

Pooran, Maxwell guide Punjab to victory over Delhi



Glenn Maxwell (L) and Nicholas Pooran talk during the match

ANI | Dubai

Nicholas Pooran and Glenn Maxwell played knocks of 53 and 32 respectively as Kings XI Punjab defeated Delhi Capitals by five wickets on Tuesday here at the Dubai International Stadium.

With this win, KXIP has gone to the fifth position in the points table with 8 points from 10 matches while Delhi Capitals is still at the top of the table with 14 points from 10 matches.

Chasing 165, KXIP got off to a bad start as the side lost skipper KL Rahul (15) in the third over of the innings. Spinner Axar Patel provided the much-needed breakthrough to Delhi Capitals.

Chris Gayle and Mayank Agarwal tried to retrieve the innings for KXIP as the duo put on 35 runs for the second wicket. However, Ravichandran Ashwin staged Delhi's comeback in the sixth over of the innings as both Gayle (29) and Agarwal (5) lost their wickets, reducing KXIP to 56/3.

In a spot of bother, Nicholas Pooran and Glenn Maxwell got together at the crease to retrieve the innings for KXIP. Both batsmen stitched together a partnership of 69 runs, which saw Pooran bringing up his half-century.

However, with Punjab just 40 runs away from the target, Delhi Capitals' got the breakthrough of Pooran (53) as he was sent back to the pavilion by Kagiso Rabada. With just 18 runs required, KXIP was given another blow by Rabada as he dismissed the set batsman Maxwell (32) in the 16th over.

In the end, Deepak Hooda (15*) and James Neesham (10*) ensured KXIP does not suffer from any more hiccups and the duo took the side over the line by five wickets with six balls to spare.

Earlier, Shikhar Dhawan's unbeaten knock of 106 runs guided Delhi Capitals to 164/5 in the allotted twenty overs against KXIP. The left-handed Dhawan also became the first cricketer to score back to back centuries in IPL.

Team Bahrain McLaren's Tratnik wins Giro stage 16

Joao Almeida still in pink as Jan Tratnik edged past Ben O'Connor in a two-man finish to win the 16th stage of the Giro d'Italia

● **Tratnik beat O'Connor by seven seconds at the end of the hilly 229-kilometer route**

AFP | Paris

Slovenian Jan Tratnik soloed to victory in yesterday's 16th stage of the Giro d'Italia with Portugal's Joao Almeida holding the leader's pink jersey in the final week of the race around Italy.

Tratnik, a 30-year-old Bahrain McLaren rider, crossed the line seven seconds ahead of Australian Ben O'Connor, after the run from Udine on the border with Slovenia.

Deceuninck's Almeida finished nearly 13 minutes off the pace among the peloton of favourites to keep the overall lead. The race finishes in Milan on October 25.

Colombian sprinter Fernando Gaviria was among two positive coronavirus tests announced before the stage from a batch of 492 during Monday's rest day. The second was an AG2R La Mondiale team employee.

"Gaviria went straight into isolation after the test result. He feels fine and is completely asymptomatic," his UAE Emirates team announced.



Bahrain McLaren's Jan Tratnik celebrates as he crosses the finish line

"All the other riders and staff members returned negative tests and will have other tests today," the team said.

Gaviria, who also tested positive for the virus in February, had been 126th out of 138 in the general classification, almost three and a half hours behind Almeida.

Monday's total of two positives was down on the first round of testing, when the virus was detected in riders Steven Kruijswijk and Michael



Jan Tratnik's teammate Enrico Battaglin proved to be the fastest by winning the sprint in the chasing group and taking third place

Matthews along with six team personnel.

The day after the first tests, two teams quit the race -- Kruijswijk's Jumbo-Visma outfit and Michelton-Scott whose leader Simon Yates had stopped after developing minor symptoms.

Yesterday's undulating 229km stage ran from Udine through the foothills of the Julian Alps with a final circuit around Daniele del Friuli, with Monte Ragogna climbed three times -- over two 27km circuit laps.

Chelsea must tighten up at the back to take pressure off attack - Azpilicueta



Cesar Azpilicueta

Reuters | London

Chelsea must cut out the individual errors and make better decisions to stop leaking goals and putting pressure on their attack, skipper Cesar Azpilicueta has said.

Frank Lampard's side have kept only one clean sheet in the Premier League this season and dropped points in high-scoring draws against West Bromwich Albion and Southampton.

"When you have solidity defensively it gives a boost to the whole team, to the attacking players to create chances," Azpilicueta told reporters ahead of their Champions League group stage match against Sevilla.

"When you are weak defensively ... we feel like we have to score three or four goals every game.

Guardiola takes blame for Euro flop as Man City launch new campaign

AFP | London

Pep Guardiola admitted yesterday that he still feels responsible for the manner of Manchester City's Champions league exit last season, saying they have to "close these gaps" as they chase European glory.

City, who host Porto in their opening group match on Wednesday, have never gone beyond the semi-finals of the competition despite all their domestic success in recent years.

Memories of the quarter-final loss to Lyon in August remain fresh for Guardiola, who won the competition for the second time as Barcelona boss in 2011 but has failed to lift the trophy since.

"It was a tough moment," said the Catalan. "I felt so responsible for how the club felt, the players. I was not able to drive the club and I feel responsible.

"But watching the games we have to accept the reality that we were not good enough. We did not play bad, we played some real good moments but we sometimes made mistakes and in this competition you cannot do it."

Guardiola said City were not far away from cracking the secret of European success.

"I always had the feeling we were close," he said. "The gaps were little but you have to close



Manchester City's Spanish head-coach Pep Guardiola attends a training session (file photo)

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Champions league trophies have been won by Pep Guardiola, last as Barcelona boss in 2011

these gaps. We have to solve it.

"It's the past. Now is a new opportunity and we are going to start at zero again."

The former Barcelona and Bayern Munich coach said Wednesday's fixture had added significance because it was

at home.

"The reality to win the home games is so important for qualification," he said. "We're still a little bit away from where we want to be."

City were without Kevin De Bruyne, Gabriel Jesus, Aymeric Laporte and Benjamin Mendy for Saturday's 1-0 win against Arsenal, but Guardiola said the situation was slowly improving.

"Oleksandr Zinchenko is back and other players are back," he said. "Ilkay Gundogan, Bernardo Silva and Joao Cancelo are in good condition. We expect Benjamin Mendy back soon so the team will grow."

Nadal to play Paris Masters next month

AFP | Paris

Rafael Nadal announced yesterday that he will compete in the Paris Masters next month, despite previously saying he might not play again this season.

The 34-year-old won a record-extending 13th French Open title earlier this month with a one-sided final victory over world number one Novak Djokovic at Roland Garros.

"It's indoor season time... this picture was earlier today practicing at @rnadalacad-

emy," he posted on Twitter alongside a photo of him training.

"And yes... getting ready for #ParisBercy."

The Paris Masters is scheduled to run from November 2-8.

Any health rules to be implemented for the event due to the coronavirus are yet to be announced.

After moving level with Roger Federer on a men's record 20 Grand Slam titles, Nadal said: "I don't know what I'm going to do after Roland Garros."

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