Hamilton Clinches Hungarian GP with Late Overtake

Mercedes' Lewis Hamilton celebrates in parc ferme after winning the F1 Grand Prix of Hungary in Budapest

Giles Richards

Lewis Hamilton won the Hungarian Grand Prix with a marvellous, controlled run and an inspired strategy from his Mercedes team beating the Red Bull of Max Verstappen into second after a gripping encounter at the Hungaroring. Sebastian Vettel finished third, with his Ferrari teammate Charles Leclerc fourth. Carlos Sainz took an excellent fifth, his second in a row for McLaren, in front of the second Red Bull of Pierre Gasly.

This was yet another masterclass from Hamilton and Mercedes who called the race to perfection, one of the best wins they have returned this season. It had hung in the balance throughout but – although Verstappen had led almost the entire race until the death – by its close Hamilton, on fresher rubber, swept past him to take the flag. Mercedes decision to pit their driver a second time gave Hamilton a decisive advantage he exploited brilliantly.

Hamilton's 81st career win is also his seventh at the Hungarian Grand Prix. He has won three of the last four meetings at the Hungaroring and now has eight wins from 12 races this season as F1 heads into the summer break. Knowing that overtaking is tricky through the twisting corners of the circuit, he believed that his team would have to play a strong strategic game to ensure he could gain places and they proved more than up to the task.

The Guardian