitive races.

With excitement levels building throughout the afternoon, F1 drivers and teams will take part in a stunning parade at 5.30pm before the pit lane opens at 6.20pm. The big moment - the Grand Prix finale - will take place at 7pm under the glow of LIC's floodlights.

Rounding off one of the most iconic racing weekends will be global pop rock icons Maroon 5 as they headline the post-Grand Prix finale in LIC's state-of-the-art x-capacity concert area.

The multi-platinum selling five-piece, famous for smash hits including 'Moves Like Jagger', 'Payphone' and 'Sugar', remain one of the most globally recognised bands on the planet, having sold over 98 million albums and 750 million singles.

Open to Formula 1 race-goers, fans will only be able to watch both Friday and Sunday's concerts if they have a one or three-day pass to Sunday's Formula 1 Qatar Airways Qatar Grand Prix 2024. What's more, motorsport fans attending as part of a hospitality event will have VIP access to Sunday night's concert.

Tickets are selling fast but they are limited.

Fans need to act quickly to purchase tickets in the remaining categories:

T3 three-day Grandstand
Single-day Friday General Admission
Single-day Saturday General Admission
Single-day, two-day and three-day Club 16 hospitality
Limited single day and three-day Premiere hospitality
Three-day Lusail Hill lounge hospitality.

Fans still wishing to experience the unrivalled excitement it promises, should secure their tickets without delay at: https://tickets.lcsc.qa.