

## SPORTS

# Wheat-Lindsey upsets boys' top seed in ITF Juniors

Patrick Wheat-Lindsey defeated Boris Stastny to highlight Day One at BTC

TDT | Manama

Patrick Wheat-Lindsey from the USA wasted no time in making his presence felt in the 11th Bahrain ITF Juniors Tennis Championship 2019 after stunning Boys' Singles top seed Boris Stastny of the Czech Republic in their first round clash yesterday, played at the Bahrain Tennis Club (BTC) hard courts in Juffair.

Wheat-Lindsey, ranked 2,329th in the world, needed three sets to take down the 870th-ranked Stastny 6-3, 4-6, 6-3 to make a dream start to the competition.

The result was the major upset of an exciting action-packed Day One, which featured a day-long schedule of 32 matches in both the Boys' Singles and Girls' Singles first rounds.

Meanwhile, Girls' Singles top seed and defending champion Nina Danisova (ranked 393rd in the world amongst girls) from Slovakia outplayed wild card Yara Alhogbani from Saudi Arabia 6-1, 6-2 to go through.

From the other seeded boys and girls, only one from each did not make it to the next stage. Unranked qualifier Daniel Abernethy from Great Britain upset boys' sixth seed Pablo Trochu (ranked 1,141st in the world) from France 5-7, 6-4, 6-2; while another Briton, Issey Purser (ranked 2,549th amongst girls), ousted seventh seed Erika Weil (ranked 1,348th) of Hungary 6-4, 7-6 (4).

Action continues today from 4pm with matches in the Boys' Doubles and Girls' Doubles. The singles second round will take place Wednesday.

The 11th Bahrain ITF Tennis



Rhea Singh of India hits a return

Juniors Championship 2019 is being held under the patronage of Deputy Prime Minister HH Shaikh Mohammed bin Mubarak Al Khalifa. It has been organised in cooperation with the Ministry of Youth and Sports Affairs, the Bahrain Tennis Federation and the International Tennis Federation (ITF); and is being supported by Bahrain National Gas Company, Bapco and Ebrahim K Kanoo.

The tournament is a part of the ITF World Tennis Tour Juniors, and it continues the tradition of BTC's hosting world-class tennis championships each year.

Elsewhere in the Boys' Singles yesterday, second seed Garv Bahl of India defeated Bahraini wild card Mohamed Al Shehawi 6-0, 6-0; while third seed Vansh Bhagatani, also from India, needed to battle hard to defeat Muneer Al Rawahi from Oman in three sets 6-4, 2-6, 6-1.

Fourth-seeded Mark Owen Endler of Germany beat Rahul Jaideep of India 6-4, 6-4 in a



Saniya Masand hits a return

defeated American Yousef Manana 6-1, 6-1.

In the Girls' Singles, second seed Stefania Bojica of Romania defeated qualifier Aryana Bartlett of Great Britain 6-1, 7-6 (3); while third-seeded Russian Rosaleen Alioussef beat Egyptian qualifier Perihan Auf 6-2, 6-0.

Hagar Ramadan, fourth seed from Egypt, joined them in the next stage with a 6-3, 6-1 win against Renee Marie Acena from the Philippines. Number five seed Jessica Dhome-Casanova of Great Britain then beat Aleina Elizabeth Alex of India 6-2, 6-0; while sixth seed Caroline Fawzy of Egypt defeated Shreya Menon of India 6-2, 6-2. Eighth seed Niva Vicic of Denmark also marched on, overcoming Srihitha Jaligama of India 6-1, 6-4.

Bahrain's Nazley Nader was also amongst the girls who booked their place in the second round. She did well to claim a 6-1, 6-1 triumph over Tanya Nanda from India.



**Today's Order of Play features a total of 14 doubles matches. Top seeds for the boys are the pair of Endler and Trochu, while the top seeds for the girls are the tandem of Stefania and Rosaleen**

closely contested match; while fifth-seeded Briton Alexander Knox Jones outplayed Bahraini wild card Mohammed Alkhan 6-0, 6-0.

