

# Vettel celebrates home pole

## Hamilton limps out of German qualifying

AFP | Hockenheim, Germany

Sebastian Vettel surged to pole for his home German Grand Prix yesterday as Lewis Hamilton suffered a setback when his Mercedes broke down to leave him at the back of the grid.

Vettel topped qualifying with a devastating final lap in his Ferrari to pip Valtteri Bottas in the second Mercedes.

A distraught Hamilton limped out in the first qualifying session when his car broke down with a hydraulics failure.

Vettel rubbed salt in the British defending world champion's wounds by outpacing Bottas by two-tenths of a second.

In front of a huge crowd of flag-waving Germans at the track near his Heppenheim birthplace, Vettel delivered a lap record in one minute and 11.212 seconds to top the Finn's 1:11.416.

"Thanks to those fans," said Vettel. "It was amazing to see so many Ferrari and Germany flags.

"It just kept getting better and I knew for the last lap I had a little bit more – I am



Ferrari driver Sebastian Vettel on his way to pole at Hockenheim

full of adrenaline, but feel so happy."

It is his second pole for a German Grand Prix and the 55th of his career.

Vettel's qualifying success makes him favourite to land his first Formula One victory at Hockenheim and only his second Grand Prix win in Germany as he seeks to extend his eight-point advantage over Hamilton.

Kimi Raikkonen was third in the second Ferrari ahead of Max Verstappen of Red Bull and the two Ferrari-powered Haas cars of Kevin Magnussen and Romain Grosjean.

Another home hope Nico Hulkenberg was seventh ahead of his Renault team-mate Carlos Sainz, rising Monegasque star Charles Leclerc of Sauber and Sergio Perez of Force India.

## Airborne

Hamilton, who had attempted to push his car to stay in contention, said: "It was definitely a tough one, but these things happen and all you can do is try and gather your thoughts and live to fight another day.

"I'll give everything tomorrow to see how high I can get up, but it's not going to be like



**The most successful driver in the German Grand Prix is local pilot Rudolf Caracciola, who won six times between 1926-1939. Michael Schumacher recorded 4 wins in his home Grand Prix, all at the Hockenheimring. Ferrari is the most successful constructor with 22 wins**

Silverstone."

Hamilton is expected to start 14th on the grid after his setback which saw him take a brief airborne excursion at Turn One and go off again at Turn Eight.

He lost use of his gearbox and was told by the team to stop to avoid further damage, following a hydraulics failure.

After trying to push the car, he crouched over it as if praying

before taking a motor-cycle ride back to the paddock.

It came two days after Mercedes confirmed he had signed a blockbuster two-year contract extension and followed other unexpected disappointments in Canada, Austria and Britain where Hamilton and his team had been unable to match expectations.

After heavy rain had washed out final practice in the morning, the session began in improved conditions and on a drying track, the two Saubers again setting the pace as they had in the rain.

The atmosphere was sultry with a track temperature of 27 degrees Celsius, air at 21 and humidity at 84 per cent.

The two Ferraris were soon on top of the times ahead of the Mercedes before Verstappen entered the fray, Vettel having set an early lap record in 1:12.538 that was soon trimmed by his team-mate's 1:12.505.

The Q1 segment ended with Ferrari on top and the elimination of Esteban Ocon of Force India, Pierre Gasly and Brendon Hartley of Toro Rosso, Lance Stroll of Williams and Stoffel Vandoorne of McLaren.

Hamilton clocked the fifth best time before his problems forced him to abandon.

# Justin Rose threaten leaders at Open

AFP | Carnoustie, United Kingdom

Justin Rose made the most of serene weather conditions to shoot his best ever round in a major and climb up the Brit-

No Englishman has won the Claret Jug since Nick Faldo at Muirfield in 1992, but whether Rose can be the man to end that long drought may depend on what the leaders do later.



England's Justin Rose

ish Open leaderboard yesterday, with the overnight pacesetters not starting until much later.

Rose shot a seven-under-par 64, equalling the lowest round in an Open at Carnoustie set by Steve Stricker and Richard Green here in 2007, to climb to four-under for the championship.

That left him just two shots adrift of American duo Zach Johnson and Kevin Kisner, who were due to go out in the final pairing at 4pm local time (1500 GMT).

Rose's blemish-free round was capped by birdies at the last two holes, including after a stunning approach shot onto the 18th green.

