

# Opening victory for Bahrain

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**Manama**  
**H**osts Bahrain under coach Yousuf Khalifa Alasbool delighted the crowds as they defeated Egypt 3-1 (25-17, 25-20, 19-25, 25-20) in its opening Pool A match last night in the 2017 FIVB Volleyball Boys' U19 World Championship at Shaikh Isa Sports City in Riffa.

In the opening set, it was fairly tight at 8-7 before Bahrain took control with a lead of 17-13 and soon took a 1-0 lead after a strong finish, while the second set saw Bahrain take a 13-10 lead and finished strongly to go 2-0 up in the match.

The national team suffered a setback in the third set as the Egyptians raced into an early 9-3 lead and stayed ahead throughout to fierce a fourth set.

After a tough start to the fourth set with the score at 9-8, Bahrain had a good middle set spell and held on to its advantage for a maiden victory in the championship. Hussain Thamer (21 points) led the scoring for Bahrain, while

other contributions came from Sayed Alabbar (10) and Hassan Haider (9) and Mahmood Abdulhussain (9), Haider also had four blocks, while Mohammed Jassim finished with six.

"This is a good start for us," Bahrain's head coach Yusef Khalifa said. "This is the world championship; we must play every game like a champion."

In the other Pool A match, Puerto Rico edged out Tunisia in a thriller 3-2 (20-25, 25-18, 30-32, 25-22, 17-15) inspired by top scorer Gabriel Garcia with 30 points and supported by Pedro Molina (11), while Hedi Kazri (15) and Salem Naffeti (13) were the main scorers for Tunisia.

France shocked one of the pre-tournament favourites Brazil in Pool B with a come from behind 2-0 sets deficit to win 3-2 (23-25, 20-25, 25-17, 25-17, 17-15).

The win was due to fine

scoring by Remi Bassereau (31) after the fifth and final set was in the balance to the end with the lead changing a number of times, until the French scored two unanswered points with the score tied at 15-15, top scoring for Brazil was Victor Aleksander Al Meid a (26).

Italy in Pool D produced a fine 3-1 (25-19, 25-21, 19-25, 30-28) win over the current European Champions the Czech Republic. Top scoring for Italy was Diego Cantagalli (16) and Lorenzo Cortesia (12).

**Other scores:**

Pool B: Japan (Kento Miyaura 11, Tatsanori Otsuka 11) bt Cuba (Lazaro Yoelvis Brunet Llanes (17) 3-0 (25-21, 25-18, 25-12).

Pool C: Russia (Maksim Sapozhkov 18) bt Turkey (Adis Lagumdžija 7) 3-0 (25-16, 25-14, 25-12). South Korea bt Chile 3-0 (25-12, 25-20, 25-21).



Team Bahrain celebrate



Action from South Korea-Chile match

## Today's Schedule:

1pm: Pool B: France vs Cuba. Pool C: Chile vs Turkey  
3pm: Pool B: Poland vs Brazil. Pool C: Argentina vs Russia  
5pm: Pool A: Puerto Rico vs Egypt. Pool D: Mexico vs Czech Republic  
7pm: Pool A: Bahrain vs USA. Pool D: Italy vs Iran

## Bahrain proud to host championship

DT News Network  
Manama

**H**H Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al-Khalifa, First Deputy President of the Supreme Council for Youth and Sports, President of Bahrain Athletics Association and Honourary President of the Bahrain Disabled Sports Federation has urged all sports federations in Bahrain to support the National Youth Volleyball Team, which started yesterday and continues until August 27 under the patronage

of HH Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al-Khalifa, Representative of His Majesty the King for Charity Works and Youth Affairs, Chairman of the Supreme Council for Youth and Sports and President of Bahrain Olympic Committee. Shaikh Nasser said, "We call on all sports institutions and clubs in the Kingdom and all Bahraini youth, as well as citizens, to support the team during the tournament, which earlier this month won the Junior Arab Volleyball Championship earlier this month in Jordan."

# Tour convinced Contador it was time to quit

Nîmes, France

**A**lberto Contador said yesterday he knew the time had come to retire during last month's Tour de France, where he was unable to keep up with the contenders.

The 34-year-old Spaniard begins his final Grand Tour today as the Vuelta a Espana begins in Nîmes, France with a time-trial.

He had announced 10 days ago that he would retire at the end of this season following a glorious career in which he won the Tour twice, the Vuelta three times and the Giro d'Italia twice as well.

But in July he laboured to a ninth-placed finish at the Tour, his worst placing since coming 31st on his debut in 2005.

"It's a decision that I've thought long and hard about," said Contador



Alberto Contador

of his retirement.

"I knew the Tour de France would give me my answer."

"I arrived at the Tour in great shape with the ideal weight."

Until then he had been in talks with his Trek team over a contract extension beyond the end of this season.

"The decision (to retire) had been

70 percent taken but there was a moment where I saw things clearly, after the Tour's ninth stage.

"I had to contend with things that weren't in my plans, such as crashes, and that's the day I got my definitive answer."

Contador has raced the Vuelta four times and last year, when he finished fourth, was the first time he'd failed to win it.

This year, though, his ambitions are limited.

"What's clear is that in every race I want to give it everything," he said.

"I've always been super professional and I'll remain that right to my last active day in the sport."

"This Vuelta is special, it will be three dream weeks, I'm lucky to have this opportunity." (AFP)

## Vuelta:

2017

## Last 10 winners

2016	Nairo Quintana	COL
2015	Fabio Aru	ITA
2014	Alberto Contador	ESP
2013	Christopher Horner	USA
2012	Alberto Contador	ESP
2011	Juan José Cobo	ESP
2010	Vincenzo Nibali	ITA
2009	Alejandro Valverde	ESP
2008	Alberto Contador	ESP
2007	Denis Menchov	RUS