

Sports

Hamilton wins fourth career F1 title at Mexican Grand Prix

Hamilton celebrates championships in four cities

MEXICO CITY: Lewis Hamilton won his fourth career Formula One season championship on Sunday with a ninth-place finish at the Mexican Grand Prix in a race won by Red Bull's Max Verstappen. Hamilton had to overcome first-lap chaos when his Mercedes was bumped by title rival Sebastian Vettel of Ferrari. Hamilton got a tire puncture and Vettel had wing damage. Both had to stop immediately for repairs.

That left them in a furious bid to catch up as Verstappen sped away to victory. Vettel finished fourth but had to win or finish second to push the title chase to the last two races in Brazil and Abu Dhabi.

Hamilton's championship makes him the most decorated British driver in F1 history, passing Sir Jackie Stewart. He is one of only five drivers in F1 history with four or more. Hamilton held his helmet in his hands as he crossed the finish line, then took a lap around the track while waving the British Union Jack.

Vettel didn't make any of it easy, in more ways than one. A wild start saw Verstappen bump the Ferrari while fighting through the first turn at the end of the track's long straight. Verstappen got the edge and got out when Hamilton made a move to get past Vettel, who drifted left. The Ferrari's left front wing clipped Hamilton's right rear tire, damaging both cars and forcing their drivers to pit for repairs.

As Verstappen pulled away, a seething Hamilton asked his team over the radio if Vettel made contact "on

purpose." "Not sure, Lewis," the team replied. Race stewards determined no investigation was necessary.

Both drivers made a mad scramble to get back toward the front, weaving through the traffic that bottles up a short track at the Autodromo Hermanos Rodriguez, and Hamilton was struggling to make up any ground. On lap 23, he was so slow that he was shown a blue flag, the order to let a faster car - Verstappen - go past him.

Vettel was on a furious pace to push the championship to the next race. He never got close. Late in the race, he asked his team if he could get second but when told how far behind he was, Vettel replied, "Oh mama mia, that's too much."

The finish allowed Hamilton to celebrate championships in four

Most decorated British driver in F1 history



cities, with Mexico City joining Sao Paolo, Brazil, in 2008, Abu Dhabi in 2014 and Austin, Texas, in 2015. "Viva Mexico!" Hamilton told the crowd when he got out of his car. Hamilton's championship will spur questions about his place among the best drivers in F1 history. The 32-year-old joined Vettel and Alain Prost as four-time winners. He now trails only Argentina's Juan Manuel Fangio (five) and Germany's Michael Schumacher (seven) for the most of all time.

He surpassed the three won by his idol, Brazilian Ayrton Senna, who is still considered one of the most elegant and skillful drivers in F1 history. Hamilton's Mercedes car has dominated the era of turbo-hybrid engines adopted in 2014. Of Hamilton's 62 career vic-



MEXICO CITY: Mercedes' British driver Lewis Hamilton celebrates after winning his fourth Formula One world title despite finishing the Mexican Grand Prix in ninth place, at the Hermanos Rodriguez circuit in Mexico City. — AFP

ories, 40 have come over the last four years, a span of 77 races.

He chased down this championship over the second half of the season after Vettel won two of the first three

races. Ferrari faltered as Hamilton had racked up five wins over the past seven races and his car has been as steady as his driving. Hamilton has finished every race and missed the podium just five times. — AP

Eagles move to NFL-best 7-1 with 33-10 win over 49ers

PHILADELPHIA: Carson Wentz tossed two touchdown passes, Jalen Mills had a pick-6 and the NFL-leading Philadelphia Eagles beat the winless San Francisco 49ers 33-10 on a sloppy, rainy Sunday. The Eagles (7-1) overcame a slow start on their way to a sixth straight win. The 49ers are 0-8 for the first time in franchise history. Wentz was 18 of 32 for 211 yards and one interception. He threw a 53-yard TD pass to Alshon Jeffery and 1-yard TD pass to Zach Ertz. He leads the NFL with 19 TD passes, most by an Eagles quarterback through eight games. C.J. Beathard shoveled a 21-yard TD pass to Matt Breida and finished 17 of 36 for 167 yards with two interceptions in his second career start. The Eagles punted on six of their first eight possessions before opening it up in the third quarter. Wentz hit Jeffery with a perfect pass to extend the lead to 27-7. After Derek Barnett blocked Robbie Gould's field goal, the Eagles drove 62 yards and LeGarrette Blount ran in from the 12 for a 33-7 lead. The 49ers lost five straight games by a field goal or less before Dallas routed them 40-10 last week.

