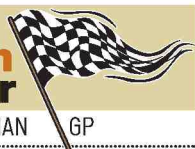


# Hamilton pips Verstappen to get back to winning ways

rush hour

HUNGARIAN GP



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**HUNGARORING, HUNGARY:** Lewis Hamilton regained the momentum in the world championship with a memorable strategic victory on Sunday when he overcame young rival Max Verstappen with three laps to go in a tense Hungarian Grand Prix.

The 34-year-old defending five-time world champion started third on the grid in his Mercedes and, after stalking the 21-year-old Dutch tyro for most of a fascinating tactical contest, swept into the lead on lap 67 of a 70-lap contest.

It was Hamilton's record seventh win in Hungary, his eighth this year and the 81st of his career, wrecking Red Bull's hopes of turning Verstappen's maiden pole position into victory, and increased his lead in the title race to 62 points before the sport's European summer break.

Verstappen, who led most of the race before his tyres faded, had no time to match Hamilton's tactics when the Briton made his second stop, came home 17.796 seconds behind in second and clocked a record race fastest lap for the Hungaroring after a late pit-stop.

Four-time champion Sebastian Vettel was third for Ferrari ahead of teammate Charles Leclerc, Carlos Sainz of McLaren and Pierre Gasly in the second Red Bull. Kimi Raikkonen was seventh for Alfa Romeo ahead of Hamilton's Mercedes teammate Valtteri Bottas who had been forced into an early pit-stop after a first lap incident. Lando Norris was ninth and Alex Albon 10th for Toro Rosso.

"What a drive, what a strategy," said Hamilton's race engineer Peter Bonnington. "Only you could make that work today."

Mercedes matched Red Bull's strategy until gambling with a late additional pit-stop that left Hamilton with 20 laps to make up a 20-second deficit on fresh tyres—a move that worked as Verstappen's tyres faded away.

"They rolled the dice and it worked for them, unfortunately," Red Bull team boss Christian Horner told Verstappen.



■ With three laps remaining in the race, Lewis Hamilton (above) overtook Max Verstappen to clinch victory in Hungary.

GETTY IMAGES

## CLASSIFICATION

1. Lewis Hamilton	1:35:03.796s
2. Max Verstappen	+17.796s
3. Sebastian Vettel	+61.433s
4. Charles Leclerc	+65.250s
5. Carlos Sainz	+1 lap
6. Pierre Gasly	+1 lap
7. Kimi Raikkonen	+1 lap
8. Valtteri Bottas	+1 lap
9. Lando Norris	+1 lap
10. Alexander Albon	+1 lap

## STANDINGS

### DRIVERS'

1. Lewis Hamilton	250pts
2. Valtteri Bottas	188
3. Max Verstappen	181
4. Sebastian Vettel	156
5. Charles Leclerc	132

### CONSTRUCTORS'

1. Mercedes	438pts
2. Ferrari	288
3. Red Bull Racing Honda	244

## 'LAUDA WOULD HAVE TAKEN HIS HAT OFF'

Lewis Hamilton converted strategic brilliance into an exhilarating victory for Mercedes in Sunday's Hungarian GP and said it was a triumph that would have delighted the late Niki Lauda.

Seven days after leaving Germany with a sore throat after his worst performance for the team, the championship leader bounced back to his best.

"Hats off to the team," said Hamilton after the 81st win of his career and his record seventh in Hungary.

He added, "I think that if Niki was here now he would take his hat off." The former non-executive chairman of the Mercedes team Lauda always wore a scar-covering red baseball cap that he would doff to the team whenever they achieved a great success.

## TEAMS GIVE APPROVAL FOR 22-RACE CALENDAR

**BUDAPEST:** Formula One teams have given their approval in principle to an expanded 22-race calendar next year without any allowance for an additional power-unit, said Mercedes team boss Toto Wolff.

Speaking after a teams' meeting with F1 chief executive Chase Carey, Wolff said the 22-race plan with no extra engines—and therefore costs for the smaller customer teams—was supported.

Wolff was quoted saying by Autosport, "In a nutshell, we basically agreed to have a 22nd race. We've got to let Liberty do their business and their business is to grow F1. "If they are able to attract promoters, we've got to support them so, we shouldn't change the technical regulations because we have an extra race."