

Third-Quarter Run Sends Bahrain Past Saudi Arabia



Bahrain's basketball squad

Mohammed Darwish

A poor start by Bahrain accounted for little after a 36-point third quarter on Friday sent them to a 100-86 win over Saudi Arabia in Doha, their second victory in as many nights.

Saudi Arabia led 26-21 after the first quarter. Bahrain answered with a 25-18 second period to go into half-time 46-44 ahead.

The game then swung hard their way.

Bahrain outscored Saudi Arabia 36-14 in the third, stretching a two-point lead to 82-58 with 10 minutes to play. Saudi Arabia won the last quarter 28-18 but never got close enough to threaten Bahrain's lead.

Mustafa Rashed led the scoring with 24 points, seven rebounds and four assists in 29 minutes.

JaKarr Sampson added 14 points and six rebounds in 16

minutes, while Elijah Thomas also scored 14, with seven rebounds and three steals in only 15 minutes.

Ahmed Salman had 10 points.

Ali Kadhem came close to a triple-double, finishing with seven points, nine rebounds and nine assists in 22 minutes.

Ahmed Bindayneh scored six, while Mohamed Buallay had three points, six rebounds, two assists, one steal and two blocks.

The win came a day after Bahrain beat hosts Qatar 76-69, leaving them unbeaten from their two games in the three-team Doha tournament.

Qatar and Saudi Arabia meet on Saturday in the last match.

The Doha games are Bahrain's last match practice before the FIBA Asia Cup 2029 pre-qualifiers in the UAE.

Bahrain are in a group with the UAE, Kuwait, Oman and Nepal and face Oman first on August 27.

Youth Handballers Beat Jordan for Second Win



Mahmoud Ali named Man of the Match

Mohammed Darwish

A 22-goal win over hosts Jordan sent Bahrain top of Group A on Friday as the national youth side made it two wins from two at the Asian Men's Youth Handball Championship.

Bahrain won 41-19 at Princess

Sumaya Hall in Amman after taking charge early and building a 22-9 half-time lead.

Jordan never cut the gap. Bahrain struck another 19 goals after the break and finished with a 22-goal winning margin.

Mahmoud Ali was named Man of the Match for his part in the win.



Pivot Ali Hasan gets his shot away against Jordan

Bahrain started the tournament with a 51-20 victory over India and have now scored 92 goals while conceding 39. Their two wins have come by a combined margin of 53.

They have four points, the same as South Korea, who beat Uzbekistan 47-29 and India 37-27. Bahrain lead on goal difference, plus 53 to South Korea's plus 28.

Uzbekistan are next at noon

on Sunday before Bahrain meet South Korea at 4pm on Wednesday in a match likely to decide first place in the group.

Four of the five teams in Group A reach the quarter-finals on August 28. The four quarter-final winners will qualify for the 2027 IHF Men's Youth World Championship.

For Bahrain, a win in the last eight would send them to the World Championship.

Russell roars to Dutch GP sprint pole, Antonelli fifth

● Norris qualifies second for McLaren

● Leclerc starts third for Ferrari

● Antonelli manages only fifth place

● Verstappen qualifies sixth at home

AFP | Zandvoort

Mercedes driver George Russell clinched pole position for Saturday's sprint race at the Dutch Grand Prix, setting the fastest qualifying lap time ahead of current world champion Lando Norris.

Ferrari's Charles Leclerc will be third on the grid ahead of Oscar Piastri in the second McLaren.

Current world championship leader Kimi Antonelli was a surprisingly low fifth in qualifying after setting the fastest time in practice in his Mercedes.

Back for the first race after the traditional month-long summer break, Russell set a time of one minute and 11.567 seconds, 0.041 seconds faster than Leclerc, ahead of what looks



Mercedes' British driver George Russell celebrates his pole position

like being a knife-edge battle all weekend between the top teams. "The lap felt really good, to be honest. It all came together nicely," said Russell.

"I'm really happy to come back. It's been a little while since I've done one of these interviews," added Russell, who won the first Grand Prix of the season but has since fallen off the pace.

Home favourite Max Verstappen, roared on by an army of orange-clad fans, qualified in sixth in his Red Bull.

After rain early in the morning, the track had dried out, but Antonelli appeared to have grip issues, spinning in the first qualifying session.

'Special send off'

Earlier yesterday, Antonelli

had laid down the gauntlet to the other teams, turning in the fastest lap in testing conditions at the only practice session.

The Dutch Grand Prix, coming a month after the last race in Hungary, comes with every sign the championship could go down to the wire in the second half of the season.

Antonelli, who turns 20 next week, has a 50-point advantage over seven-time world champion Hamilton, at 41 more than twice his age.

Antonelli and Mercedes dominated the first half of the season, with the prodigy picking up wins in six of the 11 races, including five consecutive chequered flags.



This will be the last Formula One Grand Prix at Zandvoort after promoters decided to pull the circuit from the calendar from next year

England start life after Bazball with rout of Pakistan



England's Ollie Robinson (C) celebrates with teammates after taking the wicket of Pakistan's Abdullah Shafique

AFP | London

England launched their post-Bazball era with an innings and 103-run thrashing of Pakistan in the first Test at Headingley yesterday.

Pakistan, who had been 51-2 in their second innings, lost four wickets for 25 runs on the way to being dismissed for just 135.

England pacemen Josh Tongue and Ollie Robinson, who took all 10 wickets between them in Pakistan's meagre first-innings 171, once again did plenty of damage after express quick Jofra Archer removed both openers.

The England trio took three wickets apiece yesterday.

Recalled seamer Robinson was named player of the match for his overall figures of 8-80, while Tongue finished with 8-89.

A comprehensive win with

more than two days remaining was an ideal way for Joe Root to begin his second stint as full-time England Test captain.

Former skipper Ben Stokes retired from international duty after a series loss at home to New Zealand in June, shortly before Brendon McCullum was sacked as red-ball coach.

This was just England's third win in 11 Tests, albeit one achieved against a weak Pakistan side.

England, 366-8 overnight, posted 409 for a huge first-innings lead of 238.

Harry Brook (91), Jordan Cox (73), Root (66) and the recalled Dan Lawrence (51) all made fifties on Thursday without any of the England quartet going onto a hundred.

Pakistan left-arm spinner Ali Usman's 5-95 - his maiden five-wicket haul in Test cricket -- was a rare highlight for the tourists.