

Manama fight to save series

Hussain Almaskati
TDT | Manama

The 2025-26 Zain Bahrain Basketball League finals continue tonight at Khalifa Sports City Arena at 7pm. Game 4 could prove decisive in the series, with Muharraq one win away from the championship and Manama fighting to keep their season alive.

Reigning champions Muharraq lead the best-of-five series 2-1 and are chasing a fifth league title under German head coach Peter Schomers. Record champions Manama, who hold 25 titles and are targeting a 26th, responded in Game 3 with an 89-83 win to extend the series and shift momentum.

That victory was driven by new signing Donovan Smith, who produced 29 points, 14 rebounds and 3 blocks. He controlled 32 minutes of action and played a key role on both ends in turning the game Manama's way.

The Red Wolves remain in control of the series after edging the opening two games 74-73 and 88-80 through late-game execution under pressure. Another win tonight would complete their treble,



Smith gets the Manama faithful on their feet in Game 3

having already won the season curtain-raiser Super Cup and the Khalifa bin Salman Cup in March, both at Manama's expense.

Manama, led by coach Sal-

man Ramadhan, face a simple task. A win forces a deciding Game 5 on Monday at 7pm at the same venue, while defeat brings their title challenge to an end.

HH Shaikh Nasser Tops Fitness Challenge



HH Shaikh Nasser in action
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Podium finishers

His Highness Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Representative of His Majesty the King for Humanitarian Work and Youth Affairs, claimed victory at the "Victorious Ultimate Endurance Challenge," a demanding multi-stage competition that pushed athletes to their physical and mental limits.

The event brought together elite competitors to test speed, strength, agility, endurance, and recovery across a brutal series of challenges. By the final stage,

only the most consistent performers remained in contention.

Shaikh Nasser completed seven physical challenges across five stages, finishing first with a time of 01:28:35. He was followed by Yusuf Farhan in second place (01:36:25) and Kenytor Wallace in third (01:38:53). Mohammed Al Ghais finished fourth (01:40:23), while Abdullah Salem rounded out the top five (01:41:34).

Attendees included HH Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa, HH Shaikh Faisal bin Rashid Al Khalifa, and HH Shaikh Salman bin Mohammed Al Khalifa,

highlighting strong high-level support for the event.

Speaking after his win, Shaikh Nasser described the challenge as unforgiving in its intensity, noting that even the best preparation cannot fully simulate race-day conditions. "The challenge was difficult, as expected. No matter how much one prepares, the reality of competition is always tougher," he said.

He also praised Bahrain's continued support for initiatives of this scale and expressed hope that the competition will evolve into a global endurance event in the future.

Longtime Messi friend Hoyos unveiled as Inter Miami coach



Head Coach Guillermo Hoyos of Inter Miami CF talks to the media prior to a training session

AFP | Miami

Guillermo Hoyos said his long friendship with Lionel Messi will not stop him working the Argentine superstar hard in training, as he was unveiled as the new coach of MLS side Inter Miami on Wednesday.

Hoyos, previously Miami's sporting director, replaces Javier Mascherano, who departed the club for "personal reasons" Tuesday just four months after guiding the club to its first MLS Cup title.

The 62-year-old Hoyos was a key former mentor of Messi with Barcelona's youth team more than two decades ago, and the Argentine pair have remained close ever since.

"Friendship is non-negotiable. We share a friendship that spans many years," said Hoyos,

speaking in Spanish, at his first press conference.

"However, that friendship does not mean that we will be constantly hovering over him or in his face every single day."

A club statement initially said Hoyos will take charge of the team for the "upcoming matches," but the team has since referred to him as head coach in social media posts.

Club sources told AFP that Hoyos is expected to remain at the helm only until the middle of the year, with a new coaching setup in place by the start of the Leagues Cup in August.

After seven rounds this season, Inter Miami sit third in the MLS Eastern Conference.

Messi, a 2022 World Cup winner and eight-time Ballon d'Or laureate, is the jewel in the crown of Miami's squad.

Kane lauds Diaz 'moment of magic' after Bayern knock out Real

AFP | Munich

Harry Kane praised Luis Diaz's late "moment of magic" which delivered the killer blow as Bayern Munich eliminated Real Madrid to reach the Champions League semi-finals on Wednesday.

Holding a 2-1 first-leg advantage, Bayern fell behind three times on the night in the first half as record 15-time champions Real produced a familiarly strong performance on the European stage.

The tie was level at 4-4 on aggregate when Diaz struck in the 89th minute to put Bayern in front, before Michael Olise added another in stoppage time.

Bayern will face holders Paris Saint-Germain in the semis after winning 4-3 on the night and 6-4 on aggregate.

"I think even in the last 20 minutes of the game I felt like we were the team trying to make something happen," Kane told reporters.

"They started to tire a little bit, and it just sometimes takes a moment, a moment of magic, an unbelievable finish, or an unbelievable pass.

"In this case it was two great finishes by Lucho (Diaz) and Michael (Olise), to finish the game off for us, and that's what the Champions League is about.

"Sometimes, you can be the dominant team and lose, so it's nice to get through and win this one."



Bayern Munich forward Harry Kane celebrates with winger Luis Diaz

50

goals have been scored by Harry Kane this season, a rare milestone for an English player in Europe

The England captain credited his side's patience for helping them overcome Madrid.

"The highs and lows throughout the first half especially was pretty unique," Kane said.

"We stayed in the game, we stayed patient, especially in the second half, we knew as the game would go on we would become stronger.

"Physically this season we've been really strong in the last 10-15 minutes, and that's kind of what happened today. We took our chances when we needed to at the end."

Kane's first-half strike made him the first English player in a

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HARRY KANE

top-five European league since 1930-31 to score 50 goals in all competitions in a season.

"It's a reward for a lot of the hard work that we put in, not just me, but the team," Kane told TNT.

"It wouldn't be possible without the players around me and for me it's just about keeping it going.

"We've still got six weeks left in a Bayern shirt, we (England) have a World Cup in the summer and I just want to stay physically fit and sharp and just be out there to help the team."

Bayern coach Vincent Kompany said his side were ready to take on PSG.

"We believe in ourselves more than ever," Kompany said.

"We believed until the very end, never giving up after two tough battles against a great Real Madrid."