

Bottas tops incident-packed Portuguese GP practice



Mercedes' Finnish driver Valtteri Bottas drives during practice

AFP | Lisbon

Valtteri Bottas maintained his habit of being ‘fastest yesterday’ when he completed a double-top in an incident-hit second practice for this weekend’s Portuguese Grand Prix.

The Finn, who is 69 points adrift of Mercedes team-mate Lewis Hamilton in the title race, clocked a best lap in one minute and 17.940 seconds to beat Red Bull’s Max Verstappen by six-tenths of a second.

It was the sixth consecutive Grand Prix at which Bottas, who topped both of the day’s sessions, was fastest in opening practice.

The Dutchman was involved in a collision with Racing Point’s Lance Stroll that halted the action and required both men to visit the stewards, Pierre Gasly’s Alpha Tauri having suffered a fire that caused an earlier stoppage.

Hamilton, who is hunting a record 92nd career win on Sunday, wound up eighth, 1.5 seconds off the pace, but with-

2 red flag disruptions occurred during the practice - first after Pierre Gasly’s Alpha Tauri caught fire, and later when Max Verstappen and Lance Stroll collided

out producing a competitive lap in an interrupted session that was twice stopped by red flags.

McLaren’s Lando Norris was third ahead of Charles Leclerc of Ferrari, Carlos Sainz in the second McLaren and four-time champion Sebastian Vettel in the second Ferrari.

Gasly, who was unhurt after jumping out of his fiery car, was seventh ahead of six-time champion Hamilton, Esteban Ocon of Renault and Alex Albon, in the second Red Bull.

On a bright and cool afternoon in southern Portugal, the undulating track provided little grip and many challenges throughout the day.

Renault Academy drivers to test F1 car in Bahrain

Three drivers from the Academy will test the Renault R.S.18 at BIC later this month

● The squad will include newly-crowned F3 Champion Oscar Piastri and 2020 F2 race winners Christian Lundgaard and Guanyu Zhou

TDT | Manama

Renault Formula 1 Team have announced that three of their current Renault Sport Academy squad will further their understanding of the top flight with a run in the Renault R.S.18 at Bahrain International Circuit (BIC) later this month.

The four-day R.S.18 testing programme in Sakhir will feature newly-crowned FIA Formula 3 Champion Oscar Piastri and 2020 FIA Formula 2 race winners Christian Lundgaard and Guanyu Zhou.

The upcoming test in Bahrain showcases Renault’s continued commitment to the academy as it readies its junior drivers for a potential Formula 1 race seat in the future.

Nineteen-year-old Dane Lundgaard, currently fourth in the FIA Formula 2 Drivers’ Championship with only two rounds remaining, will pilot day one



Renault’s R.S.18 cars in action in 2018

of the test on Thursday next week, marking his third time in a Formula 1 car. Lundgaard has so far won two races in his maiden F2 season.

Taking over from him for day two on Friday for his first-ever experience in a Formula 1 car will be Piastri. The Australian joined the academy earlier this year following his triumph in the 2019 Formula Renault Eurocup, and sealed back-to-back titles with the F3 crown this season.

Rounding off the final two days of the test for the academy on November 1 and 2 will be FIA F2 driver Guanyu Zhou. The Chinese national is



Renault F1 Team’s test driver and currently sits eighth in the 2020 F2 drivers’ standings with one win and five podiums this year.

Renault Sport Academy director Mia Sharizman commented: “The tests in Bahrain are part of a planned programme that the academy has delivered every year for the past three years. It’s a good opportunity for us to show the progression and level of achievement of the drivers in the academy.

“Christian and Zhou will be in the R.S.18 for a second time, whilst Oscar will be experiencing his first time in a Formula 1 car as a reward for winning the

“The tests in Bahrain are part of a planned programme that the academy has delivered every year for the past three years. It’s a good opportunity for us to show the progression and level of achievement of the drivers in the academy

MIA SHARIZMAN

FIA Formula 3 title, plus it is part of his continued progression in the academy.

