

Wally, AlGhaith to contest title-deciding races in Rotax MAX Grand Finals

Mohammed Ghazwan leads six Ettihad players in double figures in 46-point win

● **Muhammad Wally finishes ninth from 72 Junior MAX drivers in Pre-Finals**

● **Yousif AlGhaith classifies 24th amongst 36 Micro MAX competitors**

TDT | Manama



Action from the Pre-Finals in Portimao. Muhammad Wally and Yousif AlGhaith both lining up on the grid for the main event after a week of build-up to this point.

Team Bahrain drivers endured mixed fortunes in the Pre-Finals for the 2022 Rotax MAX Challenge (RMC) Grand Finals in Portimao, Portugal.

Two of the squad's drivers have progressed to the Finals of their categories, with Muham-

Wally was one of the stand-out drivers in a very tough and

competitive field of 72 Junior MAX drivers, with the top 36 progressing to the Finals.

Team Bahrain's 14-year-old ended the day ninth best in class, with his top 10 position ensur-

“We are proud to have two drivers into the Pre-Finals with Muhammad and Yousif to fly the flag for our team in the Grand Finals. Muhammad starting in the top 10 means he has a good chance for a good result, while Yousif has embraced the experience during his first Grand Finals week, which will serve him well in the future”

HASAN SHEHABI

Day.

Ten-year-old AlGhaith will line-up 24th on the Micro MAX grid featuring 36 drivers, after the Pre-Finals day in which Christopher El Feghali (Team Lebanon) held on to his unbroken streak of wins. His victory came by a mere 0.086 seconds over

Jacob Ashcroft (Team Britain), while Vasielios Malamis (Team Greece) took third place.

After four days of tricky weather, changing from wet to dry regularly, the sun shone bright for the Pre-Finals, but unlike Wally and AlGhaith, four drivers will not be in action for Saturday's finals.

For the rest of Team Bahrain in Pre-Qualifying, Khaled Najjar was 68th in the Mini MAX class, Najashi Rashdan came 45th in the Senior MAX, and Sulaiman

AlKandari was 70th in the DD2.

Hasan Shehabi, BIC Commercial Karting and Team Bahrain manager, reflected on the Pre-Finals. He said: “We are proud to have two drivers into the Pre-Finals with Muhammad and Yousif to fly the flag for our team in the Grand Finals.”

“Muhammad starting in the top 10 means he has a good chance for a good result, while Yousif has embraced the experience during his first Grand Finals week, which will serve him well in the future.”

“As for Khaled, Najashi, and Sulaiman, they too will be richer for the experience and now know what to expect for future Rotax MAX Grand Finals and they can be proud of their efforts for Team Bahrain and we thank them for that.”

Lewandowski breaks duck as Poland beat Saudi Arabia



Saudi Arabia's Mohammed Al-Owais makes a save from Poland's Robert Lewandowski

AFP

Robert Lewandowski scored the first World Cup goal of his prolific career yesterday when he netted in Poland's 2-0 win over Saudi Arabia, bursting their bubble following the team's giant-killing act against Argentina.

Barcelona forward Lewandowski made sure Poland took a big step towards the last 16 when he rolled home in the 82nd minute after being gifted the ball by Abdulelah Al-Malki.

However it was a battle for Czeslaw Michniewicz's side, who were leading at that point thanks to Piotr Zieliński's roofed finish and an incredible double save from Wojciech Szczesny after Salem Al-Dawsari's penalty late in the first half.

Egged on by a vocal crowd, Herve Renard's Saudi team

FIFA World Cup results

Tunisia	0 - 1	Australia
Poland	2 - 0	Saudi Arabia
France	2 - 1	Denmark
Argentina	2 - 0	Mexico

Today's matches

Japan v Costa Rica	1PM
Belgium v Morocco	4PM
Croatia v Canada	7PM
Spain v Germany	10PM

YOU KNOW WHAT
Lewandowski initially found it hard to get into the game as he was immediately surrounded by a gang of defenders led by Ali Al-Bulayhi, who at one point looked to be heading out of the game after being accidentally studded by the Barca star

came out with the bit between their teeth and the Poles frequently struggled to handle their aggressive press.

