

Verstappen tops Antonelli to win Bahrain GP as Russell retires

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SEPANG, Malaysia — Max Verstappen's long wait for another Formula 1 race win is finally over. The title race might be over, too.

Verstappen took his first victory of an often-frustrating year for the four-time champion at Formula 1's Bahrain Grand Prix in Malaysia on Sunday. A retirement for George Russell handed a huge title boost to Kimi Antonelli.

Verstappen was leading from Antonelli and Russell behind the safety car with five laps to go when Russell suddenly pulled over in his Mercedes.

The retirement allowed Antonelli to further stretch his lead over teammate Russell from 66 points to 84, with seven races remaining on the schedule, including those in Qatar and Abu Dhabi.

Mercedes told Antonelli over the radio it appeared Russell had suffered a power unit problem.

"You've almost got to laugh. I'm beyond disappointment," the British driver told Sky Sports.

Antonelli finished second and Ferrari's Lewis Hamilton passed Verstappen's Red Bull teammate Isack Hadjar for third.

VERSTAPPEN SAVORS A WIN AFTER 'TOUGH START'

Four-time champion Verstappen hadn't won since the final race of last season, but upgrades to his Red Bull car made him competitive again in Malaysia this week. That means



Aijaz Rahi/AP Photo

Red Bull driver Max Verstappen of the Netherlands celebrates on the podium after winning the Bahrain Grand Prix in Sepang, Malaysia on Sunday.

Verstappen extends his run of winning at least once every year since he joined Red Bull in 2016. His only winless season was his 2015 rookie year.

"Very special for us. We had a very complicated and tough start to the year with all sorts of problems and just not being competitive enough," he said.

"But throughout the year, the team has been working very hard to understand our issues, bring good performance upgrades to the car and make it

more drivable. Step by step, we've been getting closer and closer."

It was also the first win for Red Bull Ford Powertrains, the engine partnership between Red Bull and American auto giant Ford. The last time a car with a Ford-branded engine won an F1 race was in 2003 with the Jordan team.

DELAYS FOR RAIN AND SOFTWARE ISSUES

The first wet-weather race for

F1 in 2026 started more than 90 minutes later than planned. The start was first delayed 40 minutes for heavy rain, then suspended again when cars had apparent software problems on the formation lap.

When it finally did get under way, Verstappen was slow off the line and lost places to Antonelli and Russell. He chased down Russell and then got past Antonelli in a side-by-side fight after a safety-car restart.

After Verstappen took the win, he had another small delay before hearing his anthem. Crowd chants filled an awkward silence as Verstappen waited on the top step of the podium before the Dutch anthem finally began.

The race was relocated because of the Iran war, becoming F1's first event at the Sepang circuit in Malaysia since 2017.

FERRARI RECOVERS FROM EARLY BLUNDERS

Hamilton's third place capped a remarkable recovery for the seven-time champion and ends a run of five races without a podium finish for the Italian team.

It seemed almost impossible early in the race as Hamilton, and his teammate Charles Leclerc, were near the back of the pack. Ferrari had gambled on sending them to the start on dry-weather tires as the track began to dry after rain, causing Hamilton to drop from second to near the back.

Leclerc also overtook Hadjar late on to follow Hamilton with fourth place, as Hadjar ended up fifth. Oscar Piastri was sixth for McLaren after a punchy late battle with Liam Lawson of Racing Bulls, who was seventh after racing near the front at the start.

Fernando Alonso was eighth in Aston Martin's best result of the season, Lando Norris ninth after going off-track and losing places, with Lawson's teammate Arvid Lindblad 10th.



Luis Vieira/AP Photo

Portugal's Goncalo Ramos celebrates after scoring his side's second goal during the Nations League soccer match between Portugal and Norway in Porto, Portugal on Sunday.

Portugal stays perfect without Ronaldo as Germany draws Greece

BY CIARÁN FAHEY
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Gonçalo Ramos is helping Portugal to forget all about Cristiano Ronaldo, while Greece frustrated Jürgen Klopp and Germany in the Nations League.

Ramos fired Portugal to a 2-1 win over Norway on Sunday to keep the Portuguese perfect in Group A4 with four wins from four games.

Ronaldo was involved in Portugal's opening Nations League game, where he was replaced by Ramos in a 1-0 win over Wales, and hasn't played since. The veteran left the squad after watching the second game from the substitutes' bench – a 2-1 win in Norway – and Portugal showed no ill effects from his departure with a 4-2 win in Denmark and the latest 2-1 win over Norway.

Kristoffer Ajer opened the scoring Sunday with a brilliant half volley inside the far corner from the edge of the penalty area after taking down Martin Ødegaard's free kick to set up the shot in the 36th minute.

A seemingly inspired João Cancelo responded in similar fashion at the other end two minutes

later.

Ramos got the winner from close range in the 79th after a move involving Vitinha and João Félix, and Portugal survived Francisco Conceição's late sending off with his second yellow card.

Erling Haaland failed to score for the second consecutive game. He has 65 goals in 59 appearances.

GERMANY AND GREECE IN 0-0 DRAW

Greece, which celebrated its first win over Germany last week, almost did it again. It held Klopp's team 0-0 in Thessaloniki.

Germany dominated with more possession, more passes and more goal chances, but both teams couldn't score.

Klopp tried reinvigorating his attack with Nick Woltemade and Cologne star Said El Mala for Jonathan Burkardt and Lennart Karl for the last half hour, but Georgios Masouras had the best chance late for the hosts.

Of Klopp's four games in charge, Germany has only won one.

Joshua Zirkzee fired the Netherlands to a 2-1 win at home over Serbia in the other Group A2 game.

