Antonelli puts on a show at Monza, Hamilton closer to historic record

by Alex Klancko
CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT
HE/HIM/HIS
ivb24001@uconn.edu

Kimi Antonelli won a spectacular race at Monza, going from 19th to first over the course of the grand prix.

Championship rival and teammate George Russell finished second after leading most of the race, while Max Verstappen rounded out the podium.

Rounding out the points were Lando Norris in fourth, Oscar Piastri in fifth, Lewis Hamilton in sixth, Pierre Gasly in seventh, Arvid Lindblad in eighth, Franco Colapinto in ninth and Yuki Tsunoda in 10th.

Antonelli, who originally qualified seventh, started 19th due to exceeding the season allocation of power unit components after he fit his fifth internal combustion engine, fourth control electronics and fourth energy storage.

He would make his way up to 12th on the very first lap before Charles Leclerc crashed at turn 11 and brought out the red flag.

Leclerc's incident resulted in a 60g crash — which is 9,000 pounds of force at the peak. He made it out unscathed and walked away from the wreck under his own power.

After seven laps, Antonelli made it up to sixth and nine laps after that, on lap 16, he found himself in second behind his teammate, Russell.

Antonelli took the lead on lap 18 and would flip-flop with Russell until lap 28 when a virtual safety car came out to allow Antonelli and Verstappen in third to pit for fresh tires.

Antonelli would come out in sixth, but with much fresher tires than everyone around him, he would make quick work of the field and would comfortably take second place back on lap 37.

With 16 laps to go Antonelli was nine seconds behind Russell and once again he showed the pace that has him with a comfortable lead in the championship standings.

Three laps later, Antonelli shaved one-and-a-half seconds off Russell's lead, and by lap 43 he was only five seconds behind the Brit.

With five laps to go, Antonelli was under a second to Russell who was on 25 lap older tires than his Italian counterpart.

On lap 50, Antonelli finally made his move, overtaking Russell into turn eight for the lead and he wouldn't look back, putting up an almost four second lead on his teammate in just three laps.

The win at his home track would mark Antonelli's seventh win this season and his 11th podium of the year.

The win would also boost his championship lead to 66 points from Russell and 76 points away from Hamilton in third.

Also, with a sixth-place finish on the lead lap, Hamilton has still completed every lap this season and is the only driver to do so after 13 rounds. If Hamilton keeps up his streak, it will mark just the fifth time in F1 history a driver has completed every lap in a season. It would also be his second time completing the feat.

The first driver to do so was Michael Schumacher in 2002, when he won 11 races, finished on the podium in the remaining six races and won his third of five consecutive championships to start the new millennium.

The second time was Hamilton in 2019, when he won 11 races and scored points in the remainder of the Grand Prix's while winning his sixth World Drivers Championship.

The penultimate time this was achieved was in 2023 when Max Verstappen won a record 19 races including 10 in a row in just 22 races enroute to his third consecutive championship.

The final time was achieved in 2024 when Oscar Piastri won two races on route to fourth in the standings that year. Piastri is the only driver on the list to not win the drivers' title when they achieved the feat.

This weekend, Formula One is back once again for round 14 at the Madring. The Madring is making its debut on the F1 calendar as it is set to fully replace Barcelona's Circuit de Barcelona-Catalunya next season.

You can tune in to Apple TV or F1 TV in the US for the race at 9:00 a.m. EST on Sunday, Sept. 13.



Lewis Hamilton from the Ferrari Formula 1 team getting ready for the race at Monza. Hamilton placed sixth in the race. PHOTO COURTESY OF @ LEWISHAMILTON ON INSTAGRAM

The Big Apple: Giants to kick off season in primetime showdown against Dallas

by James Badeau
CORRESPONDENT
HE/HIM/HIS
James.badeau@uconn.edu

This Sunday marks 252 days since the New York Giants last took the field for a regular-season football game.

Since that cold January afternoon when the Giants defeated the Dallas Cowboys 34-17, the Big Blue has had many faces come and go in that time span.

These key faces include drafting linebacker Arvell Reese with the No. 5 overall pick out of Ohio State, lineman Francis Mauigoa No. 10 overall from the University of Miami and wide receiver Malachi Fields No. 74 overall from Notre Dame. In free agency, New York snagged tight end Isaiah Likely from Baltimore, who was a key spark for the Ravens in his four seasons with the team.

Odell Beckham Jr., who last played for the Giants in 2018, is back in blue and white, repping his No. 13 jersey. It wasn't guaranteed that Beckham would make the 53-man roster, but his preseason performance did not disappoint.

"Yes, he has done enough to make an NFL roster, for sure," Head Coach John Harbaugh told ESPN.

Week 1 for New York is in primetime against Dallas, a matchup in which the Giants have historically not fared well. In 2023, the Cowboys blew out New York 40-0 in what was one of the worst games in recent memory for Giants fans.

This time around, you should expect to see a different outcome: a high-scoring affair with both defenses getting picked apart.

Week 2 last season between these NFC East rivals went back and forth, finishing in a Cowboys 40-37 victory in overtime.

Dallas finished with the 30th-ranked defense in points allowed and New York came in at 27th. The Cowboys got some help for the defense by drafting Caleb Downs at No. 11 overall out of Ohio State, who may be argued as the steal of the draft. Downs, who plays safety, is all over the field and delivers bone-crushing hits while flying downhill on run plays.

Rashan Gary, a veteran pass rusher whom Dallas acquired in March from Green Bay, has the ability to blow up runs and apply early pressure at the quarterback. He's no Micah Parsons, whom the Cowboys sent to the Packers, but is still an upgrade from what they originally had.

But how should the Giants game plan to defeat America's team?

Establish the passing game early.

Russell Wilson threw for 450 yards and three touchdowns in Week 2 last season, which was only the beginning for the last-place passing defense for Dallas. Malik Nabers dominated the game with 167 yards and two scores.

So, will he be healthy for Sunday?

Nabers is coming off a torn ACL and might not be able to move as efficiently as he did last season. Just like Nabers, there is Cam Skattebo, who is fully healthy and ready for the season after recovering from a severe right ankle dislocation, open tibia/fibula fracture and a ruptured deltoid ligament against Philadelphia in Week 8 of his rookie campaign. The young trio of Jaxson Dart, Nabers and Skattebo are the reason Giants fans are excited for their future.

The game plan defensively for New York should be to stop the run game. New York was No. 31t in the league last season, allowing 145 yards on the ground per game. Cowboys' running back Javonte Williams is one of the higher-end backs in the league, rushing for over 1,200 yards last season on 4.8 yards per carry. With the addition of Arvell Reese, we should expect the G-Men to send the house often on Sunday night.

Looking ahead this season for the Giants, record-wise, their floor is 5-12 and ceiling is 9-8. In their first seven games, the Giants have very favorable matchups against Tennessee, Washington, Arizona and New Orleans. After the Week 8 bye, the schedule turns into a gauntlet with games against Philly (Week 9 and Week 18), San Francisco (Week 13), Seattle (Week 14), Detroit (Week 16) and Dallas (Week 17).

New York put up many fights in their tougher games last season, and even had double-digit leads in many, but they blew every lead. Let's hope luck can fall into the Giants' hands this upcoming season.



Dallas Cowboys quarterback, Sam Howell, on the field holding a football. The Cowboys wrapped their preseason up at the end of August. PHOTO COURTESY OF @DALLASCOWBOYS ON INSTAGRAM.