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## Piastrri Triumphs at Belgian Grand Prix, Widens Championship Lead

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Australian driver Oscar Piastri clinched a commanding victory at the 2025 Belgian Grand Prix, overtaking McLaren teammate Lando Norris to extend his Formula 1 (F1) championship lead to 16 points. The rain-soaked race at Spa-Francorchamps showcased Piastri's skill, securing McLaren's sixth one-two finish this season. This article explores the race, Piastri's dominance, and the implications for the F1 title race.

Heavy rain delayed the Belgian Grand Prix by over an hour on July 27, 2025, forcing a rolling start behind the safety car at the Circuit de Spa-Francorchamps. When racing began on lap

five, Piastrì, starting second, seized his chance. “I knew lap one was my best shot,” he said, capitalizing on a strong exit from Turn 1 and a daring move through Eau Rouge to pass Norris on the Kemmel Straight. His flawless tyre management on medium compounds held off Norris, who opted for harder tyres but finished 3.41 seconds behind despite a late charge. Piastrì’s sixth win of the season, and eighth career victory, marked McLaren’s first Spa triumph since 2012.

Norris, starting from pole, admitted Piastrì’s superior start won the day. “Oscar did a good job. He deserved it,” he said, reflecting on his own mistakes, including a botched pit stop. Ferrari’s Charles Leclerc took third, 20 seconds back, fending off Red Bull’s Max Verstappen, who finished fourth in the team’s first race after the departure of Christian Horner. Lewis Hamilton, starting 16th, climbed to seventh, showcasing veteran skill. McLaren’s dominance left rivals struggling, with fans on social media noting that the two McLaren drivers seemed to be in a different league when their car performed at its peak.

Piastrì’s victory, extending his lead over Norris, cements his status as a title frontrunner. With the Hungarian Grand Prix approaching before the F1 summer break, McLaren’s pace suggests more wins ahead. However, rising costs and regulatory pressures on teams highlight the need for fiscal discipline to sustain competitive racing without burdening fans or public resources.