

Beat: Sports

2021 Mexico City Grand Prix

Mexico City

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USPA NEWS - The Mercedes-AMG Petronas F1 Team leaves Mexico City with a slender one-point lead in the Constructors' Championship after a strong defensive drive from Lewis Hamilton to secure P2.

Lewis delivered a masterful defensive drive to secure P2 on a day when we were outpaced by Red Bull in race conditions.

Valtteri was turned around at Turn 1, putting him to the back of the field and restricting him to a long race unable to pass Ricciardo's McLaren.

In the final laps, Valtteri made two fastest lap runs – the first was unusually slowed by traffic from race leader Verstappen, while the second enabled him to secure fastest lap.

Max Verstappen (312.5 points) leads the Drivers' Championship from Lewis (293.5) by 19 points, with Valtteri in P3 (185).

Mercedes-AMG Petronas F1 Team (478.5 points) lead Red Bull (477.5 points) by 1 point in the Constructors' Championship.

Lewis Hamilton

First, congratulations to Max. That car was faster than we were this weekend and there's nothing we could really do about it. I gave it absolutely everything and obviously a great fight with Sergio at the end but I'm grateful I could still at least get a second-place finish. It was easy enough to hold on – I've been in that situation many times before - but it shows how fast their car was when Sergio was that close behind me and able to follow that closely. He did a great job! Even so, I really enjoyed the race and got everything out of it that we could today. Now we need to get our heads down and keep working hard to prepare for the next races, they will be coming at us fast over the next two weekends.

Valtteri Bottas

It was an unlucky day for me today. As I turned into Turn 1, I got hit from behind and spun me around – then I was stuck in traffic and couldn't make progress. I was giving it everything but it was hard running in traffic because I was overheating the brakes and engine, so I couldn't get past the McLaren in front. The situation at the end with fastest lap was a bit funny, it wasn't easy to find a clear space on track but in the end we were able to make it stick and at least take that point away from Red Bull. Overall, not a great day today – but at least the next race is on Sunday, so we can come back stronger then.

Toto Wolff

First, we must congratulate Red Bull because their pace was on another level. I don't think we could have won the race even if we had stayed ahead in the first corner because they could have pincer us around the pit stops. At the end, I think for Lewis' championship it was damage limitation and he drive a brilliant race with the equipment he was given. As for the Constructors', Valtteri spinning out at turn 1 was just very painful. Looking at the start, we had two cars in front but it seemed to open up for Max to come around the outside – then the spin for Valtteri cost us the points that we could have had for a third or fourth place finish. Looking ahead to Brazil, this has also traditionally been a Red Bull track – but we're going to pick ourselves up and give it everything to fight back, then we have three more to go after that.

Andrew Shovlin

A difficult day; most of what went wrong did so in the first twenty seconds but ultimately we didn't have the pace and with only one car left at the head of the race, second place was the best that Lewis could have achieved. The launch phase of the starts were good, arguably Lewis's was too good as it meant he couldn't tow off Valtteri. Unfortunately Max was able to take that advantage and then found his way onto the racing line into turn 1 to take the lead

Valtteri then got spun round when Ricciardo locked up and hit him which basically took him out of contention. The story of Lewis's race

was quite straight forward; we had to react early on the first stop to protect against an undercut from Sergio which meant we had a long stint to the finish but Lewis managed it very well to secure second place. We've still got four races today, we're not where we hoped to be in the championships but we will leave no stone unturned trying to find performance in these final races.

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