It was not quite good enough to trouble Tommy Fleetwood's overall course record of 63, set last year at the Dunhill Championship, but it was still former US Open champion Rose's best ever round in a major.

"I felt like it was a beautiful morning to play golf. I felt like it was an opportunity to score well out there. The greens were somewhat receptive, obviously, and the pins weren't as tough as maybe the first couple of days," said the 37-year-old, who only made the cut thanks to a birdie at the last on Friday.

"I felt like it was a typical set-up for a moving day today. So it was nice to make that move."

## Woods charges into contention

Reuters | Carnoustie, United Kingdom

Tiger Woods turned back the clock and briefly tied for the lead en route to a five-under-par 66 as players plundered Carnoustie in perfect conditions in the third round of the British Open yesterday.

Woods posted a five-under 208 total that left him three strokes behind American on-course leader Kevin Kisner, who had completed six holes.

In scenes reminiscent of those in the prime of his career, waves of excitement rippled through the massive gallery as 14-times major champion Woods charged up the leaderboard.

Throwing caution aside after starting the day six strokes behind, Woods wielded his driver aggressively and was rewarded with six birdies in

If the weather remains calm, Johnson and Kisner will also hope to score low. England's Fleetwood and American duo Pat Perez and Xander Schauffele are also right in the mix, starting the day on five under par.

Level with Rose at four-under before starting their rounds were Rory McIlroy, Erik van Rooyen, Zander Lombard, Tony Finau and Matt Kuchar, who finished runner-up to Jordan Spieth last year at Royal Birkdale.

Also impressing early on Saturday were Japan's Yusaku Miyazato, who had a bogey-free 65, and England's Chris Wood, who had a 66.

Both are now three-under for the championship, although it could have been better for Wood, who was sev-



Tiger Woods from the fifth tee

the first 14 holes.

A tap-in at the par-five 14th lifted him to the top of a major championship leaderboard for the first time since the second round at the 2013 Masters.

But no sooner had he done so than his six-iron to the par-three 16th trickled off the side of the green, from where he could not avoid dropping his first and only shot of the day.

He got a lucky break at the last, where his pulled tee shot came within inches of landing in the Barry Burn.

en-under for his round after 13 holes.

However, he dropped shots at the long 14th and the 17th, before a sensational par save at the last after his approach ended up nestled against a fence.

"To be honest, it wouldn't have changed my mood an awful lot because the way I've played the first couple of days has been terrible," said the Englishman when asked how important that had been for his round.

"It was a good effort to get through and make the weekend really. So there's no way I expected to be seven-under on the day.

"So to shoot mid-60s today, regardless of how I finished, would have been a good effort," added Wood, who finished tied for third in The Open at Turnberry nine years ago.



South Africa's South Africa's Keshav Maharaj (L) stops a ball beside Sri Lanka cricketer Dimuth Karunaratne

## Sri Lanka reign despite Maharaj milestone

● Karunaratne builds lead after spinners rout South Africa again

Reuters | Colombo

Keshav Maharaj returned the second best figures by a South African bowler in a test innings but Sri Lanka took a firm step towards a 2-0 series sweep after thoroughly dominating day two of the second and final test on Saturday.

South Africa's spin frailties were laid bare once again as the tourists collapsed for 124 to concede a first innings lead of 214 runs at Colombo's Sin-

halese Sports Club Ground.

Sri Lanka, who made 338 in the first innings, were 151-3 at stumps after deciding not to impose follow-on against the tourists who now stare at the possibility of a second successive test defeat inside three days.

Dimuth Karunaratne was batting on 59 at stumps, his fourth successive 50-plus knock in the series, with Angelo Mathews on 12 at the other end.

For South Africa, left arm-spinner Maharaj took his match-haul to 11 wickets but his team were in dire straits.

Earlier resuming the day on 277 for nine, Akila Dananjaya and Rangana Herath frustrated South Africa with a dogged 74-run stand for the final wicket before Maharaj struck when the latter was caught behind for 35. Dananjaya remained unbeaten on 43.

Maharaj's 9-129 is the second best by a South African in tests, behind only Hugh Taylor's 9-113 against England in 1957, but his success brought little cheer to a side battling their own spin vulnerabilities.

## BRIEF SCORE

Sri Lanka 338 (de Silva 60, Maharaj 9-129) and 151 for 3 (Gunathilaka 61, Karunaratne 59\*, Maharaj 2-90) lead South Africa 124 (du Plessis 48, Akila 5-52, Dilruwan 4-40) by 365 runs