

Bolt in shock as friend dies in crash

Germaine Mason

Kingston

Sprint superstar Usain Bolt was caught up in a fatal motorcycle crash in Jamaica which claimed the life of Germaine Mason, the British high jumper who won a silver medal at the 2008 Beijing Olympics, media reported.

Jamaican-born Mason, 34, died Thursday in the early morning crash which occurred near Kingston, police said, when he lost control of his motorcycle.

According to the Jamaica *Gleaner* newspaper, Bolt, Jamaica's eight-time Olympic sprint champion and 11-time world champion, and fellow sprinter Michael Frater were immediately at the scene.

Team Jamaica, a website run by Jamaican athletics supporters, said a number of athletes, including Bolt and Frater, were riding in a convoy with Mason when the crash took place. "Usain Bolt was part of the group that came by and he was very, very emotional, and still is," police senior superintendent Calvin Allen told the BBC.

"I understand they are very close friends."

Mason began competing for Britain, his father's homeland, in 2006 after having taken bronze for Jamaica at the 2004 world indoors



The wrecked bike of Jamaican-born British high jumper Germaine Mason

and claimed silver at the 2000 world juniors in Chile and bronze at the 2002 world juniors in Kingston.

"Germaine was an outstanding athlete and a truly lovely man. He had a wry sense of humour and was a pleasure to be around," said Fuzz Caan, a senior high jump coach at British Athletics who worked with Mason during his time as Olympic champion.

"He was a great ambassador of British high jumping. It is an honour for us to have him as part of our sporting history."

Mason, still the Jamaican national record holder in the event, matched his personal best of 2.34m to claim silver at Beijing, one of a then-record 47 British Olympic medals

taken in China.

"The whole of the British Olympic Association is incredibly sad to hear of the passing of Germaine Mason," said BOA chief executive Bill Sweeney.

"Germaine was a great athlete, an Olympian and a silver medal-winning part of Team GB who made history at Beijing 2008. Our thoughts and condolences are with his family and friends at this difficult time."

Other British athletics stars were stunned and saddened at the news.

"This is just awful. Such sad news," tweeted 2012 London Olympic and three-time world heptathlon champion Jess Ennis-Hill. (AFP)

BCL Golden League: Union Group crush SNB

DT News Network

Manama

Union Group crushed SNB by 189 runs in the latest matches of the BCL Golden League at the Busaiten Grounds in Muharraq. Batting first, Union Group scored a massive 299 for seven in 25 overs thanks to a fine knock by Rana (110) with good support from Nadeem (45) and Qaiser (36) with Wasif (three for 44) returning the best bowling figures.

SNB in reply were dismissed for 110 with Jannisar (33) the top scorer and an outstanding Sanjay (four for seven) the pick of the bowlers.

In another match, Titans edged out Panthers by two runs after scoring 168 for eight in 25 overs with Zeeshan (55) and Ibrar (21) the main scorers and Haris (two for 24) the best of the bowlers.

Panthers were then bowled out for 166 despite a brave knock by Habib



Adnan - Fateh



Jagan - Matrix



Rana - Union



Zeeshan - Titans

(50) as Ibrar (four for 21) and Mohan (three for 24) shared the bulk of the wickets that fell.

Other scores:

1) G4s Legends 209/5 in 25 (Prashanth 53, Vijith 53, Shubin 2/37) bt Typhoon 93/10 (Jayakrishnan 28) by 116 runs.

2) Rock Star 160/9 in 24.1 (Anil 55, Jerin 34, Azhair 2/29) bt Muharraq Eagles 158/10 (Abdul Rahman 58, Waseem 48, Shiju 4/27) by 1 wicket.

3) Safetech Matrix 200/9 (Jagan 53, Shithin 38, Jafar 34, Reji 5/24) bt

Tornado Riders 144/10 (Thaju 50, Jagan 3/18) by 56 runs.

4) Fateh Curtain 186/10 (Zahid 60, Bilal 40, Haris 3/44) bt Hala CC 157/10 (Iqbal 57, Adnan 5/23) by 29 runs.

5) Hempel Paints 131/8 in 19.2 (Kashif 43*, Sohaib 4/30) bt BMMI 130/10 (Aslam 20, Rashid 4/35, Sanjeev 3/19) by 2 wickets.

6) Lions 224/5 in 25 overs (Juzer 94, Mudreka 42, Nadeem 2/31) bt Shaheen 111/9 (Bilal 24, Mohammed 3/23) by 113 runs.

Joshua meets Klitschko

Wladimir Klitschko returns to the ring to face undefeated Anthony Joshua in front of a capacity 90,000 crowd at Wembley. The pair will fight for the IBF and IBO heavyweight titles, as well as the WBA Super crown vacated by Tyson Fury in October

April 29, Wembley Stadium, London

TALE OF THE TAPE

Joshua	Klitschko
AJ	Dr. Steelhammer
27	Age 41
British	Nationality Ukrainian
2013	Turned pro 1996
18-0	Won-lost 64-4
18	Knockouts 53
6ft 6in	Height 6ft 6in
82in	Reach 81in
Orthodox	Stance Orthodox

FIGHTING FORM: Last five contests

2016 Eric Molina	Win: Round 3	2015 Tyson Fury	Lost: UD*
2016 Dominic Breazeale	Win: R7	2015 Bryant Jennings	Win: UD
2016 Charles Martin	Win: R2	2014 Kubrat Pulev	Win: R5
2015 Dillian Whyte	Win: R7	2014 Alex Leapai	Win: R5
2015 Gary Cornish	Win: R1	2013 Alexander Povetkin	Win: UD

Source: Wire agencies

Picture: Getty Images

*Unanimous Decision

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Seven Cups races today

Manama

Seven Cups races are scheduled today with BD14,000 in prize money up for grabs starting from 3pm and concluding at 5.30pm in the 24th and penultimate race meeting of the season at the Rashid Equestrian and Horse Racing Club in Sakhir.

All seven races are worth BD2,000 each with three races for the Porsche Cup, silver at (3pm), bronze (3.25pm) and gold (5.05pm), Bahrain Jewellery Cup at (4.15pm), (4.40pm) and (5.30pm) and the Chevron Cup at 3.50pm.

Dubai puncher Grivko banned for 45 days

Liege

Ukraine cyclist Andrey Grivko, who was kicked off the Tour of Dubai for punching a rival, was suspended for 45 days by the international cycling union (UCI) yesterday.

Grivko of the Astana team was disqualified in Dubai in February for punching race leader Marcel Kittel who was left with blood pouring down his face.

The UCI didn't give a reason for banning the 33-year-old Grivko who will be sidelined from May 1 to June 14.

Sports Speaker MENA: Bad Boys of Football

Manama

Sports Speaker MENA is organising another fun-filled evening of wit entitled 'An Evening With Football Bad Boys' on 12 May at The Radisson Diplomat Hotel with the doors opening from 7.30pm.

The audience can hear the insight and never heard stories from three of football's bad boys. Ray Parlour talks about his time with Arsenal and England and the crazy days with Tony Adams and the Arsenal Boys!

Neil 'Razor' Ruddock is a football hardman and hear his stories from his days at Liverpool, Spurs, West Ham

and more. John Hartson tells of his days with Wimbledon's Crazy Gang and his turbulent time at West Ham as well as his spells in Scotland and with Arsenal.

These guys are football through and through and their stories will not disappoint.

The evening includes speech's from all three players, dinner, comedian compere Jerry Earl, an audience Q&A with the panel, sports memorabilia and pictures with the guys and prize giveaways.

For more information contact 00973 3388 6952 and online: www.ssmena.com