

MERCEDES SHINES, FERRARI BOTTLES IN THE AUSTRALIAN GRAND PRIX

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Mercedes driver George Russell won the Australian Grand Prix on Sunday, after a dominant showing in qualifying and the race.

Russell's teammate Kimi Antonelli finished in second place, followed by the two Ferrari drivers, Charles Leclerc and Lewis Hamilton, in third and fourth respectively.

Russell's dominance started in the third round of qualifying, putting in a scorching 1:18.518 lap time to put him in the top spot.

Antonelli was close behind with a 1:18.811 but outside of Mercedes, the closest driver to Russell was Red Bull Racing driver Isack Hadjar who was eight tenths behind.

Ferrari, who looked like the clear number one team during testing, qualified in fourth (Leclerc) and seventh (Hamilton).

Outside of the top four teams (Mercedes, Red Bull, Ferrari and McLaren), Racing Bulls showed up well in qualifying, ending up eighth and ninth.

Three drivers did not end up getting a lap in qualifying though, Red Bull driver Max Verstappen crashed on his first lap of the session, Aston Martin driver Lance Stroll for had a damaged oil line and Williams driver Carlos Sainz had an Energy Recovery System (ERS) issue.

Two drivers did not start the opening race of the season, including Nico Hulkenberg and McLaren driver Oscar Piastri. Hulkenberg had an undisclosed

issue with his Audi, which prevented him from starting while the hometown hero Piastri crashed the car during the reconnaissance laps.

There were many questions put forth during pre-season testing about the race start. So much so that F1's governing body, the Federation Internationale de l'Automobile, had to change the starting procedure to accommodate the new regulations.

The first race of the season proved that it still needs some working out. Russell got away well, but Leclerc went from fourth to first after the first corner while Hamilton went from seventh to fourth and later went to third after making quick work of Hadjar.

Antonelli had a bad start moving from second to seventh and so did Liam Lawson who went from eighth to eighteenth.

Arvid Lindblad has a great start after moving up four places on the first lap while Aston Martin driver Fernando Alonso made up seven places on the first lap.

The main battle of the race took place in the opening 10 laps between Russell and Leclerc. After Leclerc took the lead on the opening lap, he and Russell went back and forth for the lead until the virtual safety car came out on lap 11 due to engine issues on Hadjar's car which forced him to retire from the race.

Russell then pitted alongside Antonelli for hard tires and that would prove to be the difference in the race.

A second virtual safety car would come out for Bottas after he had car issues and Ferrari, who were one-two at the time, stayed out due to the pit lane be-

ing closed.

Ferrari had to pit Leclerc on lap 25 and Hamilton on lap 28, not under any safety car procedure, which lost them valuable time that Mercedes gained and they were not able to get back to the front of the field.

Ferrari would still end up with Leclerc in third and Hamilton in fourth, but things could

have been different if they had pitted during the original virtual safety car.

For the rest of the race, Mercedes ran away with the win, with Russell just over three seconds ahead of Antonelli and 15 seconds ahead of Leclerc.

It was overall a very messy opening race weekend with the new regulations and many

drivers, including Sainz and McLaren driver Lando Norris, have come out and stated how dangerous the new regulations could be.

Mercedes has the edge right now, but if Ferrari gets their upgrades right, it could make the championship battle interesting.

Ferrari Driver Charles Leclerc standing on the podium for the Australian Grand Prix. despite battling for the lead early on, the Monegasque driver finished in third. PHOTO COURTESY OF @CHARLES_LECLERC ON INSTAGRAM.



Baseball: UConn to host Boston College at Elliot Ballpark

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Turning the corner of warmer weather in March means more UConn baseball games played at Elliot Ballpark in Storrs, Conn. Following a series win against Old Dominion down in Norfolk, Va., the UConn baseball team will return home for a midweek matchup against Boston College.

After the weekend against Old Dominion, the Hook C holds a 7-8 overall record. In hopes of climbing their record back up past the .500 mark, next on the

schedule is Boston College.

On Saturday, UConn run-ruled Old Dominion in eight innings with a score of 14-3. The Huskies pounded out a season high 14 runs on 13 hits to clinch a series win over the Monarchs. Gaby Tirado had a career day at the plate with three hits and four RBIs. Although UConn was unable to take the series sweep on Sunday, they put up some much-needed offense with effective pitching through the weekend.

Redshirt junior Chris Polemeni leads the team batting average having a .375 AVG and sophomore Jackson Marshall is close behind with a .344 AVG.

Sophomore Evan Menzel, junior Nater Watcher and Marshall all have 11 RBIs each, the most on the team. Marshall is also the team's home run leader with five on the season.

Boston College enters this matchup with a 9-6 overall record and 2-1 in ACC action. The Eagles are coming off a statement series win over No. 24 Miami where they took two out of three games over the Hurricanes. Over the three games, Boston College put up 20 runs against Miami. The Eagles have seen early success on the road with a 5-3 record at away games and a 4-3 record at neutral sites, which could be notable for this

matchup in Storrs.

Sophomore Julio Solier leads the team with a .413 batting average and a 1.013 OPS, totaling 26 hits in 63 at-bats. Another offensive weapon for the Eagles is graduate student Nick Wang, who leads the team with 5 home runs and 21 RBIs. After opening up ACC conference play with their first-ever series win on the road against Miami, Boston College will travel to UConn with some momentum.

In all-time matchups, UConn takes the edge with a 72-59 record against Boston College. The balance of success at home and on the road is fairly even with the Huskies holding a 38-

27 record at home and 30-22 on the road at Boston College. The teams' last matchup took place on April 15, 2025, in Chestnut Hill where the Huskies defeated the Eagles 21-9 in seven innings.

The forecast for Tuesdays is sunny blue skies with the temperature projected to reach the 60s; a perfect day for UConn baseball in Storrs. The Huskies and Eagles will face off at Elliot Ballpark on Tuesday, March 10. First pitch is set for 3:05 p.m. The game will be available to stream on ESPN+ and on MIX-LR radio.

UConn men's baseball team takes on New Haven at Elliot Ballpark on Wednesday, March 3. UConn wins 9-4. PHOTO BY PARKER MEYERS, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS.

