

Buitrago Powers Bahrain Victorious to Laigueglia Win

Australian Grand Prix set to reveal true pace after dramatic rule overhaul

TDI | Manama

Bahrain Victorious kicked off their Italian campaign in style at the Trofeo Laigueglia (1.Pro), with Santiago Buitrago claiming a solo victory and Antonio Tiberi completing the podium in third after a sprint defeat to Romain Grégoire (Groupama-FDJ).

The 192 km race, in its 63rd edition, came alive on the final circuit. Early breakaway survivor Louis Vervaeke (Soudal Quick-Step) held a solitary lead for nearly 70 km, but the decisive moves came on the repeated climbs of Colla Micheri. Bahrain Victorious set the pace, sending Buitrago and Tiberi into the attack, immediately joined by Grégoire and Quinten Hermans (Q36.5 Pro Cycling Team). The quartet caught Vervaeke near the second climb, before Hermans was dropped on a further acceleration.

On the final ascent, Buitrago surged clear, leaving both Tiberi and Grégoire behind. Tiberi stayed close to Grégoire, who managed to win the sprint for second, 25 seconds off the Colombian's flying finish.



Santiago Buitrago

"It's incredible to start the season with a win here in Liguria, where I lived in 2019," Buitrago said. "The team rode perfectly, and it's great to have Antonio on the podium as well. On the final climb, we made our move knowing Grégoire is strong in a sprint. Now we turn our focus to

Tirreno-Adriatico."

Bahrain Victorious controlled the race from the early kilometers, working tirelessly to protect their leaders over a course that included the new start in Albenga, the iconic Cipressa climb, and a 12.6 km stretch along the Cycling Riviera. The decisive

Colla Micheri circuit and Laigueglia finish ensured that only the strongest riders contested victory.

Sports Director Gorazd Štangelj reflected: "The plan was always to reach the final circuit and decide the race there. Santi felt strong and went for

the win solo, while Antonio stayed with Grégoire for the podium sprint. The team executed the plan perfectly and showed great intelligence and cohesion."

Buitrago's first victory of the season, paired with Tiberi's podium, gives Bahrain Victorious

a strong start to their Italian racing block, which continues with Strade Bianche, Tirreno-Adriatico, and will culminate in Milano-Sanremo. The performance demonstrated the team's strength, depth, and ambition at the very start of the season.



Bahrain Victorious secures a double podium with Buitrago first, Tiberi third

Bahrain FA Introduces New Match Suspension Protocol

● Football matches now follow safety-focused suspension procedures

TDI | Manama

The Bahrain Football Association (BFA) has issued a new protocol detailing how matches will be paused or suspended in the event of warning sirens or security threats, prioritizing the safety of players, officials, and spectators while ensuring clear emergency procedures.

Under the protocol, the referee and match observer will immediately suspend the game if a danger is confirmed. All players, referees, and technical staff must leave the field and move to the designated safe area or locker rooms. The officials will assess the threat, determining whether the match can resume immediately if the danger is distant, or remain suspended if it is near the stadium.

Once the risk has passed, the field's security and readiness are verified, teams return to the pitch, and a five-minute

warm-up period is allowed before resuming play. Matches will restart from the exact minute and score at which they were stopped, with stoppage time added if the interruption occurs during active play.

The protocol also requires referees to verify player identities, track substitutions, and maintain disciplinary authority during suspensions. No substitutions are permitted while teams are in the safe zone, and all changes count only after the game resumes.

A maximum suspension period of 30 minutes is allowed; if the situation cannot be safely resolved, the referee and match observer may end the match, which will then be resumed later from the same minute and score. Any scenario not explicitly covered will be referred to the relevant BFA committees for resolution under existing regulations.



Bahrain Football Association
الاتحاد البحريني لكرة القدم

Muharraq, Riffa Resume Football Preparations

TDI | Manama

Amid the ongoing challenging situation in the kingdom, Bahrain's top football clubs have returned to training as the 2025-26 His Majesty the King's Cup approaches its decisive stages. Muharraq have resumed full preparations under Portuguese coach Fernando Manuel de Jesus Santos, aiming to build on their strong quarter-final performance and make amends for their recent Khalid bin Hamad Cup final defeat to Riffa.

The Red Wolves secured their semi-final spot with a 3-0 victory over Al Shabab, thanks to goals from Edimar Ribeiro da Costa, Sami Frioui, and Arthur Rezende. In the semi-finals, they will face the winner of Saturday's quarter-final between Al Ahli, who sit 8th in the Nasser bin Hamad Premier League with 18 points, and First Division leaders Al Ittifaq. Both clubs see the cup as a major opportunity: Al Ahli to salvage their season in the top flight, and Al Ittifaq to make a statement from the First Division.

League leaders Al Khaldiya, coached by Tunisian Lassad Al Chabbi, also progressed, defeating A'ali Club 2-0 in their quarter-final. Al Khaldiya currently lead the Premier League on 36 points, tied with Muharraq but ahead on head-to-head results.



Riffa players in action during their training session



Muharraq squad returns to the training pitch

They will face the winner of the other Saturday quarter-final, where Riffa — third in the

turned to training under coach Mohammed Mashaan, are looking to continue their strong cup form, while Bahrain Club aim to use the tournament to boost morale in a challenging league campaign.

Both remaining quarter-final matches on Saturday will be played without spectators to ensure the safety of players, officials, and staff, completing the semi-final line-up in Bahrain's premier cup competition. Following the King's Cup, the Nasser bin Hamad Premier League will resume on March 12, with Muharraq, Al Khaldiya, and Riffa all contending for the league title in the season's final stretch.

league on 33 points — take on the other Saturday quarter-final, where Riffa — third in the