

Sultanate of Oman lead after Kiel Cup

GC32: OMAN SAIL SUPREME

Muscat

Oman Sail's GC32 Sultanate of Oman finished the Kiel Cup in Germany on a high to maintain their overall lead in the 2015 Bullitt GC32 Racing Tour season ranking.

By the end of the final day's racing, which once more was curtailed by a lack of wind in the morning, Leigh McMillan's crew had notched up a string of podium positions including an impressive win in the last race which kept them in third place, 20 points behind runaway winners Alinghi.

But their strength in the first two events of the series, with a win in Austria and finishing as runners up in Cowes, means that the Sultanate of Oman's overall lead was preserved but reduced to a single point ahead of their Swiss rivals.

"It was a good day", said McMillan who on Wednesday had to manage a last minute change of crew when Pete Greenhalgh became ill and Paul Campbell James, who stood in for Leigh at the end of the Cowes Cup and for the Round the Island Race, stepped in.

"We kept it pretty positive as



The Sultanate of Oman team on the yacht

We always try to do, looking to the next day or the one after. We were determined to finish on a high note though knew there was a lot to do to move up on the leaderboard, especially with the lack of racing. So we wanted to finish off with some decent results and I feel we did that. It's a shame it was the last day!"

"It was really good on the boat today. We were starting to figure it out as a new team and working better on our communication, discussing things through, getting our heads out of the boat so it was a step forward. We had some good starts and managed to convert them into good results."

The GC32 fleet has competed all week in front of massive crowds, as the Extreme 40s did last week in Hamburg, which demonstrates a substantial appetite for sailing in Germany, with many of them were cheering for Oman, said Sultanate of Oman's bowman Nasser Al Mashari.



The Sultanate of Oman team after the race

"It was great to see so many people coming down to watch and really nice to hear them cheering – for us I am sure! There were also a lot of crowds in Hamburg at the Extreme 40s and many of them were cheering for Oman. German tourists are the second highest visitors to Oman, and I think this relationship with the country is why so many of them came down to the boat to see us and support us."

After the challenges posed by crew changes and the disruptions for weather, a third place in Kiel was entirely satisfactory, Al Mashari added.

"We are happy with third place, bearing in mind the conditions, and if there had been more races, we could have finished in second, but we lost one full day and quite a few races today and yesterday. Some you win, some you lose, but overall, we are happy."

It has been an intensive two weeks for McMillan and his crew with the Hamburg and Kiel events but now there is a short break before they travel to St Petersburg in Russia for the next round of Extreme Sailing Series before the fourth Bullitt GC32 Racing Tour kicks off in Rome, Italy, on 27 August.

Oxlade-Chamberlain blasts Man Utd's Keane

London

Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain has slammed claims by Roy Keane that Arsenal's players are more interested in selfies and six-packs than winning trophies.

Keane was highly critical of what he perceives as a culture of self-obsession among Arsene Wenger's squad.

The former Manchester United captain, who now works as Republic of Ireland assistant boss, claims a lack of focus on playing matters will once again stop Arsenal winning a first English title since 2004.

But the Gunners made a statement of intent on Sunday when they defeated champions Chelsea 1-0 in the Community Shield thanks to a fine goal from England midfielder Oxlade-Chamberlain.

And, while the 21-year-old accepts many of Arsenal's players are all fully immersed in the modern social media culture, Oxlade-Chamberlain insists that does not make them any less determined to deliver on the pitch this season.

When asked about Keane's comments, Oxlade-Chamberlain said: "It is a new era, isn't it? Some people do it, some don't. We are serious about winning trophies."

"Personally, and I can speak for the rest of the squad, we have been serious every single year I have been at the club about winning trophies. You can see that on the pitch when we are playing, through the season."

"A lot of people don't see when we lose and go through tough times how upset and disappointed we are," he added.

Lyon reach deal to sign Man United's Rafael

Lyon, France

Manchester United's Rafael is joining Lyon after the two clubs reached a deal over the Brazilian right-back, the French side announced yesterday.

The 25-year-old, has passed a medical and will sign a four-year contract with the former multiple French champions.

Rafael joined United with his twin brother Fabio from Fluminense in 2008 and leaves Manchester with three Premier League titles, and a League Cup win.

Last season he only turned out ten times with new coach Louis van Gaal more often than not preferring Antonio Valencia.

Rafael, who was told he could leave after being omitted from their pre-season tour of the United States, said his goodbyes to United on Twitter.

"I want to thank Manchester United fans for all the love during



Rafael

those 8 years," he wrote. "Since I signed with the club I lived incredible moments, after all were 8 years wearing the shirt of one of the biggest clubs of the world."

Confirming the capture Lyon's official website announced: "OL announces a deal with Manchester United for the transfer of the Brazil international Rafael da Silva who will sign in the coming days a four year contract up to June 30, 2019."

"The player passed his

medical today (yesterday) in Lyon and will be presented to the media by the end of the week."

Rafael, who has played for his country twice, is the third new face at Lyon this close season after the arrival of Claudio Beavue from Guingamp and Jeremy Morel from Marseille.

Lyon came second eight points behind Paris Saint-Germain in Ligue 1 last season with the champions set to confirm the arrival of Rafael's teammate Angel di Maria this week.

Danielson suspended after positive test results

Paris

US rider Tom Danielson has been suspended by Cannondale-Garmin after a positive test for synthetic testosterone, the American team confirmed yesterday.

Danielson, 37, revealed himself on his Twitter account that he had been informed of the positive test carried out on July 9 by the US anti-doping agency (USADA).

"I have not taken this or any other banned substance," insisted Danielson, who has requested that the "B" sample be tested and

blamed possible contamination by food supplements. "I would never ever take anything like this especially after everything I have gone through the last (few) years," he wrote. "This makes absolutely no sense."

Danielson could face a lifetime ban from cycling having previously admitted doping while riding with the Discovery Channel team. He served a six-month suspension between September 2012 and March 2013, and his results from 2005 to 2006 were wiped out.



Team Russia competes in the Team Free Combination final event during the synchronised swimming competition at the 2015 FINA World Championships in Kazan, Russia