



## AUTO ACTION'S 2023 PRE HUNGARIAN FORMULA 1 TEAM-BY-TEAM EVENT GUIDE

## FORMULA ONE IS AT FEVER PITCH WITH SO MANY REASONS TO LOOK FORWARD TO THE 2023 HUNGARIAN GRAND PRIX.

WITH RED Bull on the verge of history and one of Australia's greatest ever drivers making an unexpected return to the grid, it is one of the most hyped ever.

After 10 races away Daniel Ricciardo is back to ensure Aussies will have two home heroes to cheer on late at night.

The "Honey Badger" had planned on spending the entire 2023 on the sidelines as Red Bull's third driver after his McLaren stint ended unceremoniously a year early.

However, he has been thrown into an AlphaTauri seat two weeks before the summer break after Nyck de Vries was binned off for poor performance.

The sensational development has created a lot of excitement all over the world, and all eyes will be on Ricciardo to see if he can get the magic back.

It will be no easy task given the Aussie will be jumping into the slowest car on the grid with AlphaTauri last in the championship and point-less in the last five races.

Despite not racing this year, the team will be leaning on Ricciardo's 11 and a half seasons of experience to rise out of its current hole.

Budapest is a special place for Ricciardo to make his comeback, given one of his most famous wins arrived there in 2014 when he flew from third to first inside the final five laps.

Whilst many will be intrigued to see how Ricciardo goes, the senior squad Red Bull is on the edge of history.

Victory in Hungary will rewrite the record books with Red Bull tied with McLaren for the most consecutive wins.

Christian Horner's squad has won 11 races on the bounce with the streak starting at last year's season finale in Abu Dhabi.

The form guide suggests little can stop Max Verstappen from achieving the feat, given he has won the last six and overcame an early scare from McLaren in Silverstone.

Last year was another prime example of how hard the Dutch driver is to beat after he started down in 10th and even had a spin, but still won by 7s.

On the other side of the garage the pressure is mounting on Sergio Perez to improve his single-lap pace having not reached Q3 since he got pole in Miami.

The fight for the best of the rest appears as intriguing as ever, with McLaren a new player after showing sensational Silverstone speed.

Both Lando Norris and Oscar Piastri were fighting at the front and only a poorly timed Safety Car cost the Aussie rookie a dream maiden podium.

Piastri will be armed with the new front wing that Norris had exclusive rights over in Hungary.

Mercedes appeared next best with Lewis Hamilton scoring another home podium and the team responded to McLaren's increasing threat with a new front wing.

Both Aston Martin and Ferrari also need to find some extra speed after losing ground a fortnight ago.

With Red Bull chasing records, Ricciardo redemption and Piastri potentially a podium, there is so much to look forward to at the Hungaroring, which has thrown up some classic races in the last decade.

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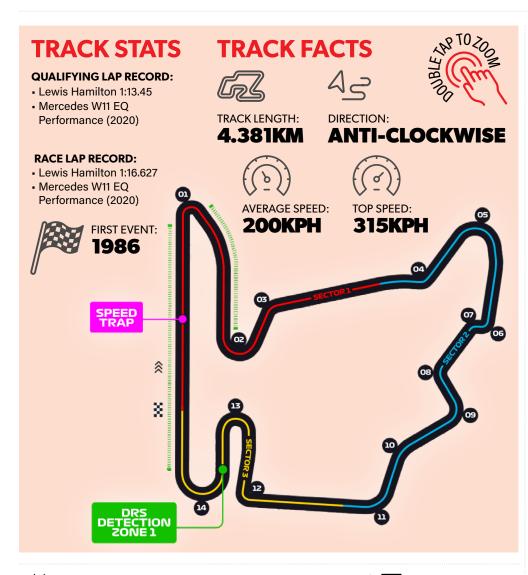
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#### HUNGARIAN GRAND PRIX - SILVERSTONE- JULY 21-23 ROUND TWELVE

THE TWISTY Hungaroring is the latest stop on the calendar where drivers will be kept busy at the "go-kart" like circuit. With a lack of straights and series of corners strung together, teams opt for Monaco levels of downforce. After many years of predictable races, Hungary has developed a reputation for producing drama over the last decade, while the fans feel on top of the cars with the track placed in a natural amphitheatre.