NEW ORLEANS — Saints veteran defensive end Cameron Jordan's first exposure to the epic displacement caused by Hurricane Katrina occurred when a group of new students from New Orleans arrived at his high school in the Phoenix suburb of Chandler, Arizona.

"Katrinians," the 37-year-old Jordan said after a recent practice. "That's what we called them."

Five years later, Jordan arrived in New Orleans as a 2011 first-round draft choice and participated in community service projects at properties still scarred by storm damage.

"I think about the city I came to," Jordan said, "and how much we've grown since then."

The Saints (1-2) had an extra day this past week to prepare for Monday night's game against the Atlanta Falcons (1-2). They used it to educate players — many of whom were toddlers in 2006 — about the Saints' Week 3 Monday night game against the Falcons 20 years ago.

The "Domecoming," as it's known in New Orleans, is best remembered for Steve Gleason's block of the game's first punt. Curtis Deloatch recovered the ball in the end zone and reverse-dunked it over the goal post (which was permitted back then) as the crowd unleashed an explosive, cathartic roar — a moment Gleason would say felt like "infinite joy."

The stadium, used as a shelter of last resort, was damaged by Katrina, contaminated by mold and left in foul-smelling squalor after thousands of evacuees were stuck there — surrounded by flooded streets — for days without power or plumbing. It was closed for 13 months and underwent extensive, fast-tracked repairs before it could welcome back fans, many of whom were still rebuilding their own homes.

Saints coach Kellen Moore gathered the team for a team-produced video about Katrina and the dome's reopening, hoping



MICHAEL DeMOCKER/AP Photo

New Orleans Saints' Steve Gleason blocks a punt which the Saints ran in for the first score of an NFL football game against the Atlanta Falcons, at the Louisiana Superdome in New Orleans on Sept. 25, 2006.

it would help players appreciate the "unique connection between our city and our football team."

"It's very much one, very much tied together," Moore said.

"You see the different videos and recognize streets that we all drive on nowadays and those different things," Moore continued. "They recognize and realize the impact that it had."

Quarterback Tyler Shough said he teared up while seeing the images of devastation and listening to longtime team employees and former Saints players discuss their memories of Katrina's aftermath.

"It was emotional," Shough said. "You really feel just how important the Saints are and how important our work is."

Gleason, who has been living ALS for more than a decade, is set to be an honored guest Monday night. So is Hall of Fame quarterback Drew Brees, who'd been acquired by the Saints as an injured free agent less than a year after the storm and was playing his first home game in New Orleans on that Monday night 20 years ago, leading the Saints to a 23-3 triumph.

Gleason's block is immortalized in a bronze statue named "Rebirth" on an exterior Superdome plaza. There also is a larger-than-life poster of Gleason's block on a wall inside the Saints' indoor practice field.

Longtime fans joke that the play might have set a record for simultaneously spilled beverages as fans

jumped from their seats, yelled with everything they had, danced, hugged and even cried as the spray of whatever they were drinking rained down on them.

Then-"Monday Night Football" play-by-play announcer Mike Tirico says he's never experienced anything like it.

"It wasn't just: 'Hey, our team is playing,'" Tirico said in a video posted on the Saints' website.

Tirico recalled rehearsing how he would call the Saints' first touchdown, intent on exclaiming, "Touchdown, New Orleans," to emphasize what it would mean to the city.

He did so as Deloatch recovered the blocked punt in the end zone, and then stopped talking while holding up his hands to fellow members of the broadcast team, urging everyone to remain silent and let the sights and sounds of celebrating fans speak for themselves.

"There was nothing any human alive could say that could be better," Tirico said.

Saints safety Justin Reid was 8 years old and living near Baton Rouge when Katrina hit on Aug. 29, 2005.

While his community did not flood, power was out for about two weeks and evidence of wind damage was everywhere. He took cold showers by candlelight and recalls his father driving around their neighborhood with a trailer, helping neighbors pick up storm debris.

Later, his father took the family to witness storm damage in New Orleans. Reid remembers seeing waterlines left behind on homes after flooding — caused by multiple levee breaks — had receded.

About 80% of New Orleans experienced some flooding. In some neighborhoods, the water level climbed above front doors. Some homes closest to levee breaks had been swept off their foundations and torn apart. Estimates of storm-related deaths range from about 1,400 to 1,800.

For Reid (who does not recall watching the 2006 game live), the Saints' triumph over the Falcons on that Monday night was "poetic," as was the NFL's decision to schedule another Monday night game with Atlanta at the Superdome within days of its 20th anniversary.

"I grew up in Louisiana, so I know how much football at all levels means to the state," Reid said. "Football is something that people spend their whole week looking forward to. It's a beacon of hope for the city. It's something that brings people together. It's something that transcends socioeconomic status. It transcends race. And it's a big deal in the City of New Orleans."



Notice is hereby given that Michael Keller of 495 State Route 1554, Owensboro, KY 42301, has filed an application with the Energy and Environment Cabinet to construct a House 2200 Sq Ft., Slab on Grade. The property is located approximately at - 87.285201°W and 37° N. From Oakford Road and Highway 60, take a left on Oakford Road, go to the end of Oakford and take a right on Highway 1554. Take the first left at the Cemetery on Sauer Lane and take it approximately 2 miles and Fogle Road is on the left. Take a left on it and 981 Fogle Road is approximately .5 mile down on the left. Any comments or objections can be submitted via email to : DOWFloodplain@ky.gov Kentucky Division of Water, Floodplain Management Section, 300 Sower Blvd. Frankfort, KY 40601. Call 502 - 564-3410 with questions.