

Norris wins epic home British GP

McLaren dominates as Norris claims emotional home victory in rain-hit thriller

● **Piastrì second despite penalty**

● **Hulkenberg secures first podium in 239 races**

● **Hamilton fourth, Verstappen fifth**

AFP | Silverstone

Lando Norris won a treacherous rain-hit British Grand Prix at Silverstone yesterday from his McLaren teammate Oscar Piastrì.

Sauber's Nico Hulkenberg took third for the veteran German's first ever podium in 239 races.

Briton Norris returned to a rapturous reception from his home fans as he moved to within eight points of Piastrì in the drivers' standings.

"It's beautiful, everything I ever dreamed of, this is everything I want-



ed to achieve, aside from winning the championship this is as good as it gets," beamed Norris.

Piastrì, who finished less than seven seconds behind Norris, threw away the win after the Australian was hit with a 10-second penalty



Ferrari's British driver Lewis Hamilton (L) challenges McLaren's British driver Lando Norris (R) on the first lap

for a safety car infringement. As last week's heatwave gave way to a more typical British summer's day -- spells of blue sky mixed with torrential showers -- drivers had to keep their wits about them with puddles forming on the track.

And Norris emerged from

the chaos all smiles as he added to his wins already this season in Austria, Monaco and Australia. Ferrari's Lewis Hamilton came in fourth ahead of Red Bull's Max Verstappen.

Piastrì fell foul of the stewards when braking heavily before the safety car peeled off, a decision that left Piastrì feeling robbed.

"I'm not going to say much, I

don't want to get myself in trouble," he said in the post-race interview.

"Apparently, you can't brake behind the safety car anymore," he added.

For Hulkenberg, 37, this was a day to remember as he climbed the podium for the first time since joining the F1 grid way back in 2010.



At 37, Nico Hulkenberg became the oldest driver to score a maiden F1 podium in 30 years—since Olivier Panis' famous Monaco 1996 win—ending his 14-year wait in dramatic fashion

"Podium - P3 baby!" said his ecstatic race engineer on the team radio after he crossed the line.

"I don't think I can comprehend what we've just done," replied the German.

Pierre Gasly's Alpine took sixth, with Lance Stroll (Aston Martin), Alex Albon (Williams), Fernando Alonso in the other Aston and George Russell (Mercedes) rounding out the top 10.

Fritz into Wimbledon quarter-finals after Thompson retires

AFP | London

Taylor Fritz booked a place in the Wimbledon quarter-finals in double-quick time yesterday after Australia's Jordan Thompson retired injured with the score at 6-1, 3-0.

The US fifth seed faced grueling five-set battles in his opening two matches but it was a different story in his fourth-round encounter on Court One.

The Eastbourne champion broke Thompson twice to seal the first set in just 21 minutes and led 3-0 in the second set.

The Australian then had a medical time-out to deal with an apparent thigh problem.

He returned to the court and slipped 40-0 down in the fourth game before deciding he was unable to continue, with the match lasting just 41 minutes.

"He's been playing five-setters," said Fritz, 27. "He was out



Australia's Jordan Thompson (R) shakes hands with US player Taylor Fritz after withdrawing

playing a long doubles match yesterday you know, so he's been battling out here and I respected him for coming out.

"Obviously his body's not right. So, you know, I feel bad for him."

Thompson, 44th in the rankings, was taken to five sets in his

opening two singles matches at Wimbledon.

Fritz, seeking to reach his first Wimbledon semi-final, will next face Russian 17th seed Karen Khachanov, who earlier beat Kamil Majchrzak with a 6-4, 6-2, 6-3 on Court Two.

Fritz won a record fourth

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TAYLOR FRITZ

Eastbourne title last month and was pushed to his limits in his opening two matches at the All England Club.

The world number five rallied from the brink to defeat Giovanni Mpetshi Perricard in five sets before going the distance against Gabriel Diallo in the second round.

Arsenal sign Spain midfielder Zubimendi

AFP | London

Arsenal yesterday announced the signing of midfielder Martin Zubimendi from Real Sociedad in a deal reportedly worth around £55 million (\$75 million).

Euro 2024 winner Zubimendi had previously been a target for Liverpool and was also linked with Real Madrid. "This is a huge moment in my career," said the defensive midfielder, who is understood to have put pen to paper on a five-year deal.

"It's the move I was looking for and one I wanted to make. As soon as you set foot here, you realise how big this club and this team are.

"I set my sights on Arsenal because their style of play is a good fit for me. They have shown their potential recently and the best is yet to come."

The Athletic reported that Arsenal paid above Zubimendi's 60 million euro (\$71 million, £51 million) buyout clause in order to spread the cost of the fee over a number of installments.

Zubimendi, 26, made 236 appearances in all competitions for Sociedad after graduating from the club's academy and has played 19 times for Spain.

He will reinforce manager Mikel Arteta's midfield options after the departures of Thomas Partey and Jorginho.

Zubimendi's arrival paves the way for Arsenal's record signing Declan Rice to

play a more attacking midfield role alongside captain Martin Odegaard.

"Martin is a player who will bring a huge amount of quality and football intelligence to our team," said Arteta.

"He will fit in really well and he has all the attributes to be a key player for us."

Zubimendi is Arsenal's second signing of the summer transfer window after goalkeeper Kepa Arrizabalaga joined from Chelsea.

Martin Zubimendi



Van der Poel powers into Tour de France lead



Mathieu van der Poel (L) cycles to the finish line to win ahead of Tadej Pogacar (R) and Jonas Vingegaard (C)

AFP | Boulogne-sur-Mer

Alpecin's Mathieu van der Poel edged Tadej Pogacar to win the second stage of the Tour de France in a tense hilltop finale at Boulogne-sur-Mer yesterday.

The victory saw the Dutch rider take the lead in the overall standings after depriving Pogacar of his 100th career win as around 30 riders broke away in the final 2km.

It was a second Tour de France stage win for Van der Poel, who took the yellow jersey from his teammate Jasper Philipsen, the winner of Saturday's opening stage for Alpecin.

Denmark's Jonas Vingegaard seemed at ease as he crossed the line in third with Frenchman Romain Gregoire fourth and his compatriot Julian

Alaphilippe fifth.

The race got going as Pogacar and Vingegaard tested each other over the final 20km with three short, sharp climbs on narrow roads.

That struggle blew up a peloton that had been largely sedate until then.

Heavy rain left giant puddles at the tiny start town of Lauwin Planque as the 182 riders set off on the 209km run towards the coastal port.

Regional police estimated that one million spectators had lined the roadsides on the opening day of action, but the rain dissuaded that kind of turnout yesterday.

Monday's third stage is a 178km flat run to Dunkirk, where a mass bunch sprint is expected unless the peloton gets splintered by winds as it did on stage one.

French team Cofidis had to scramble yesterday morning as they had 11 bikes stolen from a team truck during the night.