## LIST OF RACE RESULTS

2022: Max Verstappen 2021: Esteban Ocon 2020: Lewis Hamilton 2019: Lewis Hamilton 2018: Lewis Hamilton 2017: Sebastian Vettel 2016: Lewis Hamilton

#### 2015: Sebastian Vettel 2014: Daniel Ricciardo 2013: Lewis Hamilton 2012: Lewis Hamilton 2011: Jenson Button 2010: Mark Webber 2009: Lewis Hamilton

2008: Heikki Kovalainen 2007: Lewis Hamilton

2006: Jenson Button 2005: Kimi Baikkonen 2004: Michael Schumacher 2003: Fernando Alonso 2002: Rubens Barrichello





#### **MOST POLES**

- 8 Lewis Hamilton 7 Michael Schumacher
- 3 Ayrton Senna, Sebastian Vettel

### $2^{1}$

#### **MOST PODIUMS** 11 Lewis Hamilton

- 8 Sebastian Vettel
- 7 Kimi Raikkonen

#### TRACK SCHEDULE (ALL TIMES AEST)

Friday, JULY 21			
TIME	SESSION		
1:21.30-22.30	Practice 1		
SATURDAY, JULY 22			
TIME	SESSION		
01.00-02.00	Practice 2		
20.30-21.30	Practice 3		
SUNDAY, JULY 23			
TIME	SESSION		
00.00-01.00	Qualifying		
23.00	Grand Prix		



### LIST OF POLE POSITIONS 2022: George Russell

2021: Lewis Hamilton 2020: Lewis Hamilton 2019: Max Verstappen 2018: Lewis Hamilton 2017: Sebastian Vettel 2016: Nico Rosbera



2008: Lewis Hamilton 2007: Kimi Raikkonen 2006: Kimi Raikkonen 2005: Michael Schumacher 2004: Michael Schumacher 2003: Fernando Alonso 2002: Rubens Barrichello



#### **TEAM PRINCIPAL CHRISTIAN HORNER**

After multiple near misses, last year Max Verstappen finally scored his maiden Hungarian GP win and it looks he will go back to back. Overcame a brief McLaren fight in Silverstone to record a sixth straight win. Not even a P10 start or spin could stop him in 2022, so what could get in his way in 2023?



#### **TEAM PRINCIPAL MIKE KRACK**

Fernando Alonso arrives at Hungary two decades on from his first ever win in Formula 1 and has the best shot at scoring a fifth podium at the venue. Alonso still sits third, but Aston Martin needs to respond having lost ground to rivals in the development war. Seventh at Silverstone was his equal lowest finish of 2023.



#### **TEAM PRINCIPAL FRED VASSEUR**

Ferrari and Carlos Sainz are looking to fire back towards the pointy end after a disappointing British Grand Prix. Sainz dropped from fifth to 10th as the Scuderia only just clung onto points. However, Hungary has been one of the Spaniard's more consistent venues, having not missed points since his debut season back in 2015.



#### **TEAM PRINCIPAL FRED VASSEUR**

Charles Leclerc has endured a fluctuating recent period with an Austrian podium backed up by a disappointing ninth in Britain. Leclerc consigned an early pit stop which "put us on the back foot" in Silverstone. Has never scored a Hungary podium and has had disappointing races there since 2019.



#### **TEAM PRINCIPAL ZAC BROWN**

Lando Norris is a man on the charge and is on a high after matching his careerbest result on home turf. Norris sent Silverstone into a frenzy when he led the opening stages of the British GP before eventually conceding defeat to Verstappen. Will be intriguing to see if the upgraded MCL60 has front row pace again.



**RED BULL** 

#### AGE: 33 DEBUT: Aus 2011 STARTS: 245 BEST QUAL: 1st (x1) PODIUMS: 32 BEST RESULT: 1st (x5) AVG 2023 FINISH: 4.6 BEST HUNGARIAN GP: 5th 2022



#### **TEAM PRINCIPAL CHRISTIAN HORNER**

Sergio Perez needs to sort his qualifying issues out to maximise the RB19 package underneath him. Perez has incredibly not reached Q3 since Miami with Silverstone the latest episode, salvaging sixth from 15th on the grid. Only has one top five finish at Hungary which arrived last year after another Q2 exit.



#### MERCEDES

AGE: 38 DEBUT: Aus 200 STARTS: 320 BEST QUAL: 1st (x103) PODIUMS: 195 BEST RESULT: 1st (x103) AVG 2023 FINISH: 4.4 BEST HUNGARIAN GP: 1st



**TEAM PRINCIPAL TOTO WOLFF** 

Fresh from another Silverstone podium, expect Lewis Hamilton to collect another trophy at another one of his favourites, Budapest. Hamilton has loved Hungary from the moment he arrived in 2007 and has even won in some of his toughest years like 2009 and 2013. Only strange things tend to stop Hamilton from not winning here in the Mercedes era.

GTU	MERCEDES	GEORGE RUSSELL	
6TH 82 POINTS	DEBUT: A	AGE: 25 us 2019 IRTS: 91	
NECK	BEST RESULT	UMS: 10 : 1st (x1)	
	AVG 2023 FINIS BEST HUNGARIAN GP: 3		

#### **TEAM PRINCIPAL TOTO WOLFF**

Having displaced one Ferrari in the championship standings, George Russell has his sights on Sainz at Budapest. Russell returned to the top five on home turf and hopes a new front wing can give him some extra speed. The #63 driver knows how to constrict a lap around the Hungaroring, taking a special maiden pole in mixed conditions last year.