VIKINGS 33, BROWNS 16

Case Keenum threw for two touchdowns and Kai Forbath made four field goals in the last of four games held this season in Britain. Adam Thielen had five catches for 98 yards and a touchdown for the NFC North-leading Vikings (6-2), who trailed 13-12 at halftime - the first time the Browns, 0-8 for the second consecutive year, claimed a mid-game lead this season. Cleveland, without starting left tackle Joe Thomas for the first time since 2006, scored first, taking a 6-0 lead on its second play from scrimmage before kicker Zane Gonzalez's missed extra point. Middle linebacker Joe Schobert's interception return to the Vikings' 37-yard line led to an 11-yard reception by David Njoku and a 26-yard touchdown run by Isaiah Crowell. A 1-yard run by rookie quarterback DeShone Kizer with 40 seconds remaining in the half

helped overcome Forbath's first field goal and an 18-yard touchdown reception by Thielen to push Cleveland's lead to 13-9.

SEAHAWKS 41, TEXANS 38

Russell Wilson hit Jimmy Graham for an 18-yard touchdown with 21 seconds left, his second TD catch of the fourth quarter. Down 38-34 with 1:39 left and out of timeouts, Wilson took Seattle 80 yards in barely a minute. He hit Paul Richardson for 48 yards on a jump ball to start the drive, found Tyler Lockett for 19 yards, and drilled a strike to Graham for the winner. Wilson finished 26 of 41 for a career-high 452 yards and four TDs. He hit Richardson for two TDs and found Graham on a 1-yard TD pass with 5:41 left. Deshaun Watson was nearly the equal of Wilson, throwing for 402 yards and four touchdowns. But the rookie couldn't come up with a final answer and was intercepted by Richard Sherman with 7 seconds left on a desperation throw.

COWBOYS 33, REDSKINS 19

Ezekiel Elliott ran for 150 yards and two touchdowns and the Cowboys took advantage of a blocked field goal return and three turnovers. Playing in a driving rainstorm that made it difficult to hold onto the ball, let alone throw it, Dak Prescott completed 14 of his 22 passes for 143 yards as Dallas (4-3) heeded the message on Elliott's cleats to "Feed Zeke." With another hearing on his NFL suspension coming Monday, Elliott carried the ball 33 times, scored twice for the second consecutive game, and surpassed 100 yards for the third week in a row. The game turned in the second quarter when Dallas' Tyrone Crawford blocked Nick Rose's field goal attempt and Orlando Scandrick returned it 86 yards to set up a 1-yard Elliott TD run.

PATRIOTS 21, CHARGERS 13

Tom Brady passed for 333 yards and a touchdown. Stephen Gostkowski added four field goals. It was the fourth straight victory for the Patriots (6-2). The loss snapped a three-game win streak for the Chargers. Los Angeles (3-5) got on the board first when Melvin Gordon found a seam on the outside and rumbled down the sideline for an 87-yard touchdown run. But the rest of the game was marked by Los Angeles' mistakes and inability to move the ball offensively. New England got its lone touchdown via a 2-yard



LANDOVER: Running back Ezekiel Elliott #21 of the Dallas Cowboys get tackled by strong safety Montae Nicholson #35 of the Washington Redskins during the third quarter at FedEx Field in Landover, Maryland. — AFP

loss from Brady to Rob Gronkowski in the second quarter. The Patriots went 1 for 4 in the red zone, but were able to cobble together the Gostkowski field goals and a safety.

BILLS 34, RAIDERS 4

Rookie linebacker Matt Milano scored on a 40-yard fumble return on a rain-slick field, and the Bills forced four turnovers. Tyrod Taylor threw a 6-yard touchdown pass to Andre Holmes and also scored on a 1-yard run for Buffalo. LeSean McCoy had a season-best 151 yards rushing and also scored on a 48-yard run. The Bills improved to 4-0 at home for the first time since winning their first five home games of the 1995 season. And Buffalo improved to 5-2, matching its best start during a 17-year postseason drought - the longest active streak in North America's four major professional sports.

FALCONS 25, JETS 20

Matt Ryan threw two touchdown passes and the Falcons slipped and slid to victory on a soggy field. Fumbled snaps, dropped passes and a big-time drenching at MetLife Stadium had both squads trying to find their footing, but the Falcons (4-3) steadied themselves just enough to snap a three-game skid - all to other AFC East teams. Austin Hooper and Mohamed Sanu each caught touchdown passes from Ryan, who finished 18 of 29 for 254 yards. The Falcons quarterback had lots of trouble with the weather, fumbling four snap exchanges from center Alex Mack and losing two. The Jets (3-5) had their own issues while losing their third straight. Josh McCown had a bad snap exchange and fumbled on another play - but recovered - and Jeremy Kerley had a costly muffed punt.

