

Tour of Croatia



Nibali takes second place

Cycling world pays tribute to veteran Italian Michele Scarponi

DT News Network
Manama

Bahrain Merida Pro Cycling Team were stunned to hear the news that veteran Italian Michele Scarponi an idol, teammate and friend of many in the world of cycling was killed on Saturday after colliding with a van while out training on his bike as the team compete in the Tour of Croatia.

The latest stage came with plenty of action in the final 7kms on the final climb to Učka, just before finish line, three top riders were fighting to take the stage win: Vincenzo Nibali, Caja Rural Jaime Roson and CCC Sprandi Polkowice rider Jan Hirt. The Spanish rider took victory and Bahrain's Vincenzo Nibali passed the finish line in as runner up. Jaime Roson Caja Rural took over the leading position in general classification on the Tour of Croatia.

Nibali was first overall in classification after the latest stage

climb.

After the start in Poreč and just before Pazin, a breakaway of three riders was formed with a 1 minute, 30 second gap. Also the first climb to Učka was led by the three riders, while Bahrain Merida Team was in the front of the peloton.

The climb was followed by a long descent to the coast of Kvarner Bay, then another climb to Kastav and from there race led to the city centre of Rijeka. In Opatija, right on the coast began the final and decisive climb back to Učka, and that's where the group became compact.

Bahrain Merida riders showed excellent performance in giving support to Nibali, with the goal of keeping the first position in general classification after the stage, that might be decisive for the whole race.

After the stage, Sport Director Paolo Slongo commented on the sad news of Scarponi's death and the latest stage: "Scarponi had been Vincenzo's teammate for the last

three years and he was very important for him. We spent together training camps, many times with his family and wonderful twins too. We shared with him a lot of moments."

"The news shocked all of us and we're very sad, but our job - that was Michele's too - is racing and so we started today's stage of Tour of Croatia anyway. Maybe with a knot in our stomach, but this is part of our job.

"I can't say that this news influenced the performance of riders today, but for sure the mood of Vincenzo above all was not one of the best, but I don't know if this influenced the victory or not.

"Today's winner was really strong and he deserved to take the stage. At the finish they were three riders fighting for the first place and Vincenzo is not so fast. Anyway he tried to sprint, but he was second.

"What it's important according to me ahead of next aims is that the team worked very well and that rode full speed on the climb".

Cycling world reacts

- ▶ "There are no words. A great person and a great cyclist has left us. R.I.P Michele Scarponi." Alejandro Valverde (Movistar)
- ▶ "Devastated to hear the news about Scarponi. Can't believe it. My thoughts with all his friends, family and team." Geraint Thomas (Team Sky)
- ▶ "Our thoughts and prayers go to the family, friends and team

of Michele Scarponi, who passed away this morning in a traffic incident." Quick-Step Floors

- ▶ "Your smile will last forever. Ciao Michele Scarponi. Our deepest sorrow to his family and Astana Team from all Team Bahrain-Merida." Bahrain-Merida
- ▶ "So difficult to believe..." UAE- Team Emirates

Softball cricket: Double joy for Chak de India



The Indian Club Indian Expatriates 7-a-Side Softball Cricket Tournament 2017 - The Chak de India Team

Manama

The Indian Club Indian Expatriates Seven-a-Side Softball Cricket Tournament 2017 at its premises in Gudaibiya saw Chak de India enjoy double success with victories against RIB (by four wickets) and then against BIC (by six wickets) in the latest round-robin matches.

The top performance over the weekend came from Faisal (37 not out) as Spartans scored 59 for four to defeat Zarwan 35 all out in 5.5 overs by 24 runs.

Scores:

- 1) Spartans 59/4 (Faisal 37no in 6 bt Zarwan 35 all out in 5.5 by 24 runs.
- 2) Chak de India 17/2 in 2.4 bt RIB 16 all out in 3.5 by 4 wickets.
- 3) Maharashtra Mandal 41/5 in 6 bt BMMI 24 all out in 5.5 by 17 runs.
- 4) Chak de India 28/0 (Sunil 22no in 2.5 bt BIC 27 all out in 5.1 by 6 wickets.
- 5) Target CC 50 all out (Ameer 23) in 6 bt Kansara 17 all out in 5.2 by 33 runs



Bahrain defeat hosts in opening win

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Bahrain defeated hosts Thailand by 138 runs in its opening match yesterday in the second round-robin matches of the International Cricket Council (ICC) 2017 World Cricket League (WCL) Division One in Chiang Mai, Thailand.

Batting first, Bahrain scored a massive 362 for four in its 50 overs with man of the match Janaka Chaturanga (110 off 91 deliveries, 7x4, 10x6) and Mohammed Sameer (108 off 102, 9x4, 4x6) leading the way to victory, with good contributions coming from the skipper Azeem Ul Haq (47), Tahir Dar (30 not out), Imran Ali Butt (25) and Junaid Aziz (18 not out), with Nopphon Senamontree (three for 70) the best of the bowlers.

In reply, Thailand were dismissed for 224 in 46.3 overs with the main scorers being Ryan Raina (71), Wanchana Uisek (38), Sameer Gawas (26) and Nopphon Senamontree (23), while Bahrain's best bowlers were Tahir Dar (four for 21), Babar Ali (two for 21), Junaid Aziz (two for 36) and Jabbar Amjad (one for 47).

Bahrain had earlier played five matches in Sri Lanka prior to the championship to get acclimatised and get used to turf wickets.

Under head coach Rexie Arunvasagam and manager Syed Rizwan Shah, the squad comprises the captain, Azeem Ul Haq, Tahir Dar, Babar Ali, Junaid Niazi, Gamini Perrera, Imran Butt, Janaka

Chaturanga, Mohammed Ismail, Amir Gondal, Mohammed Sameer Fayaz, Mohammed Iqbal, Awad Khan, Bilal Mansoor, Jabbar Amjad,

The teams competing in the tournament are hosts Thailand, Bhutan, Bahrain, China, Kuwait, Qatar and Saudi Arabia, with the winner of the qualifier progressing to the ICC WCL Division 5 which will be staged in September 2017. Five regional qualifiers will play alongside two teams relegated from Division 4 and one team from Division 5.

This round of matches for Asia sees the seven teams play each other in a league with matches played on three grounds in the city of Chiang Mai in Northern Thailand. Each team will play a total of six matches spread over a 10 day period concluding on May 1 at Prem Tinsulanonda International School, Chiangmai Gymkhana and Royal Chiangmai Golf Club.

Other scores:

Qatar 280/5 in 50 overs (Tamoor Sajjad 76, Zaheer Ibrahim 49, Iman Al Haq 37; Suprit Pradham 3/54, Damber Gurung 2/56) bt Bhutan 66 all out in 26.3 overs (Tenzin Wangchuk 14no, Tenzin Wangchuk 12, Damber Gurung 10; Mohammed Nadeem 3/17, Zaheer Ibrahim 2/3, Mohammed Awais 2/15) by 174 runs.

Kuwait 460/7 in 50 overs (Aamir Javed 144, Usman Waheed 110, Ali Zaheer 65; Feng Yu 3/87) bt China 57 in 16.4 overs (Duckworth/Lewis method) (Ye Weiji 25; Haroon Shahid 8/19) by 293 runs.