

McMahon bid for title at Ironman

DT News Network
Manama

Brent McMahon will make a bid for the title at Ironman Lake Placid, New York, US this weekend as he seeks to secure enough points to qualify for the Ironman World Championship in Kona, Hawaii, US.

It has been an up-and-down season for the Canadian who took second place at Ironman Arizona late last year to begin racking up qualification points in one of the first races that counted toward the 2017 Ironman World Championship.

A defence of his Ironman Latin American Championship title in Brazil back in May would have secured an automatic spot in

Kona. Instead, McMahon fell ill in the lead-up to that race and pulled out early on the marathon.

Now back on track, he is making his first appearance at the longest-running Ironman event in North America, known for its challenging bike course through the Adirondack Mountains in New York.

"After a rough go at Ironman Brazil I came home, regrouped and got healthy," says McMahon. "This last block of training has gone really well with lots of bike miles and hills to prepare for the 7000 feet of climbing in Lake Placid. I'm excited to try a new Ironman that is sure to challenge but suits my strengths."



Belgium stun runners-up Norway

Breda, Netherlands

Elke Van Gorp and Janice Cayman gave Belgium their first-ever win at the women's Euro as the Red Flames stunned 2013 runners-up Norway 2-0 in Breda yesterday.

Van Gorp slammed in a rebound in the 59th minute past Norway keeper Ingrid Hjelmseth who had cleared Tessa Wullaert's header following a cross from Belgium's Davina Philtjens.

Eight minutes later, Cayman headed in a long throw-in that had found its way through the Norwegian defence.

Ahead of the tournament in the Netherlands, Norway won nine of ten competitive meetings with Belgium.

But the Belgians, propelled by a noisy crowd, had the first chance when Van Gorp saw her left-footed effort stopped by Hjelmseth just three minutes into the game. Norway then took the reins, with Ada Hegerberg heading over the crossbar and Caroline Graham Hansen slamming her volley over with just Belgian keeper Justien Odeurs to beat. (AFP)

Kaur leads India past Australia, into final

Derby

India stunned defending champions Australia by 36 runs to secure a spot in the Women's World Cup final after an undefeated 171 by Harmanpreet Kaur provided the platform for victory yesterday.

With their first win over six-time champions Australia in World Cup knockout cricket, India will now play tournament hosts England in the sold-out Lord's final on Sunday.

Australia, set 282 to win and what would have been a record World Cup chase if successful, got off to a terrible start as they lost three wickets inside the opening eight overs.

Despite some impressive hitting from Elyse Villani, who recorded her best ODI score of 75, they were never able to keep up with the required run rate and were dismissed for 245 with 11 balls to spare.

Earlier, Kaur's unbeaten 171 -- her third ODI century, which came off just 115 balls and included 20 fours and seven sixes -- underpinned India's 281 for four.

India, who reached their only previous final in 2005, had experienced a disappointing start of their own as they sunk to 101-3, including the dismissal of inspirational captain Mithali Raj for 36.

However, Kaur, 28, revitalised the innings with a rapid fourth-wicket



Australia's Alex Blackwell is bowled as Indian team celebrate victory (picture courtesy: theguardian)

partnership of 137 with all-rounder Deepti Sharma.

Kaur, who scored her first hundred outside of India, was named player-of-the match.

In a match reduced to 42 overs after heavy rain delayed the start until 13:45pm (1245 GMT), India looked likely to score under 200 until Kaur cut loose. India, calling on their knowledge of the pitch, having won all four group stage matches they contested at Derby, decided to bat first after winning the toss.

However they were left in a perilous position when opener Smriti Mandhana (six) departed in the first over and Punam Raut (14) joined her in the pavilion not long after.

Kaur took on the role of aggressor as she and Raj made

steady progress, before leg-spinner Kristen Beams bowled Raj for 36 having been dropped the previous delivery.

Kaur continued to attack in a merciless display of hitting, requiring 26 balls to move from her half-century to triple figures, when she was almost run out scampering a two to reach the landmark.

That scare and the wicket of Sharma did little to deter her, using only 18 balls to then bring up her 150. (AFP)

SCOREBOARD

India	
S. Mandhana c Villani b Schutt	6
P. Raut c Mooney b Gardner	14
M. Raj b Beams	36
H. Kaur not out	171
D. Sharma b Villani	25
V. Krishnamurthy not out	16
Extras (w9, nb1, lb3)	13
Total (4 wickets, 42 overs)	281
Australia	
B. Mooney b Pandey	1
N. Bolton c&b Sharma	14
M. Lanning b Goswami	0
E. Perry c Verma b Gayakwad	38
E. Villani c Mandhana b Gayakwad	75
A. Blackwell b Sharma	90
A. Healy c Pandey b Goswami	5
A. Gardner c Raj b Yadav	1
J. Jonassen run out (Goswami)	1
M. Schutt c Goswami b Sharma	2
K. Beams not out	11
Extras (w6, lb1)	7
Total (all out, 40.1 overs)	245

Spieth in tie for lead at British Open

Southport

Jordan Spieth produced one of his best major championship efforts to take a share of the lead alongside fellow Americans Brooks Koepka and Matt Kuchar after the first round of the British Open.

The trio all shot five-under-par rounds of 65 at Royal Birkdale yesterday and hold a collective one-stroke lead over Paul Casey and South African former Masters champion Charl Schwartzel.

It is extremely tight at the top of the leaderboard, with those players who missed some unpleasant weather coming in off the Irish Sea early in the morning succeeding in shooting low scores.

But some of Spieth's big-name rivals were left trailing, with Rory McIlroy and world number one Dustin Johnson both one over par for their rounds.

Spieth, the world number three, avoided the grim early-morning conditions on the Southport links as he went out with reigning champion Henrik Stenson and promptly fired a flawless round featuring five birdies and not a single



Jordan Spieth

dropped shot.

"I couldn't have done much better today," admitted the Texan, even if he agonisingly failed to convert a putt for birdie at 18.

"Everything was strong. I thought I'd give it a nine across the board for everything -- tee balls, ball-striking, short game and putting. So things are in check. It's just about keeping it consistent."

Winner of both the Masters and US Open in 2015, Spieth had failed to break par in his last five opening rounds at a major before coming to the north-west English coast this week. (AFP)