SAINTS 20, BEARS 12

Drew Brees completed 23 of 28 for 299 yards against a Bears defense that ranked sixth in pass defense for the Saints' fifth straight win. Mark Ingram and Alvin Kamara each ran for touchdowns for New Orleans (5-2). Ingram finished with 99 yards from scrimmage, including 75 on the ground, but his two

late fumbles kept the Bears in the game into the final minutes. Kamara had 76 yards from scrimmage, 48 receiving. The Saints were threatening to score twice in the fourth quarter when the Bears stripped the ball from Ingram. Chicago converted the first fumble into its only touchdown with 3:43 to go on Tarik Cohen's short dive over a pile of players at the goal line. The second turnover occurred with a little more than two minutes left on the Bears 30, but Chicago was unable to get a first down as rookie Mitchell Trubisky's fourth-and-1 pass fell incomplete.

BENGALS 24, COLTS 23

Lineman Carlos Dunlap batted Jacoby Brissett's pass into the air, grabbed the ball and ran 16 yards to the end zone for a game-turning touchdown. The defensive end excels at swatting away passes - he led NFL linemen last season - and changed the game with his third career score. The Bengals (3-4) couldn't protect Andy Dalton or get much pressure on Jacoby Brissett, who was sacked 10 times during a 27-0 loss to Jacksonville the previous week - the first time Indianapolis was blanked in 15 years. Brissett's second touchdown pass had put the Colts (2-6) in position for a soothing road win. Instead, Dunlap snatched it away with 6:58 left, putting Cincinnati ahead to stay in a game featuring four lead changes. The Colts drove to a fourth-and-4 at the Cincinnati 48-yard line, and Brissett was hit as he threw an incompleteness with 1:18 to go.

PANTHERS 17, BUCCANEERS 3

Carolina's defense didn't allow a TD for the second straight week, helping the Panthers snap a two-game losing streak. Cam Newton rebounded from a subpar performance in a 14-point road loss to the Bears, leading a 17-play, 82-yard TD drive that consumed more eight minutes of the opening quarter. He then completed three passes to Christian McCaffrey to set up a field goal for a 10-0 halftime lead. The Bucs (2-5) have lost four straight. The Panthers put the game away in the fourth quarter, intercepting Jameis Winston twice, with Mike Adams' pick leading to Newton's 25-yard TD pass to Kelvin Benjamin to make it 17-3. — AP

NFL results/standings

Pittsburgh 20, Detroit 15; Dallas 33, Washington 19; Seattle 41, Houston 38; Atlanta 25, NY Jets 20; Carolina 17, Tampa Bay 3; Philadelphia 33, San Francisco 10; New Orleans 20, Chicago 12; New England 21, LA Chargers 13; Buffalo 34, Oakland 14; Cincinnati 24, Indianapolis 23; Minnesota 33, Cleveland 16.

American Football Conference								National Football Conference							
AFC East								NFC East							
	W	L	T	OTL	PF	PA	PCT								
New England	6	2	0	0	216	179	.750	Philadelphia	7	1	0	0	232	156	.875
Buffalo	5	2	0	0	153	115	.714	Dallas	4	3	0	0	198	161	.571
Miami	4	3	0	0	92	152	.571	Washington	3	4	0	0	160	180	.429
NY Jets	3	5	0	0	157	186	.375	NY Giants	1	6	0	0	112	156	.143
AFC North								NFC North							
Pittsburgh	6	2	0	1	167	131	.750	Minnesota	6	2	0	0	179	135	.750
Baltimore	4	4	0	1	170	148	.500	Green Bay	4	3	0	0	164	161	.571
Cincinnati	3	4	0	1	122	135	.429	Detroit	3	4	0	0	176	169	.429
Cleveland	0	8	0	1	119	202	0	Chicago	3	5	0	0	134	171	.375
AFC South								NFC South							
Tennessee	4	3	0	0	158	173	.571	New Orleans	5	2	0	0	191	145	.714
Jacksonville	4	3	0	1	183	110	.571	Carolina	5	3	0	0	148	142	.625
Houston	3	4	0	0	215	188	.429	Atlanta	4	3	0	0	153	152	.571
Indianapolis	2	6	0	1	142	246	.250	Tampa Bay	2	5	0	0	148	168	.286
AFC West								NFC West							
Kansas City	5	2	0	0	207	161	.714	Seattle	5	2	0	0	175	132	.714
Denver	3	3	0	0	108	118	.500	LA Rams	5	2	0	0	212	138	.714
LA Chargers	3	5	0	0	150	152	.375	Arizona	3	4	0	0	119	191	.429
Oakland	3	5	0	0	169	190	.375	San Francisco	0	8	0	2	133	219	0