“The plan for the testing days often varies depending on experience, so Oscar’s day will be about getting him up to speed and familiar with the car.

“For Zhou and Christian, their days will be shaped like an actual race weekend, with practice, qualifying and race simulations.

“Bahrain is a very good test location for us, and beneficial for both Zhou and Christian who will race here later in November for the final two rounds of the FIA Formula 2 Championship.”

From dropping out of school to challenging for BRAVE CF’s world title: Amin Ayoub’s journey

TDT | Manama

When he signed his contract to work as a cleaner, Amin Ayoub had no idea that in only a few years he would become a fierce contender in the fastest-growing MMA organization in the world where he would fight for a title.

Amin was never fond of schooling. Going to school and sitting through classes for 8 to 10 hours a day felt soul-sucking to him. In fact, he despised school so much that he decided to quit formal education at the



Amin Ayoub in action during a bout

age of 16.

His lack of qualifications meant he had to settle for a job as a janitor, which he did not enjoy. All to pursue his dreams. There was one thing that kept him energized, motivated and hopeful - the time he spent at a martial arts gym where he trained until he was soaked in his own sweat every day.

“I never liked going to school. After I stopped my education at 16, I started working as a cleaner at 17. But that wasn’t what I wanted to do. I knew what I really enjoyed was my time in the gym training,” Amin said.

He started training martial arts at the age of 15. Starting with K1 (a combination of stand up techniques from Muay Thai, Karate, Taekondo, Savate, San Shou, Kickboxing and Western-style boxing), he soon made a venture into MMA.

“My K1 coach showed me a video of an MMA fight. The fight looked so very cool, you could hit with the knees, elbows and more. I was fascinated by it.”

Amin fell in love with MMA after his first training session. Now, he has come a long way from his days as a janitor. After becoming a double champion

in a regional promotion, he has impressed at BRAVE CF, one of the top global MMA promotions in the world. After a run of five straight wins, he signed with BRAVE CF in 2019 where he continued to impress with another victory. Now, Amin will have a shot at the world title on November 5th when he faces the current BRAVE CF Lightweight champion Cleiton Silva. This will be a monumental challenge for him but he is determined to make the most of it.

“I intend to show the world that I am the best. I can do that by winning the belt”

Kishan, pacers help Mumbai topple Chennai to regain top spot



Ishan Kishan of Mumbai Indians plays a shot

ANI | Dubai

After pacers, Trent Boult and Jasprit Bumrah dismantled Chennai Super Kings (CSK), Ishan Kishan guided Mumbai Indians to an easy victory with a powerful 68 of 37 balls here at Sharjah Cricket Ground yesterday.

With this win, Mumbai Indians regained the top spot in the points table with 14 points from 10 games.

Kishan smashed his fifth IPL half-century while Quinton de Kock slammed 46 runs of 37 balls to hand Mumbai Indians an easy 10-wicket victory. This was the first-time CSK ever lost an IPL match by 10 wickets.

Chasing a paltry target of 115 runs, Mumbai Indians got

off to a flyer with the openers scoring 52 runs in the power-play. Quinton de Kock and Ishan Kishan showed no mercy and bludgeoned the CSK bowling attack as Mumbai Indians maintained their dominance in the game.

Kishan smashed his fifty in just 29 balls and gave CSK no chance in the game. In the end, Mumbai Indians chased down the target with 74 overs to spare courtesy of a 100 run opening partnership.

Earlier after being asked to bat first, CSK were stunned by fierce bowling performance by Trent Boult, Jasprit Bumrah, and Rahul Chahar. The MS Dhoni-led side was only able to score 114 runs in their allotted 20 overs courtesy of a gutsy knock by Sam Curran.

YOU
KNOW WHAT

Amin Ayoub started training martial arts at the age of 15. Starting with K1 (a combination of stand up techniques from Muay Thai, Karate, Taekondo, Savate, San Shou, Kickboxing and Western-style boxing), he soon made a venture into MMA