#### **TEAM PRINCIPAL MIKE KRACK**

Lance Stroll needs to start looking over his shoulder as some rivals emerge to take his eighth position in the championship. Stroll did not perform at Silverstone with contact taking out Pierre Gasly. His fourth place in the "pink Mercedes" in 2021 is his only points finish at Budapest.



#### **TEAM PRINCIPAL OTMAR SZAFNAUER**

After two challenging races, Esteban Ocon hopes returning to the happiest moment of his Formula 1 career can rebound his season. Ocon retired nine laps into the British Grand Prix due to an oil leak which "was going to catch fire if we did not stop". This followed a pointless race at Austria.





#### TEAM PRINCIPAL ZAC BROWN

Oscar Piastri rocketed from 14th to 11th in the championship after sensational British GP which wowed the F1 world. In his first attempt driving the upgraded MCL60, Piastri qualified third and finished fourth, with only the Safety Car robbing him a maiden podium. Has visited the podium in every race he has started at Budapest over the years and will get the full upgrade this weekend.



#### **TEAM PRINCIPAL JAMES VOWLES**

Williams and Alex Albon head to Hungary with plenty of confidence after collecting more points in Silverstone Albon was "super happy" to finish eighth after a strong weekend where Williams was fast out of the gate being in the top three in all three practice sessions. Despite the promise, Budapest is not expected to play to the FW45's strengths.



#### **TEAM PRINCIPAL ALESSANDRO ALUNNI BRAVI**

Valtteri Bottas was on the back foot in Britain having started from the pit lane after Alfa Romeo failed to provide a 1L sample of fuel. However, he still charged to 12th which was the "most" the Finn felt he could have achieved. Wants to avoid a hat-trick of DNFs at Budapest.



#### **TEAM PRINCIPAL FRANZ TOST**

With the departure of Nyck de Vries and return of Daniel Ricciardo, Yuki Tsunoda finds himself under more pressure to perform having led AlphaTauri from the front this year. Britain was a tough race as the team "lacked pace" Now all eyes will be on the Tsnuoda to see how he stacks up with a race-winning teammate.



Although he is yet to get off the mark, Logan Sargeant has a spring in his step after a career-best weekend at Silverstone. Sargeant bettered both his previous best qualifying and race results after showing speed all weekend in the FW45. Despite missing out on maiden points by 4s, the American was still thrilled.



#### ALPINE

DEBUT: Mal 2017 BEST QUAL: 2nd (x1) BEST RESULT: 1st (x1) AVG 2023 FINISH: 11.11 FST HUNGARIAN GP: 5th 2021

# PIERRE GASLY

AGE: 27

STARTS: 117

PODIUMS: 3

#### TEAM PRINCIPAL OTMAR SZAFNAUER

Alpine is looking to start again after a double DNF in Britain, but Pierre Gasly knows points were possible. Gasly was well entrenched in the 10 during the opening stint before "everything did not go our way." The Frenchman's race ultimately ended after being "taken out" by Stroll. Has three top 10s from five starts at Budapest where he lost his Red Bull drive in 2019.



#### **TEAM PRINCIPAL GUENTHER STEINER**

Despite being consistent, it was another slightly underwhelming race for Nico Hulkenberg and Haas in England. Despite pushing hard for Q3 and falling short, Hulkenberg still lost positions on Sunday and ended up 13th after a front wing change was required following contact with Perez. Has scored points once in his last eight Hungarian GPs.

16TH	ALFA ROMEO SAUBER	<b>ZHOU GUANYU</b>
4	AGE: 23 DEBUT: Bah 2022 STARTS: 32	
POINTS	BEST QUAL: 9th (x2) PODIUMS: 0	
	BEST RESULT: 8th (x1) AVG 2023 FINISH: 13.222 BEST HUNGARIAN GP: 13th 2022	aufen Pom 24

#### TEAM PRINCIPAL ALESSANDRO ALUNNI BRAVI

Zhou Guanyu cut a disappointed figure after finishing 15th at Silverstone last round. Zhou proclaimed Alfa Romeo's upgrade was "not looking as good as we hoped" after qualifying 17th and finishing 15th. Has not finished any higher than 15th in the last four races.



#### TEAM PRINCIPAL GUENTHER STEINER

Daring Dane Kevin Magnussen will be looking to lift himself out of a rut this weekend. Since points at Miami his best result in the last five races has been 17th, while he retired at Silverstone due to a power unit failure. Will race with Hulkenberg for the first time as teammates at the track where he infamously told the German to "suck my balls".



#### **TEAM PRINCIPAL FRANZ TOST**

Daniel Ricciardo is back and ready to make a statement. After missing the first 10 races, Ricciardo has been parachuted in to replace de Vries. Although starting cold will be a challenge, the Aussie knows how to beat the best and showed pace at a recent tyre test. But can he rediscover his magic in a struggling AT04?