

Christian Coleman breaks 60m indoor world record



Clemson

American world 100m silver medallist Christian Coleman broke the 60m indoor world record, clocking 6.37 seconds at a meeting in Clemson, South Carolina.

Coleman's mark beat the previous record of 6.39 set twice by fellow American Maurice Greene, in 1998 and 2001.

The performance is subject to ratification by athletics' world governing body the IAAF.

"Great start to my career," tweeted Coleman, who aged 21 is in his first full year as a professional athlete.

It beats his previous best of 6.45, which he recorded when he won the US indoor championship last year.

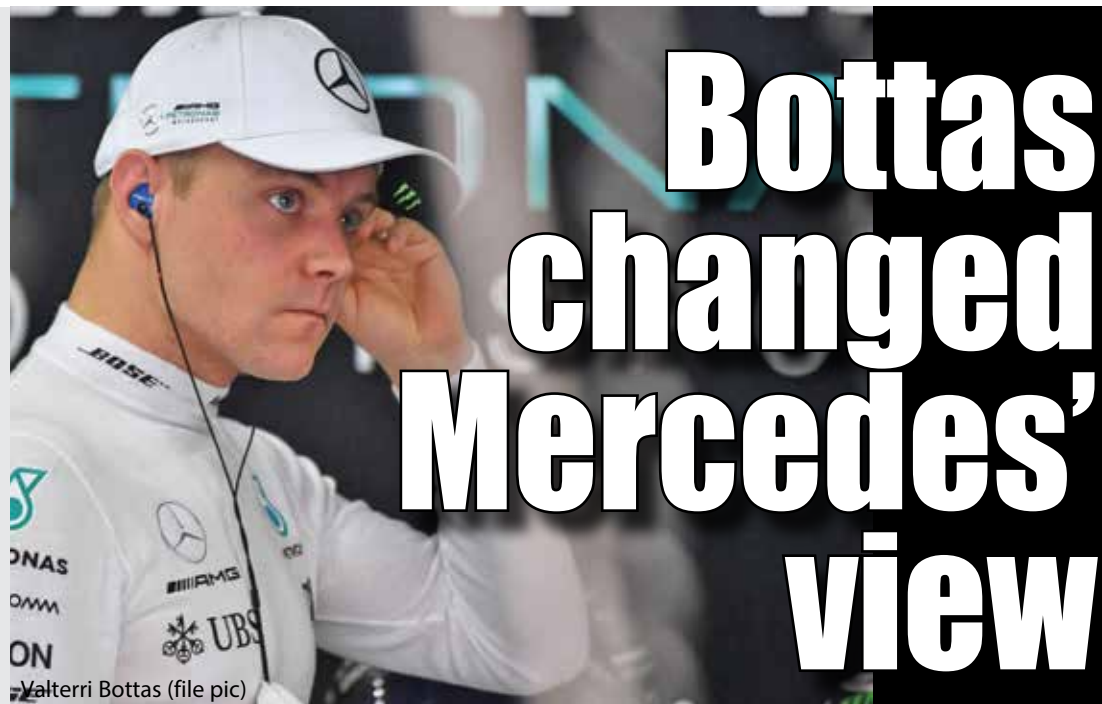
"I'm in disbelief," said Coleman's coach Tim Hall. "This was his season opener. It was totally unexpected."

"We talked a little bit more before the final and like I always tell him, I said: 'Relax, no pressing and allow the run to happen.' That was the result."

Coleman ran 9.82 seconds, the fastest 100m of 2017, at the US outdoor collegiate title meeting.

Expected to be America's next great sprinter, he finished behind Justin Gatlin and ahead of world record holder Usain Bolt in the 100m at last year's world championships in London.

The 2018 World Indoor Championships take place in Birmingham from 1-4 March. (BBC)



Bottas changed Mercedes' view

Valtteri Bottas (file pic)

London

Pairing Valtteri Bottas alongside Lewis Hamilton has changed the way the Mercedes Formula 1 team thinks about internal rivalries between its drivers, according to team boss Toto Wolff.

Mercedes had a difficult time managing the dynamic between Hamilton and 2016 F1 world champion Nico Rosberg, as their battles for the championship became increasingly vitriolic.

Multiple controversies developed between the two, concerning the use of engine modes, pit strategy, on-track collisions, personnel swaps between the garages, and how the team managed their rivalry away from

the circuit, but the team always believed in the positive benefit of Hamilton and Rosberg pushing each other to the limit on track.

Hamilton has credited improved harmony within the team in 2017 as a major part of his championship success, and Wolff feels a healthier working relationship between Bottas and Hamilton proved crucial in helping Mercedes beat Ferrari to both titles.

"Nico put us in front of a fate accompli - there was not even a discussion - and it was difficult to find the right driver, but we gave it some time to decide and eventually we got just the right guy into the team," Wolff said.

"In the past I always believed that a very fierce rivalry between

team-mates would be good for the team because they would be pushing each other.

"The lesson I learned is that is probably not true - you need two team-mates that perform at a high level that keep pushing each other in the car, but the rivalry shouldn't spill over into controversy outside of the car. "The mindset and the relationship between the two made us stronger, gave an open and honest environment, and fundamentally our very fast, difficult car we got it into a good place also because the two worked so well together."

(Autosport)

Carlos Sainz wins race for second time

Bolivia

Carlos Sainz won the Dakar Rally for the second time as he drove his Peugeot to victory in Argentina yesterday.

The Spaniard, 55, and compatriot co-driver Lucas Cruz finished ahead of Qatar's two-time winner Nasser Al-Attiyah in a Toyota.

The double world rally champion first won in 2010 with Volkswagen.

His latest victory brought the Peugeot works team a third win in a row - and also their last as they have already announced they will not compete again.

Sainz held a 46-minute advantage over Al-Attiyah before the final stage and, despite finishing the stage ninth, held off his rivals to win by 43 minutes 40 seconds.

"[Peugeot] have already won two times, but I think I deserved this victory because we have put a lot of effort into this car," he said.

"At the beginning I said we'll take it a little bit easier, but Peugeot said we'd have to go flat out. I raced a couple of days and pushed really hard, but then the race was a case of not making mistakes."

Sainz's son, Carlos Jr - who drives for Formula One team Renault, posted his congratulations on Twitter.

"I am probably the proudest son of his



father in the whole world. Winner of the toughest @dakar ever done in South America at 55 years of age (good number) and he did it in his own way," said Sainz Jr, who races as number 55. (BBC)

Barcelona denies Griezmann's deal reports

London

Barcelona have "strongly denied" claims they have agreed to sign Atletico Madrid's Antoine Griezmann this summer.

Griezmann, 26, is under contract until summer 2022 but Spanish newspaper Sport claims a deal has

been done between Barcelona and the France forward.

Barca added they had "objections" to the reports "and reiterates its full respect" for Atletico.

It has also been reported Barca have given Philippe Coutinho the number 14 shirt so Griezmann can

be number seven.

Griezmann scored as Atletico drew 1-1 with Girona on Saturday. Diego Simeone's side are second in La Liga with 43 points, eight behind leaders Barcelona, who have a game in hand. (BBC)

Carlos Sainz (file pic)