Poland were shown three early yellow cards.

Mohamed Kanno had the game's first decent effort on goal, tipped over by Szczesny in the 13th minute.

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Al Ettihad rout Nuwaidrat in basketball league

● **Mohammed Ghazwan leads six Ettihad players in double figures in 46-point win**

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Al Ettihad routed Nuwaidrat 108-62 last night in their week nine clash of the 2022/2023 Zain Bahrain Basketball League.

Ettihad broke the game wide open with a one-sided second quarter, in which they held Nuwaidrat to just four points while scoring 26, giving them a commanding 49-22 lead at the half.

Nuwaidrat began the third quarter determined to fight back and began to press defensively, but Ettihad were able to match their energy and extended their lead to as much as their game-winning margin of 46.

Mohammed Ghazwan led six players in double figures for the victors with 26, including six three-pointers. Adrian Uter added 17 and 16 rebounds, while Ali Jassim and Ahmed Ghanim scored 14 each.

For Nuwaidrat, Mohayad Ameer had 19, Murtadha Salman 13 and Keanau Post 10.



Al Ettihad's Adrian Uter goes for a basket during their game against Nuwaidrat last night

Ettihad improved to a 5-2 win-loss record following the game, while Nuwaidrat dropped to 2-5.

Meanwhile, in another week nine con-

Standings

	P	W	L	Pts
Manama	7	7	0	14
Al Ahli	6	6	0	12
Al Ettihad	7	5	2	12
Bahrain Club	8	4	4	12
Sitra	8	3	5	11
Muharraq	6	4	2	10
Al Hala	7	3	4	10
Al Najma	7	3	4	10
Nuwaidrat	7	2	5	9
Samaheej	8	1	7	9
Isa Town	7	1	6	8

test, Bahrain Club defeated Samaheej 86-73.

Xavier Gibson had a game-high 29 points, 15 rebounds and five assists for Bahrain Club, while Ali Abbas added 16 and Sadiq Shukrallah 12.

Stephen Hurt paced Samaheej with 24 and 17 boards, while Basel Adel contributed 18 and Ahmed Fateel 13.

With the result, Bahrain Club claimed their fourth win in eight games as they rose to the top three on the standings. Samaheej dropped their seventh contest in eight outings and remained in the bottom half of the table.

Mbappe double gives France spot in knockout stage

Reuters

Kylian Mbappe scored twice, including a late winner, as holders France edged Denmark 2-1 yesterday to become the first team to reach the last 16 of the World Cup.

A potent French side knew a second victory in as many Group D outings would take them through to the knockout phase and they were well worth the lead that Mbappe gave them when he opened the scoring just after the hour mark.

However, Andreas Christensen soon equalised for the Danes and Les Bleus needed Mbappe to deliver again in the 86th minute as he turned in Antoine Griezmann's cross to puncture the Danish resistance once and for all.

Having scored four during France's victorious 2018 campaign and one against Australia, Mbappe now has seven goals in



France's Kylian Mbappe in action with Denmark's Alexander Bah

nine World Cup appearances.

Didier Deschamps's side now have the luxury of going into their final group game against Tunisia knowing a draw will guarantee them top spot, and even a defeat may not prevent them finishing first.

Having come roaring back to batter Australia 4-1 in their

opening match, France were more wasteful in front of goal on this occasion but at least they did not come unstuck against opponents who have caused them problems before.

They were reigning champions when a defeat to the Danes knocked them out of the 2002 World Cup, while the sides

played out the only goalless draw in 2018.

More recently Kasper Hjulmand's side beat France home and away in this year's Nations League, and it seemed that Deschamps had learned lessons from those two encounters.

BETTER YOU KNOW
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