

SPORTS  
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# Karthik pipped Pant due to experience, says Kohli

Virat Kohli breaks silence on Dinesh Karthik's selection over Rishabh Pant in India's World Cup squad

Reuters | Mumbai

**D**inesh Karthik's experience and composure in pressure situations helped him pip young sensation Rishabh Pant to the second wicketkeeper's spot in India's World Cup squad, captain Virat Kohli has said.

With Mahendra Singh Dhoni as the undisputed first-choice wicketkeeper of the side, the selectors preferred Karthik, 33, in their 15-man squad over Pant, who is known for his swash-buckling batting.

Teams can change players until May 23 and several former players believe India will miss the 21-year-old in the showpiece which gets underway on May 30.

"In pressure situations, he's shown composure," Kohli told the Times of India newspaper about Karthik. "It was something that everybody on board was convinced about.

"He has the experience. If, god forbid, something happens to MS (Dhoni), Karthik can be immensely valuable behind the wickets. As a finisher, he's done



India's Dinesh Karthik plays a shot (file photo)

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VIRAT KOHLI

well. "So, it was the overall exposure to a tournament of this magnitude that was taken into primary consideration."

Karthik made his one-day international debut in 2004 and has played 91 matches for India in the format, compared with left-handed batsman Pant who has played just five after making his 50-over debut last October.

Karthik, who has also played 26 test matches for India, has

the ability to bat anywhere in the batting order which makes him a limited-overs asset.

"We can very well imagine there's more than an opinion in place that some capable guys have missed out," India coach Ravi Shastri added. "Heart goes out to them.

"Picking 15 from an immensely talented pool is never easy. I'd say to these guys: Keep going the way you have. Be prepared, in case there's an unforeseen requirement that pops up."

Unlike the India of the past, the 1983 and 2011 winners also boast a very potent pace attack, led by top-ranked ODI bowler Jasprit Bumrah.

The death-overs specialist will be aided by Mohammed Shami and Bhuvneshwar Kumar, with both known for their ability to swing the ball both ways - something which should be handy in conditions in England.

"The one common factor binding these guys is confidence," Kohli said. "They all believe that they can be the best."

## Fernando Alonso frustrated as Indianapolis 500 practice opens

AFP | Los Angeles

**T**wo-time Formula One world champion Fernando Alonso endured a frustrating day of Indianapolis 500 practice Tuesday, completing just 50 laps as he wrestled with electrical issues.

The Spaniard posted a best lap of 224.162 mph (360.75 Km/h), on the 2.5-mile Indianapolis Motor Speedway oval in his Chevrolet powered McLaren -- 32nd-fastest out of 30.

Australia's 2018 Indy 500 winner Will Power topped the practice speeds at 229.745 mph in contrast.

Team principal Gil de Ferran told NBCSPORTS.com that it was a difficult day, all the more so since the team are "baffled" by the problem.

"Obviously, I'm disappointed and a little frustrated we had the issue in the afternoon," de Ferran said. "We are trying

our best to understand what the problem is. So far, it's baffling. We lost the entire afternoon session."

De Ferran and McLaren had not determined the cause of the electrical issue late Tuesday as they continued to scour over reams and reams of data on their computers.

NBCSports.com was allowed into the team's garage in Gasoline Alley as lead engineer Andy Brown continued to look for the cause of the issue.

"If we understood what the issue is, it would have been fixed," de Ferran said. "That's why it's so baffling. It's an electrical issue; not mechanical.

"It's been a difficult start. No doubt about that. We'll see what we can do."

Alonso, 37, led 27 laps as an Indianapolis 500 newcomer in 2017 before a mechanical problem ended his race with 20 laps remaining.



Fernando Alonso drives his McLaren

## Team Faro earns tight victory



Team Faro after their match

TDI | Manama

**T**eam Faro scored a 3-2 narrow victory against Team Manny 3-2 in division two of the 15th FCTG Team Tennis Tournament, being held at Bahrain Tennis Federation courts in Isa Town.

Team Faro took the first win when Omar and Dennis defeated Mike and Ronel in a tight match scoring 2-6, 6-3, 12-10.

Moustafa and Amin from Team Manny scored 6-4, 6-2 against Faro and Trevor to level the match at 1-1.

Team Faro took the lead 2-1 when Ed and Raul defeated Ali and Billy 6-4, 7-6.

Team Manny clawed its way back as Manny and Girish scored 6-1, 6-1 against Nilo and Pio levelling the match to 2-2

In the decisive fifth match,

Jay-ar and Ato defeated Dr. Zuhair and Albert 6-2, 6-2 a 3-2 victory for Team Faro.

In division 2, Team Ana defeated Team Ian 3-1.

Team Ana took the lead 2-0 with two walk overs. Eric and Lydia scored 3-6, 6-4, 10-5 tight victory against Elvie and Lei to secure the victory for Team Ana.

Jojo and Jona from Team Ian won a consolation victory against Jing and Hamza 6-1, 6-2

The tournament is sponsored by Grand Safir Hotel Bahrain and organized by Filipino Club Tennis Group (FCTG).

### Other Results

Division One: Team Fuad beat Team Viemel 4-1, Team Aldwin beat Team Faro 5-0, Team Roni beat Team Vineet 3-2, Team Randy beat Team Vi-

omel 3-2, Team Faro beat Team Roni 4-1, and Team Fuad beat Team Mundeng 4-1.

Division Two: Team Ching 2 beat Team Alya 4-1, Team Leah beat Team Ana 3-2, Team Ching 1 beat Team Ian 3-2, Team Ching 1 beat Team Mac 3-2, Team Alya beat Team Ian 3-2, and Team Ching 2 beat Team Ana 3-2,



Pep Guardiola

## Ackermann sprints to second win in Giro d'Italia fifth stage



Team Bora rider Germany's Pascal Ackermann (R), Cyclamen Jersey of King of the General Point Classification during final sprint with Team UAE Emirates rider Colombia's Fernando Gaviria in stage five of the 102nd Giro d'Italia

AFP | Terracina, Italy

**G**erman Pascal Ackermann won a sprint finish in the pouring rain for the Giro d'Italia fifth stage yesterday, claiming his second victory in this year's race.

The Bora-Hansgrohe rider finished just ahead of Colombia's Fernando Gaviria of UAE Team Emirates.

Slovenia's Primoz Roglic, riding for Jumbo-Visma, holds a 35sec overall race lead after the 140km stage in which the final nine kilometres were neutralised because of poor weather conditions.

France's Arnaud Demare was third after the sprint on a rain-sodden road.

Ackermann, 25, is competing in his first Giro, but has now claimed five wins this season.

## Guardiola beats Klopp to manager of the year award

AFP | London

**M**anchester City boss Pep Guardiola edged out Jurgen Klopp to a trophy for the second time in three days as the Catalan claimed the League Managers' Association manager of the year on Tuesday.

Guardiola's City retained the Premier League title on Sunday, beating Klopp's Liverpool by a single point at the end of a thrilling title race.

Having also won the League Cup earlier in the campaign, Guardiola's side could complete a first ever domestic treble in English football when they face Watford in the FA Cup final at Wembley on Saturday.

Guardiola topped the vote ahead of Jurgen Klopp, Tottenham manager Mauricio Pochettino, who has led Spurs to their first ever Champions League final, and Nuno Espirito Santo of Wolves, who finished seventh in their first season back in the top flight.