

Bahrain fall to Japan after strong start

Hussain Almaskati
TDT | Manama

Bahrain's youth men's basketball team lost 79-90 to Japan yesterday in their penultimate preliminary-round game at the 31st Albert Schweitzer Tournament in Germany.

The defeat was their fourth in as many matches, ending their hopes of reaching the semi-finals from Group A.

Vovoras' side started brightly and took control early. They edged the first quarter 21-19 and carried that momentum into the second, building a 43-36 halftime lead after a composed opening half.

Japan, however, turned the game around after the break. They dominated the third quarter 31-16 to seize the lead, then held off the nationals' efforts in the fourth to secure the win.

Hassan Abdulkadir led Bahrain with an impressive 27 points and 19 rebounds, while Somto Patrick Onoduonyi added 14 points, 15 boards, and nine assists in another all-around performance. Mahdi Baqer contributed 11 points, but Bahrain struggled from long range, converting just five of their 22 attempts from beyond the arc.

The Japanese side also had a balanced scoring effort. Roi Honda led the way with 14 points, while Cayman Tsuneoka added 13 and Hiromasa Fujiwara contributed 12 in their strong second-half performance.

Bahrain, making their debut in the prestigious under-18 competition, had earlier fallen to Germany, Sweden, and Slovenia.

They will conclude their preliminary campaign against Türkiye today at 2:15pm before moving into the classification games to determine places fifth through 12th.

The tournament is being held in Mannheim and Viernheim and runs until April 11. For the nationals, it also provides valuable preparation for the Gulf Basketball Association qualifiers for the Fiba U18 Asia Cup 2026 in Qatar.



Ali Barhoom threads his way through Japan's defense

Medvedev thrashed 6-0, 6-0 by Berrettini, Zverev battles through



Daniil Medvedev smashes his racquet

AFP | Monte Carlo

Daniil Medvedev slipped to an embarrassing 6-0, 6-0 thrashing by Matteo Berrettini in the Monte Carlo Masters second round on Wednesday, as Alexander Zverev dug deep to beat Cristian Garin.

Medvedev completely unravelled against Berrettini after missing two break points in the opening game, making 30 unforced errors and serving five double faults.

Medvedev did not win more than two points in any of the last 11 games and his frustrations boiled over in the second set, smashing his racquet into the court four times.

Berrettini wrapped up the double-bagel victory, the first such defeat of former world number one Medvedev's career, in just 49 minutes.

"I think it was one of the best performances of my life," Berrettini said.

"I think I missed three shots in the entire match and it is not easy against a tricky player like Daniil. I think the game plan

was perfect and my weapons were working."

The former Wimbledon runner-up, now ranked 90th, will face Joao Fonseca in the last 16 after the Brazilian teenager beat Arthur Rinderknech 7-5, 4-6, 6-3.

World number three Zverev, who is hoping to complete the set of all three clay-court Masters 1000 titles this week, staged a late comeback to edge out Chilean qualifier Garin 4-6, 6-4, 7-5.

Zverev has reached the semi-finals at each of the Australian Open, Indian Wells and the Miami Open this year but was in danger of a shock exit after losing the first set and then trailing 4-0 in the third.

Garin also served for the match when 5-3 ahead in the deciding set, but Zverev broke and then sealed victory by reeling off five consecutive games.

He had to stave off three break points in a nervy 12th game to avoid a tie-break, but eventually got the job done on his third match point.

Muharraaq Escapes Manama in Tight Opener

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Muharraaq launched their bid for a historic treble in the Zain Bahrain Basketball League finals with a 74-73 victory over record champions Manama at Khalifa Sports City Arena last night. The holders showed composure under pressure and survived a back-and-forth encounter that could have swung either way. From the opening tip, it was clear this series would be closely contested, with every possession carrying weight. Game 2 is set for this Saturday at 7pm, again at Khalifa Sports City Arena.

Manama started slightly sharper, with Ahmed Salman opening the scoring with a three-pointer and Mohamed Ghazi quickly following to give them an early multiple-possession lead. Muharraaq responded through Nick West's inside scoring and Michael Warren

driving to the basket. Hustle plays and late free throws from Ali Jaber and Romeo Enan kept Manama narrowly ahead, but the Red Wolves remained within striking distance, trailing 19-18 after the first quarter.

The second quarter swung repeatedly. Buallay and Salman kept Manama ahead early, but Warren began to find his rhythm, hitting several three-pointers and finishing fast-break opportunities. Bader Abdulla briefly gave Schomers' side the lead with a crucial triple, only for Donovan Smith and Ghazi to respond for Ramadhan's side. Manama went into halftime with a narrow 36-35 advantage, but Muharraaq had already signaled their intent, matching Manama point for point.

The third quarter became an offensive duel. Donovan Smith and Buallay pushed Manama forward, while Mahmood Abbas Isa, Warren, and Mohamed

Nasser kept Muharraaq in contention. Midway through the period, Ghazi caught fire from beyond the arc, matched by Salman's mid-range and free-throw scoring. Lead changes were constant, and the quarter ended 57-56 to Manama.

Before the final quarter, the top scorers had already emerged. For Muharraaq, Michael Warren led the way with 23 points, 7 rebounds, and four of five three-pointers, earning him the well-deserved man of the match award. Mahmood Abbas Isa added 10, Nader Ali and Nick West contributed nine apiece, and Bader Abdulla scored eight. For Manama, Ahmed Salman topped the team with 24 points, while Mohamed Ghazi finished with 23. Donovan Smith added 11, Mohammed Buallay 7, and Romeo Enan 4.

The final quarter delivered high drama. Ghazi's early three-pointer extended Manama's lead, but Nader Ali and

Warren kept the reigning champions in touch. The game was tied repeatedly at 60-60, 63-63, and 69-69. In the last two minutes, Donovan Smith briefly gave Manama the lead, only for Ali to respond with a three-pointer. With four seconds remaining, Warren hit a step-back three to put Muharraaq ahead by three. Salman immediately scored a fadeaway to bring Manama within one, but the holders held on for the win.

Warren's late three ultimately proved decisive. Muharraaq's 41 bench points underlined their depth, while Manama were left to reflect on 18 turnovers and missed opportunities in the closing moments. Historically, eight of nine times the winner of Game 1 has gone on to claim the league title, giving Muharraaq a psychological edge as they pursue a historic treble. If last night's opener was any indication, this series is far from over.



Mahmood Isa slips past Romeo Enan in transition

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