

Pole for Piastri at Dutch GP in McLaren lock-up

Fifth pole position of the season for the Australian driver

● McLaren maintained their dominance of Formula One

● Verstappen qualified in third position

● Rookie driver Isack Hadjar scored an impressive fourth place

AFP | Zandvoort, Netherlands

Oscar Piastri snatched pole position Saturday for the Dutch Grand Prix, locking up the front of the grid with his teammate Lando Norris as McLaren maintained their dominance of Formula One.

Piastri clocked a lap record time of one minute 8.662 seconds, 0.012 seconds ahead of Norris to give himself a valuable advantage for Sunday's race.

It was the fifth pole position of the season for the Australian driver, who is seeking to extend his nine-point world championship lead over Norris.

Norris had had the edge over



McLaren's Australian driver Oscar Piastri (R) is congratulated by McLaren's British driver Lando Norris after winning the pole position during the qualifying session of the Formula One Dutch Grand Prix at The Circuit Zandvoort, western Netherlands

the Australian in all three practice sessions so far, but Piastri hit back when it counted to give himself an advantage for the race.

"That was the definition of

peaking at the right time," Piastri said after the qualification.

"It was looking like a bit of a tricky weekend so far so to come out with that, I'm pretty stoked."

Norris was phlegmatic

about his second place on the grid, noting there was barely anything between the two McLarens.

"There's not too much to complain of. I think there were a



McLaren is the only racing team in history to have won the Formula 1 World Championship, the Indianapolis 500, the 24 Hours of Le Mans, and the Canadian-American Challenge Cup (Can-Am). This rare achievement, often called the "Triple Crown of Motorsport" (with Can-Am dominance added), highlights McLaren's legacy across multiple racing disciplines.

couple of places where I wasn't quite on a good enough limit and consistently losing a bit too much lap time today," he told reporters. "So, some places and things I need to work on, but otherwise the laps were good and I'm still pretty happy."

'Very happy'

Home favourite Max Verstappen -- in the unfamiliar position of outsider for his home Grand Prix -- qualified in third position.

Verstappen currently sits 97 points behind Piastri in the world championship standings and has admitted that his Red Bull is off the pace this season.

He will be hoping that the famously unpredictable weather at the North Sea beach circuit of Zandvoort will play a role, as he is regarded as a brilliant wet weather driver.

He declared himself "very happy" with his third place on the podium, saying the crowd "really got the adrenaline pumping".

Fernandes lifts Man Utd gloom, Frank suffers first league loss with Spurs

AFP | London, United Kingdom

Bruno Fernandes eased the pressure on Manchester United boss Ruben Amorim as his last-gasp penalty sealed a 3-2 win over Burnley, while Thomas Frank suffered his first Premier League defeat as Tottenham manager on Saturday.

Just days after a humiliating League Cup second-round loss at fourth-tier Grimsby, United were on the brink of another damaging result after promoted Burnley twice came from behind at Old Trafford.

Amorim had admitted after the Grimsby debacle that he sometimes thinks about quitting and often hates his players.

His mood would have been even darker before United captain Fernandes came to the rescue seven minutes into stoppage time. United's first win in three league games this season will give Amorim some much-needed respite heading into the international break, although questions will still be asked of the Portuguese coach after his side's

latest erratic display.

Luck was on United's side when they took the lead in the 26th minute.

Casemiro's header thumped off the crossbar and hit Burnley captain Josh Cullen on the back, ricocheting over the line before Martin Dubravka could claw it away. Lyle Foster hauled Burnley level with a 55th-minute finish from Jacob Bruun Larsen's cross. Bryan Mbeumo put United back in the lead just 15 seconds later when he slammed in Diogo Dalot's cutback for his first league goal since his summer move from Brentford.

United's frailties were punished again as Jaidon Anthony equalised in the 66th minute.

It was a shambolic goal, with Altay Bayindir spilling Loum Tchaoua's shot and Anthony poking the loose ball goalwards before Kobbie Mainoo's attempted clearance rebounded in off the United goalkeeper.

But in the final moments Anthony pulled Amad Diallo, with a lengthy VAR check concluding the foul continued inside the

area, conceding a controversial penalty that Fernandes gratefully tucked away to Amorim's immense relief.

Tottenham were beaten 1-0 by Bournemouth to end Frank's strong start since he arrived from Brentford to replace the sacked Ange Postecoglou in the close-season.

Tottenham had won their first two league games under the Dane without conceding a goal, including a 2-0 win at Manchester City last weekend.

But Evanilson struck in the fifth minute with a deflected shot as Bournemouth left north London with their second win this term.

Chelsea benefit from VAR drama

Leaders Chelsea took advantage of VAR controversy to beat Fulham 2-0 as the visitors were left to rue a series of costly decisions awarded against them at Stamford Bridge.

Enzo Maresca's side, who have seven points from three games, were fortunate not to

fall behind in the west London derby when Fulham were harshly denied a first half opener.

Josh King's strike was ruled out after VAR deemed Rodrigo Muniz's accidental collision with Trevoh Chalobah was worthy of a foul.

As if that wasn't infuriating enough for Fulham boss Marco Silva, Joao Pedro put Chelsea ahead beyond the scheduled eight minutes of stoppage time at the end of the first half.

Adding to Silva's anger, Chelsea's second goal was also VAR-influenced as Ryan Sessegnon was adjudged to have handled a cross, leading to Enzo Fernandez converting from the penalty spot.

Jack Grealish starred as Everton beat Wolves 3-2 at Molineux.

Beto headed Everton in front from Grealish's flick after seven minutes.

Wolves drew level in the 21st minute when Marshall Munet-



Manchester United's Portuguese midfielder #08 Bruno Fernandes

chan and he lashed into the roof of the net for his first goal since December.

Iliman Ndiaye restored Everton's advantage in the 33rd minute, applying the finishing touch to a flowing move involving on-loan Manchester City winger Grealish and Kiernan Dewsbury-Hall.

Dewsbury-Hall bagged Everton's third, blasting home from Grealish's pass in the 55th minute before Rodrigo Gomes reduced the deficit in the 79th minute. Sunderland staged an impressive fightback to beat Brentford 2-1 at the Stadium of Light.

Brentford were given a second-half penalty for Reinaldo's tug on Nathan Collins, but Kevin Schade's spot-kick was saved by Robin Roefs.

Keith Andrews' side still took the lead thanks to Igor Thiago's 77th-minute header.

But Sunderland hit back as Rico Henry's foul on Habib Diarra conceded an 82nd-minute penalty that Enzo Le Fee converted.