Seventh seed Luca Daniel Constantin of Romania followed suit by beating Archie Turner of Great Britain 6-1, 6-1; and eighth seed Archie Graham, another up-and-coming British talent,

## Mixed fortunes for Team Bahrain drivers during first day in Italy



Luca Houghton in action in Micro MAX class during first day of free practice

TDT | Manama

Team Bahrain drivers got their first taste of track action ahead of this weekend's 2019 Rotax MAX Challenge (RMC) Grand Finals at Circuito Internazionale di Napoli in Sarno.

Unusually hot conditions greeted the 360 drivers from 60 nations as they took to the track for the first day of free practice with 24 sessions of 15 minutes for each of the classes with Bahrain representatives ten-year-old Luca Houghton contesting the Micro MAX class and experienced 33-year-old Mohammed Matar in Senior MAX.

Traditionally day one at the Grand Finals is one where drivers familiarise themselves with the track, first-timers at Sarno using the valuable time to learn the circuit while others reacquaint themselves with a venue that has hosted the likes of Kimi Raikkonen, Lewis Hamilton, Nico Rosberg, Michael Schumacher among many legends of the sport.

Speaking at the end of the first day, team manager Hasan Al Shehawi summed up: "The first day always brings unknowns which drivers have to deal with. Mohammed had an issue with his kart that prevented him from maximising his time on the track but we

**“The first day always brings unknowns which drivers have to deal with. Mohammed had an issue with his kart that prevented him from maximising his time on the track but we would rather have problems now rather than later when it gets very important”**

HASAN AL SHEHABI

would rather have problems now rather than later when it gets very important.

"On the other hand, Luca was fast and impressed in his first two sessions at the venue he has never raced at, running strongly among the pacesetters early on in the week's proceedings which should serve him well for the remaining days of action. All in all, it was a good day with some challenges which we will overcome," added Shehawi.

On Tuesday drivers will again have two practice sessions with the Heat races set to start on Wednesday followed by the Pre-Finals on Friday and the Finals on Saturday.

## Klopp hits out at VAR after Liverpool draw at Man Utd

● Liverpool manager claims VAR missed 'obvious foul'

AFP | London

Liverpool manager Juergen Klopp criticised the video assistant referee (VAR) system after his team's 1-1 draw at Manchester United on Sunday, saying the way the technology is being used in England does not make "too much sense".

Klopp was aggrieved Liverpool were not awarded a free-kick for a "clear foul" on Divock Origi in the build-up to United's first-half goal after watching his side drop points in the league for the first time this season.

Premier League rules governing VAR allow the video assistant to overturn a referee's decision only in the case of a clear and



Liverpool's Belgium striker Divock Origi (L) appears to be fouled by Manchester United's Swedish defender Victor Lindelof (R) in the build-up to the first goal

obvious error.

"This is a problem we have to discuss," the Liverpool boss told

reporters. "I was 100% sure VAR would overrule (United's goal). "The referee let the game run

because he has VAR, but the VAR says then it was not clear... This makes not too much sense. It is

a clear VAR issue in how we deal with it in the moment.

"I'm not angry or whatever. I am sure (referee) Martin Atkinson would have whistled if there was no VAR but he let it go."

Marcus Rashford opening the scoring for United, who were pegged back by Liverpool substitute Adam Lallana's equaliser about five minutes from time.

Manchester United manager Ole Gunnar Solskjaer disagreed with Klopp's assessment of the Origi incident and praised the referee for letting the game flow.

"No chance - we're not playing basketball. It's never a foul," Solskjaer said. "I think the referee did well. He let it become a proper football game with tackles. He wasn't one of those tippy-tappy, stop-the-game referees."

Despite the draw, Liverpool still lead second-placed Manchester City by six points, while United are 13th in the table.

## Fourth UAE cricketer suspended for corruption

AFP | Dubai

Ashfaq Ahmed yesterday became the fourth United Arab Emirates cricketer suspended as part of an anti-corruption investigation.

Ahmed opened the batting in their first two matches at the T20 World Cup qualifying tournament. He scored four as UAE lost to Oman on Friday and three as they beat Ireland on Saturday.

He was not in the team yesterday as UAE beat Hong Kong by eight wickets.

"Further to the ongoing investigations led by the ICC Anti-Corruption Unit, Emirates Cricket Board has today provisionally suspended Ashfaq Ahmed with immediate effect," the UAE Cricket Board said in a statement.