ALEX'S MOTORSPORTS RECAP:
Kimi Antonelli takes the win at Madrid



Kimi Antonelli wins the Formula 1 Race this weekend in Madrid.
PHOTOGRAPH BY "ANDREA KIMI ANTONELLI OFFICIAL" ON FACEBOOK.

by Alex Klancko
CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT
HE/HIM/HIS
lvb24001@uconn.edu

Kimi Antonelli won the Formula 1 race this weekend at Madrid, despite Lando Norris being the fastest driver of the day.

Max Verstappen and Norris would round out the podium followed by Charles Leclerc and George Russell to make up the top five.

To finish off the rest of the points getters, Liam Lawson finished in sixth, then came Franco Colapinto, Oscar Piastri, Arvid Lindblad and Nico Hulkenberg taking the No. 10 spot.

Out of the 22 car field, there were four drivers who did not finish the race and surprisingly, none of which were caused by driver error. Those drivers were Lewis Hamilton who had brake issues, Lance Stroll due to brake failure, Sergio Perez who suffered a technical failure and Carlos Sainz who dealt with floor damage.

The top three of Antonelli, Verstappen and Norris were clearly the cream of the crop this weekend. They qualified 1-2-3 with Norris taking Pole position, followed by Antonelli and then Verstappen.

Those three also finished the race at least 24 seconds ahead of Charles Leclerc in fourth.

Norris even looked faster than Antonelli in the slower car, building a six second gap to the Italian in the first 14 laps of the race.

After Stroll put the car into the barriers due to brake failure, a virtual safety car came out giving Antonelli a free pit stop while Norris had already passed the pit lane by the time the VSC came out.

Norris and McLaren would try to pit on the next lap but the VSC ended and to add on to that blunder, Norris had a slow stop, putting him below Leclerc, Antonelli, Verstappen and Russell.

Norris would end up battling back to third by lap 49 of 57, but by then it was too late and he couldn't get by Verstappen or Antonelli in the remaining eight laps.

Antonelli would again add to his championship lead, putting himself 81 points ahead of Russell in second and 101 points ahead of Hamilton in third.

Meanwhile Norris has come storming back in the standings with three podiums in the past four races including two of those being wins. Norris now sits just five points behind Hamilton in third and 19 points ahead of Leclerc in fifth.

Ferrari, who were expected to perform better at a track with only one straight, qualified in fourth and fifth with Hamilton ahead of Leclerc.

Leclerc led some laps at the Madring but would finish off the podium.

Hamilton, who finished all 798 laps entering Madrid, would only complete six for his first DNF of the season.

In Q3, Russell would qualify fifth, followed by Piastri, Lawson, Colapinto and Lindblad to make the top 10.

Nico Hulkenberg, Gabriel Bortoleto, Esteban Ocon, Pierre Gasly, Yuki Tsunoda and Alex Albon were all knocked out in Q2.

Carlos Sainz, Fernando Alonso, Sergio Perez and Valtteri Bottas were knocked out in Q1 and Ollie Bearman and Lance Stroll did not qualify due to car issues.

The Madring did not offer many chances for overtakes and outside of car failure after car failure, the new Spanish Grand Prix did not offer much in terms of racing product.

The Madring is set to replace Circuit de Barcelona-Catalunya as the full-time Spanish Grand Prix, with the Barcelona circuit coming back on the calendar for the 2028, 2030 and 2032 seasons.

Formula One's next race is in Azerbaijan on Saturday Sept. 26, 2026, at 7 a.m.

You can tune in on Apple TV or F1TV in the United States.



A view of the circuit at the IFEMA Madrid exhibition center.
PHOTOGRAPH BY "MADRING" ON FACEBOOK.