

Hamilton takes Sochi pole after 'horrible' qualifying



Lewis Hamilton climbs out of his Mercedes cockpit after qualifying

AFP | Sochi

Runaway Formula One series leader Lewis Hamilton emerged from a "horrible" red-flagged qualifying session at Sochi yesterday with a stunning pole position for Sunday's Russian Grand Prix.

The Mercedes six-time champion clocked a best lap in one minute and 31.304 seconds to outpace Max Verstappen of Red Bull by half a second.

His Mercedes teammate Valtteri Bottas was third-quickest with Sergio Perez of Racing Point sharing the second row.

Hamilton is bidding to claim his fifth win at the Sochi track where Mercedes have dominated winning all six races since 2014.

If he translate pole into victory, he will equal Michael Schumacher's career record of 91 Grand Prix wins.

Yesterday's second session was interrupted for 10 minutes after Sebastian Vettel crashed in his Ferrari. He was unhurt.

Replays showed that the German driver, in his final season with Ferrari, clipped a kerb at Turn Four and lost control as he smacked into the barriers.

The red flags came out with

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LEWIS HAMILTON

Hamilton in a perilous 15th place with just over two minutes remaining.

He said: "It was one of the worst qualifying sessions. It was horrible - heart in your mouth."

"I wanted to stay out and do a banker but they said come in and get new tyres and then the red flag came out. It was a risk, we got through but I am starting on softs which is not good."

"Undoubtedly I am likely to get dragged past tomorrow, it will make it hard to win the race."

Once Q2 eventually resumed Hamilton managed to put in the fourth quickest time to get through to the top 10 shoot-out but missing from it were both Ferraris with Vettel's teammate Charles Leclerc knocked out in 11th place.

Ahli crowned champions!

Brown, Sutton lead Ahli to game two win over Manama to secure club's 18th league title in 2-0 finals sweep

Ahli secures the title with a 99-88 victory

TDT | Manama

Ahli were last night crowned champions of the 2019/2020 Zain Bahrain Basketball League.

Ahli secured the title with a 99-88 victory over arch-rivals Manama to close out the best-of-three finals series in a two-game sweep.

Ahli claimed their 18th league championship, according to Bahrain Basketball Association (BBA) records. They had last won the crown in the 2009/2010 season, when they secured back-to-back titles.

The finals were a match-up between two of Bahrain's historically most successful basketball clubs.

The two teams picked up their respective trophies and medals in an awarding ceremony attended by BBA president



Ahli players and officials during the awarding ceremony



From left, Jameel, Qurban and a team official in celebration

Talal Kanoo and other BBA officials, while taking into account social-distancing measures due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

For the second successive contest, Ahli used a strong second half to take control of a close game. They outscored Manama 22-13 in the third period and enjoyed a 77-68 advantage heading into the fourth quarter, which they did well to hold on to until the final whistle.

American professionals Brandon Brown and Dominique Sutton combined for 52 points to spearhead the victors, with

Brown registering a team-high 30 along with eight rebounds and eight assists.

Bahraini stars Maitham Jameel and Mohammed Qurban added 19 and 11, respectively, while Hesham Sarhan scored nine and Ali Aqeel eight.

Brown fired in five three-pointers in the game, including one with only a minute remaining to virtually ice the contest with a 93-80 lead. Jameel added four triples while Qurban finished with three.

Ahli's title triumph was doubly sweet for Jameel and Qurban, both of whom had signed

with Manama for a few years from Ahli, before returning to their original club prior to last season.

Polish import Maciej Lampe had a game-high 31 points and 11 rebounds to pace Manama in the loss, but it wasn't enough to get them over the hump. Mohammed Hussain added 15, while American Harvey Jerai Grant and Hassan Nowrooz each scored 10.

Ahli needed more than four minutes to register their first points of the game as Manama roared to a brilliant start and took a 10-0 lead.

But once Ahli found their groove, they were able to equally match their rivals over the remainder of the first half. They cut their deficit to 26-29 at the end of the first quarter and then managed to get things deadlocked at 55-apiece by the interval.

That paved the way for Ahli's splendid second half, when they were able to pull away from Manama and stave off a late comeback.



This is the first championship for Al Ahli players Maitham Jameel and Mohammed Qurban since they returned to the club after playing with Manama for a few years

Chelsea hit back to draw at West Brom, Man Utd snatch 100th-minute win at Brighton

AFP | London

Free-spending Chelsea came from 3-0 down to salvage a 3-3 draw at newly-promoted West Brom, while Manchester United were rescued by Bruno Fernandes's 100th-minute penalty, awarded after the full-time whistle, to beat Brighton 3-2 yesterday.

But it is Everton who are setting the early pace in the Premier League as they secured a third straight win in controversial circumstances, 2-1 at Crystal Palace.

Chelsea manager Frank Lampard handed the captain's armband to Thiago Silva on his Premier League debut, but the Brazilian had a nightmare first 45 minutes as the Blues' defensive deficiencies were easily exposed.

Callum Robison pounced on errors from Marcos Alonso and Silva to fire twice beyond Willy Caballero, who replaced Kepa Arrizabalaga in the Chelsea goal.

Kyle Bartley then made it 3-0 to the Baggies, who had lost



Bruno Fernandes of Manchester United scores his sides third goal

their opening two games back in the top flight.

Chelsea have spent a reported £220 million (\$280 million) to try and close the gap to Liverpool and Manchester City in the title race and even a spirited second-half fightback could not hide the embarrassment of his side's defending for Lampard, who have taken just four points from their first three games.

Mason Mount got the comeback started to a swerving long-range effort.

Substitute Callum Hudson-Odoi then swept home 20 minutes from time after a neat one-two with Kai Havertz.

And Tammy Abraham secured a point in stoppage time when he rolled in the rebound after Sam Johnstone had parried Mout's initial effort.

United bounced back from their 3-1 home defeat to Palace last weekend, but had a lot of fortune on their side after being outplayed by Brighton.

The Seagulls hit the wood-

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work five times and thought they had earned a point themselves five minutes into stoppage time when Solly March headed home at the back post.

However, there just enough time for United to mount another attack and Neal Maupay raised his arm to block Harry Maguire's header. Referee Chris Kavanagh initially blew for full-time, but then awarded a penalty after consulting the pitchside monitor and Fernandes confidently converted.

"We got away with one. Maybe one point we deserved, we didn't deserve more," admitted United boss Ole Gunnar Sol-skjaer.

Kolkata Knight Riders beat Sunrisers Hyderabad in IPL



Kolkata Knight Riders' Shubman Gill plays a shot

AP | Abu Dhabi

Kolkata Knight Riders gave Sunrisers Hyderabad a clinical beating by seven wickets in the Indian Premier League yesterday.

Opening batsman Shubman Gill made a solid unbeaten 70 off 62 balls and shared a match-winning 92-run, fourth-wicket stand with England white-ball specialist Eoin Morgan 42 not out as Kolkata raced to 145-3 off 18 overs.

Hyderabad had been restricted to 142-4 after David Warner elected to bat first, which broke the sequence of teams electing to field after

winning the toss in this IPL.

Australia's Pat Cummins (1-14) claimed the key wicket of Jonny Bairstow in his second over and tied down the Hyderabad batsman, while spinner Varun Chakarvarthy (1-25) caught and bowled Warner on 36.

Andre Russell didn't allow Hyderabad to accelerate at the end and removed top-scorer Manish Pandey on 51 as Kolkata captain Dinesh Karthik adroitly used seven bowlers.

Kolkata has two points from two games while Hyderabad was at the bottom of the eight-team standings without a point.