



Dortmund players celebrate (Picture courtesy: bundesliga)



Fernando Alonso (file pic)

Hamilton hopes Alonso is in fight

London

Lewis Hamilton hopes his former team McLaren and Fernando Alonso are contenders for the 2018 Formula 1 world championship after their switch from Honda to Renault power.

Hamilton's junior career was supported by McLaren, and he drove for the team in F1 from 2007-2012 before leaving for Mercedes.

Though Alonso and Hamilton's time as McLaren team-mates in 2007 was famously tempestuous, their relationship has improved.

The pair battled for ninth at the end of this year's Mexican Grand Prix as Hamilton recovered from first-lap damage, and the 2017 world champion wants more of that next season.

"I had a great battle with Fernando earlier this year, towards the end of this

season," said Hamilton.

"I'd love to have more battles with him on a much more level playing ground.

"They've had such a difficult time. Given that I grew up with McLaren from 13, I go through qualifying and I always look to see where Fernando is, I always look to see where they are and am watching their progress.

"There's just a natural place in my heart for them, because I achieved a huge amount with them. "I really, really hope next year is a successful year for them, I really hope we are battling with them because McLaren deserve to be at the front.

"I hope with this new power unit they're there with us.

"I hope we have another incredible world champion up there with us fighting for the world championship." (eurosport)

Dortmund triumph

London

Borussia Dortmund finally ended their winless streak in the Bundesliga by beating Mainz 2-0 in Peter Stoger's first game in charge on Tuesday.

Greek defender Sokratis Papastathopoulos broke the deadlock in the 55th minute and Shinji Kagawa sealed it in the 89th after Dortmund missed a host of chances to do so.

It was Dortmund's first league win at the ninth attempt since September, and only the second in 14 games across all competitions.

The side's slump led to

the sacking of Peter Bosz on Sunday, when Stoger took over.

Stoger was sacked by Cologne the week before after his side failed to win in 13 Bundesliga games, but the Austrian coach is respected for leading Cologne to Bundesliga promotion in 2014 and overseeing steady progress in each of the following seasons -- up to this one.

"I admit, after a long time in red and white, the new colour (yellow and black) is a bit unusual. I don't need the black for my figure, but it suits me quite well," said

Stoeger, who oversaw his first Bundesliga win of the season. "It's been a while."

However, Dortmund's uncertainty from their barren spell was clear to see in Mainz.

Suat Serdar rattled the crossbar early on for the home side, and blazed over minutes later, then Abdou Diallo was next to head over.

The home side were aggressive, first to every ball, winning challenges, and Dortmund struggled to create any attacking opportunities.

Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang should have scored toward the end of the half after a simple ball over

the top, but the Gabon striker fired wide when he had only the goalkeeper to beat.

Raphael Guerreiro then drew a good save from Robin Zentner.

Ten defenders made it hard for Dortmund to break through in the second half, but a foul on Christian Pulisic provided the breakthrough. Omer Toprak deflected Kagawa's free kick onto the post and Sokratis hammered in the rebound.

Dortmund wasted numerous good chances as Mainz tired, but Aubameyang finally set up Kagawa to seal it. (espn.in)

London

MotoGP race winner and three-time World Superbike champion Troy Bayliss will return to full-time competition at the age of 48 in the 2018 Australian Superbike Championship.

Bayliss will ride a Ducati 1299 Panigale R Final Edition for the DesmoSport squad he co-owns with Ben Henry.

It will be Bayliss's first full season of racing in a decade, and his first competitive outing since his two-round cameo in WSBK at the start of the 2015 season.

He said his motivation was to finally win an Australian Superbike crown, having finished runner-up in the series in 1996 and '97 before heading to Europe.

Bayliss admitted he had come close to joining the series midway through this

year to replace injured rider Callum Spriggs.

"Initially, I did want to see another young guy on the bike but after I rode it, I felt that I needed to contest the championship and try and win myself the elusive Australian Superbike title," said Bayliss.

"I definitely feel like I have some unfinished business.

"I have a bit of work to do in terms of fitness but after testing the bike and running it at the Adelaide Motorsport Festival I feel I am definitely up to the task."

Ducati Australia and New Zealand CEO Warren

Lee said getting Bayliss back on a bike was a big coup for the series. (autosport)

Bike legend Bayliss makes racing comeback



Troy Bayliss (file pic)