

SPORTS

sports

BIC hosts WEC rookie test

Toyota delights in 8 Hours of Bahrain victory

TDI | Manama

Bahrain International Circuit (BIC) hosted the official World Endurance Championship (WEC) rookie test yesterday, just several hours following the completion of the hugely exciting FIA WEC Bapco 8 Hours of Bahrain late on Saturday night.

There were two sessions of testing - the first in the morning which included some rain, and then again in the afternoon following an hour-long midday break.

A total of 16 cars from the WEC's four competition categories including the LMP1, LMP2, LMGT Pro and LMGT Am took to the track, with several drivers taking turns to get behind the wheel of each.

Among the challengers testing was the no. 7 TS050 Hybrid of Toyota Gazoo Racing, which was the winning car in the Bapco 8 Hours of Bahrain. Other cars included the Gibson-powered Rebellion R13 of Rebellion Racing; the Gibson-powered Oreca 07 and Alpine A470 of the LMP2

teams; and the Porsches, Ferraris and Aston Martins of the LMGT E contingent.

Meanwhile, the trio of Mike Conway, Kamui Kobayashi and Jose Maria Lopez, who were the winners of the FIA WEC Bapco 8 Hours of Bahrain, expressed their extreme delight with the result especially since it earned them the lead in the drivers' World Championship.

Lopez was at the wheel of the no. 7 Hybrid when it took the chequered flag. Toyota now also hold a 41-point advantage over rivals Rebellion Racing in the teams' standings.

"It is a fantastic result to get a one-two here," said Conway. "We pushed as hard as we could all day and got a result which we weren't expecting at the start of the week. That is thanks to a great job by everyone; my team-mates and my team. We struggled earlier in the week but together as a team we got the car dialled in. It's brilliant to win and it's nice to lead the World Championship again."

Kobayashi commented, "To finish the year with a win is



The Rebellion R13 tests at BIC in wet conditions

great; thanks to the team for doing such a good job here. We knew it would be a tough race as we had some strong competition but we managed it really well, made no mistakes and had fast

pit stops. There is still a long way to go in the season but I am really happy and we will be pushing to keep this form going."

Added Lopez: "I am very happy with the win. Everyone in the

team did a great job this week-end. It is nice to finish the year with a win. This means we go into Christmas and New Year able to celebrate the results we achieved together this year."

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MIKE CONWAY

The World Championship battle will resume in the new year, returning to Austin, Texas following a two-year absence for the 6 Hours of Circuit of the Americas on 23 February, the first of a double-header in the United States with the 1000 Miles of Sebring following on 20 March.

Ahli dominate early in win over Riffa to begin Top Six

TDI | Manama

Ahli kicked off the action in the Zain Bahrain Basketball League's Top Six Division last night with a resounding 76-50 victory over Riffa at Zain Arena in Um Al Hassam.

Ahli held their rivals to just one point in the entire first quarter, and they never recovered from there as the victors cruised to the final buzzer.

Ahli enjoyed leads as big as 30 points in the game.

Newly signed American professional Dexter Pittman was their top scorer with 21 points. He also had 16 rebounds in the game to go with three blocks.

Hesham Sarhan added 14 while Maytham Jameel scored 12. Sayed Hashim Habib contributed 10 off the bench, while



Sitra's Macura takes a jump shot over the tough defence of Samaheej's Nouman Ahmed

captain Mohammed Qurban nearly had a double-double with nine points and nine rebounds. Younes Kuwayed scored 17 to pace Riffa in the loss. Subah Hussain added 12 and Mohammed Salman 11.

Meanwhile, in the Zain Silver League, Sitra defeated Samaheej 97-86. Serbian Milos Macura had a monster effort of 29 points and 20 rebounds to spearhead the winners, who also got 26 points from ageless court general Hussain Taqi.

Sitra shrugged off a slow start and took control of the game in the third quarter, where they outscored Samaheej by 11, 26-15. That gave them a narrow 66-62 advantage heading into the final canto, and Sitra maintained their fine form from there.

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ADMISSION TEST DATE: 13th December 2019

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