

Bahrain dodge UAE scare to hold lead

Rashed's 31-point explosion keeps Bahrain perfect in William Jones Cup

● 5 wins out of 5 for Bahrain

● Mustafa Rashed drops 31 points

● Emiratis, Bahrain's toughest foe yet

Hussain Almaskati
TDT | Manama

After dropping 106 points on Australia the day before, Bahrain had to find a different gear against UAE, and they did just that. With the game on the line, Bahrain outlasted their Gulf rivals 77-71 to stay unbeaten in the William Jones Cup. Now 5-0, the Kingdom sit firmly atop the standings with three more matches remaining.

Quick start

Bahrain sprinted out of the gates with a 24-9 first quarter, locking down UAE's shooters and owning the glass. Jakarr Sampson and Devon Chism controlled the paint early, while Rashed got



Topscoreer Mustafa Rashed skies for a layup

loose for a pair of threes. But the second half was anything but smooth.

UAE clawed their way back behind Omar Alameri's 16 points

and a strong third quarter from Demarco Dickerson. The Emiratis won Q3 25-17 and cut Bahrain's lead to just one. For the first time in this tournament,



Celebrations at full time

Bahrain looked vulnerable.

Cue the late composure

Cometh the Hour, Cometh the Man

With the game tight, Mustafa Rashed stepped up massively by scoring 31 points on 11-of-20 shooting, including five triples and a perfect 4-for-4 at the line.



This is Bahrain's lowest winning margin in the tournament so far (6 points)

He bailed Bahrain out of multiple tough possessions and created breathing room with a timely three in the fourth.

Jakarr Sampson didn't have the most efficient night (7-22 FG), but his 18 points and 14 rebounds were vital. Devon Chism nearly posted a triple-double: 8 points, 18 rebounds, 4 assists, and 4 blocks.

Bahrain's size wore UAE down over four quarters. They grabbed 24 offensive rebounds and totaled 9 blocks, which is one of their best rim-protecting performances to date.

Final stretch

Bahrain will get a lighter assignment today at 10PM against Qatar B, followed by games against Chinese Taipei A and Strong Group Athletics (PHI).

With the Kingdom sitting 5-0, the path to a perfect run is real, but there's still business to handle.

Quarter scores

Q1: UAE 9-24 BAHRAIN
Q2: UAE 29-39 BAHRAIN
Q3: UAE 54-56 BAHRAIN
Final score: UAE 71-77 BAHRAIN

Abrahamsen wins Tour de France stage as Pogacar survives scare

AFP | Toulouse

Norway's Jonas Abrahamsen won stage 11 of the Tour de France at Toulouse yesterday while defending champion Tadej Pogacar crashed 4km from the line.

Pogacar fell after hitting the back wheel of another rider but his rivals Jonas Vingegaard and Remco Evenepoel sportingly waited for the Slovenian to catch up after he got back on his bike. Ireland's Ben Healy retained the leader's jersey.

The thrilling stage over 156km from Toulouse and back was unexpectedly won by Abrahamsen as a long range breakaway foiled the ambitions of the sprinters.

Abrahamsen contested a two-way cat-and-mouse war of nerves down the home straight with Swiss Mauro Schmid as the cunning Mathieu van der Poel crept up on them and finished third at 7sec.

Healy retained the overall lead on his first day in the fabled yellow jersey, while Pogacar remains second and Evenepoel third.

Following Tuesday's rest day, yesterday's run was billed as a likely sprint finish with 70 points at stake in the sprint points standings at Toulouse.

Stage 11 did however feature five small climbs along a 156.8km route making sure it was constantly fast and nerve-wracking.

Pogacar fell after hitting the back wheel of another rider but his rivals two-time winner Vingegaard and Evenepoel sportingly waited for the Slovenian.

The UAE rider Pogacar struggled to put his chain on after sliding across several metres of tarmac and had looked as if he would lose 30 to 40 seconds.

Healy will lead the peloton into the Pyrenees on Thursday where the first real mountains will test his and everyone's legs on the legendary beyond category Hautacam climb.

Jonas Abrahamsen



Real Madrid's Bellingham set to miss 12 weeks after shoulder surgery



Paris Saint-Germain's Georgian forward #07 Khvicha Kvaratskhelia and Real Madrid's English midfielder #05 Jude Bellingham fight for the ball

AFP | Madrid

return to action. Bellingham has been struggling with shoulder discomfort after dislocating it in a La Liga match in November 2023, and playing with a brace under his shirt since then.

Real Madrid midfielder Jude Bellingham is expected to miss up to 12 weeks recovering from a shoulder operation after the Spanish giants said yesterday he had successfully undergone surgery.

"Our player Jude Bellingham has undergone successful surgery for a recurrent left shoulder dislocation," said Real Madrid in a statement.

"Bellingham will now begin a period of rehabilitation prior to his return to recovery work."

While Madrid did not specify the expected length of his recovery time, Spanish media have reported it will take around 12 weeks for him to

The England midfielder held off on the operation until after Madrid's participation in the Club World Cup this summer, with Xabi Alonso's side reaching the semi-finals.

Bellingham is set to miss the La Liga visit to face rivals Atletico Madrid in late September, as well as the club's first two Champions League matches.

The 22-year-old midfielder should be back in action by the time Madrid host Barcelona in the first Clasico of the season in late October.



Lucas Vazquez reacts during a match (file photo)

Real Madrid confirm Vazquez departure

AFP | Madrid

Real Madrid defender Lucas Vazquez will leave the club, the Spanish giants confirmed yesterday.

After his deal expired at the end of the season Los Blancos had agreed a short-term contract extension for the Spaniard to keep him for the Club World Cup, which they competed in this summer in the United States.

"Vazquez exemplarily represents the values of Real Madrid, which has made him one of the most beloved players by our fans," said Madrid president Florentino Perez in a statement.

"(He) symbolises the hard work, perseverance, humility, and winning spirit essential to succeed in this shirt."

Originally a winger, the 34-year-old won 23 trophies at the club including five Cham-

pions Leagues and four La Liga titles, largely as a squad player.

"I leave Real Madrid but Real Madrid will never leave me," said Vazquez in a goodbye video.

The Spaniard came through the Madrid youth system and spent his whole career at the club, with the exception of a loan to Espanyol in the 2014-15 season, playing 402 times across all competitions for Los Blancos.