

Muharraq falters as Kazma dominate WASL encounter at home

Red Wolves’ coach returns, but team struggles

- Kazma roars back in WASL
- Muharraq unable to close gap
- Four Kazma players score double digits
- Next Group A clash on Monday

Hussain Almaskati
TDT | Manama

Last night in Kuwait City, Muharraq’s WASL return faltered as Kazma pulled away for a 95-81 win at the Shaikh Saad Alabdullah Sport Hall Complex. The Kuwaiti side, back after missing the 2024-25 season, built a lead of up to 20 in the third quarter and finished strong to hold off the Bahraini squad.

The two clubs had already met in the Third-Place Game of the 2023-24 WASL-Gulf League, where Kazma came from behind to win 93-83 and punch a ticket to the Final 8 in Qatar. Fast forward to now, Kazma continues to have Muharraq’s number, joining Ittihad Club as early Group A leaders with identical 1-0 records. Both teams will face



off again next Monday, October 27, also in Kuwait City.

Muharraq, back under Coach Peter Schomers after his successful run with Kuwait Club, saw strong individual efforts from Nick West, who scored 30 points with 6 rebounds and 5 assists, and Kerwin Roach, who added 19 points, 5 rebounds, and 7 assists. Mohammed Ameer chipped in 17 points and 7 rebounds, but it wasn’t enough to

close the gap.

Kazma’s comeback was powered by Strahinja Micovic’s 22 points and 7 rebounds, Phil Greene’s 21 points on 5-of-7 shooting from deep, Abdulrahman Alshammari’s 18 points and 9 rebounds, and Jaquan Johnson’s all-around double-double of 16 points, 15 rebounds, 4 assists, plus a steal and a block. In the final minutes, Johnson scored off a tough bucket and

nailed a fallaway jumper before Alshammari hit a trey to make it 90-75 with 1:29 remaining. Greene and Micovic added the finishing touches to secure the win and ensure no late collapse after a 55-35 lead was trimmed.

Kazma head coach Bojan Lazic reflected: “I think at the end, we adapted well. We found solutions. And for us, it’s a big win. It’s a starting point in which

we can build something good further into the season.”

The loss also spoiled Muharraq coach Peter Schomers’ return with the Red Wolves after years at Kuwait Club, where he led them to back-to-back WASL-Gulf League titles. Muharraq will now aim to get their first 2025-26 win against defending Sub-Zone League champions Shabab Al Ahli on November 3 in Dubai.

HH Shaikh
Khalid
inspects
BAYG
preparations
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His Highness Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa, First Deputy Chairman of the Supreme Council for Youth and Sports (SCYS), President of the General Sports Authority (GSA), and President of the Bahrain Olympic Committee (BOC), visited the Exhibition World Bahrain, which will host the 3rd Asian Youth Games from October 22 to 31 under the patronage of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa.

During the visit, HH Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad reviewed the progress of preparations and the readiness of all sports and administrative facilities, commending the efforts of the organising teams in finalising arrangements for the event.

HH Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad expressed pride in the teamwork and dedication of Bahrainis in preparing for the Games, held for the first time in the Kingdom of Bahrain, and emphasised that the event would reflect Bahrain’s values and demonstrate its ability to host major international sporting events to the highest standards. His Highness expressed confidence in the organising committees and working teams to deliver an exceptional edition befitting Bahrain’s reputation and standing in Asia.

Verstappen dominates US GP, cuts Piastri’s lead

- Lando Norris finishes second, Charles Leclerc third
- Oscar Piastri finishes fifth
- McLaren’s Norris closes on teammate Piastri

AFP | Austin

Max Verstappen maintained the pressure on McLaren and cut another chunk out of Oscar Piastri’s lead in this year’s world championship on Sunday when he cruised to a commanding triumph at the United States Grand Prix.

In sizzling conditions, Red Bull’s fourth-time world champion led from pole position to chequered flag to come home 7.959 seconds clear of title-chasing Lando Norris, of McLaren, with Ferrari’s Charles Leclerc finishing third, 4.041 adrift.

Australian championship leader Oscar Piastri of McLaren finished fifth.

It was Verstappen’s fourth win in Texas and seventh on American soil, his fifth this year and the 68th of his career.

It was also, for Verstappen, the fourth race in succession in which he had out-qualified and out-raced both McLarens.

Verstappen has reduced Pi-



(L/R) Race winner Red Bull Racing’s Dutch driver Max Verstappen and third place finisher Ferrari’s Monegasque driver Charles Leclerc celebrate on the podium

astri’s 104 point advantage over him to 40 with five races remaining.

Seven-time champion Lewis Hamilton was fourth in the second Ferrari ahead of Piastri and Mercedes’s George Russell.

Verstappen said: “It’s been an unbelievable weekend for us. I knew it wouldn’t be straightforward and the pace between us was close. But my first stint did it for me.

“Now we have a chance to be there (in the title race) and we just have to keep delivering like that in all the weekends to the end of the season and see what happens. It’s exciting. We just need to keep up the momen-

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Max Verstappen has collected an exceptional 119 points out of a possible 135 over the last five Grand Prix weekends, helping him cut the championship leader’s advantage from 104 points to just 40

tum.”

Norris was relieved to snatch second place after spending most of the race pushing to overtake Leclerc.

“It took me long enough! It was a good battle with Charles, he fought hard. It was tough... But I’m happy to take second.”

Verstappen now has 306 points in the title race in third place leaving Piastri on top with 346 points and Norris on 332. McLaren have already won the constructors’ title for the second consecutive year.

The 28-year-old Dutchman has now collected 119 points from a possible 135 over the last five Grand Prix weekends.

Sweden names ex-Chelsea manager Graham Potter new coach

AFP | Stockholm

The Swedish Football Association said on Monday that ex-Chelsea manager Graham Potter had been appointed national team coach after Jon Dahl Tomasson was sacked last week following three straight losses in World Cup qualifying.

Sweden terminated Tomasson’s contract on October 14 after his team only managed to win a single point in the first four games of the qualifiers for the 2026 World Cup.

The Swedish FA said Potter, who was sacked by Premier League club West Ham in September, would be tasked with



Graham Potter

turning around a team containing star strikers Alexander Isak and Viktor Gyokeres and attempt to qualify for the finals in the US, Canada and Mexico. “The goal is to create the optimal conditions to reach the World Cup in the summer of 2026,” the Swedish FA said in statement.

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