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Piastri Falls Short as Norris Wins Hungarian GP

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Lando Norris claimed a dramatic win at the Hungarian Grand Prix, narrowly defeating McLaren teammate Oscar Piastri in a tense season—highlight. Norris's one-stop strategy paid off spectacularly as he crossed the line just 0.698 seconds ahead of Piastri, trimming the leader's advantage to just nine points heading into the summer break.

Despite slipping to fifth place early in the race, Norris stayed out longer on hard tyres and executed a bold strategy that McLaren had initially considered unviable. Meanwhile, Piastri, who had started ahead, opted for a two-stop approach in a bid to undercut Charles Leclerc.

That choice left him on fresher but more worn rubber in the closing laps and ultimately unable to overtake his teammate.

McLaren dominance continued with George Russell claiming third for Mercedes, trailing the two McLarens by around 20 seconds. Leclerc, after securing pole position, faded to fourth following a late setup change and a minor penalty. Fernando Alonso took fifth in Aston Martin's strongest result of the season, followed by Gabriel Bortoleto, Lance Stroll, and Liam Lawson in the points. Max Verstappen rounded out the top ten in ninth, while Kimi Antonelli scored his first point in tenth for Mercedes.

Race Summary (Top 5):

- Lando Norris (McLaren) – Race winner by 0.698 seconds
- Oscar Piastrri (McLaren) – +0.698
- George Russell (Mercedes) – +21 seconds
- Charles Leclerc (Ferrari) – +42 seconds
- Fernando Alonso (Aston Martin) – +59 seconds

Strategic contrast defined the outcome. Norris's longer stint on durable tyres allowed him to control the pace. Piastrri, with fresher rubber, mounted a late charge and closed a 12-second gap to within centimetres by the final lap. He even locked up at Turn 1 during his attempt to pass Norris but ultimately ran out of time. Piastrri described the finish as "bit painful" and conceded that overtaking at the Hungaroring, with its limited passing zones, is particularly tough.

This win marks McLaren's 200th Grand Prix victory and their fourth straight one-two finish, a feat not achieved since Ayrton Senna and Alain Prost in 1988. Team principal Zak Brown hailed it as "close to perfect," applauding the strategic execution and professionalism exhibited by both drivers.

With ten races remaining after the summer break, Piastrri now leads the championship by just nine points. Norris said he expects the title fight to remain tight, acknowledging areas for improvement while praising their shared competitive spirit.

The field now heads to the Dutch Grand Prix on August 31, where Piastrri will look to protect his slender lead and Norris will aim to seize momentum.