

SPORTS
sports

Hamilton talent saved us from defeat says Mercedes boss

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AFP | Monaco

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Without his "performance of a champion" drive on badly-worn and incorrectly-chosen medium compound tyres, in which he resisted near-incessant pressure from Max Verstappen's Red Bull, the Silver Arrows' season-opening winning streak may have been over.

"Obviously, it was the wrong call," admitted Wolff, referring to the decision to fit 'mediums' instead of 'hards' at Hamilton's pit-stop after only 10 laps.

"We thought the tyre would make it to the end.

"But, of course, it didn't. He saved us. His driving saved us. It is something that we really need to analyse now.

"We calculated that the medium would make it, if we changed on lap 15 or 16, with the right management. It seemed a straightforward strategy.



Lewis Hamilton holds up his Niki Lauda helmet in tribute after winning the Monaco Grand Prix

"It didn't seem like a huge stretch, but then we realised 20 laps into it that some graining was appearing on the front left - and he started to complain.

"Under-steer resulted from the graining and it was clear it

would be very, very difficult to make it to the end....

"Everybody knew it would be a huge stretch and, probably 20 laps from the end, he had nought percent rubber left and with massive under-steer at

slow speeds.

"You could see that around the Loews hairpin - the car wouldn't turn anymore... We were close to losing and if it was a normal track - like in Montreal - you lose that race."

Hamilton secured his third Monaco victory career 77th by resisting every attack from Verstappen, behind him on hard tyres, with one of the greatest stunts of defensive racing ever seen on the unforgiving streets of the Mediterranean circuit.

His agitated radio exchanges with engineer Pete Bonnington punctuated the contest and allowed him relief from his concentration during what he later described as the hardest race of his life.

"It's just difficult when you're out on your own for so long and 'Bono' can't say anything," said Hamilton.

"Nothing he can say, or anyone can say, or do to help - it was all down to me to bring it home for the team and for Niki. The just felt immense."

Three-time world champion Austrian Lauda, Mercedes non-executive chairman, died last Monday, aged 70.

It was a measure of his achievement that Hamilton's former team-mate and rival Nico Rosberg gave him unstinting praise.

Al Nusuf hails success of Heritage festival

TDI | Manama

Bahrain Olympic Committee (BOC) secretary general Mohammed Al Nusuf commended the tremendous success of the first edition of the "Nasser bin Hamad Ramadan Heritage Festival held recently.

The event was under the patronage of Representative of HM the King for Charity Work and Youth Affairs and Chairman of the Supreme Council for Youth and Sports, HH Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa, who attended the closing ceremony on Saturday.

Al Nusuf expressed gratitude to Shaikh Nasser for attending the festivities, organised by the Bahrain Olympic Committee (BOC)'s Heritage Sports Committee during the holy month of Ramadan.

The BOC secretary general said that the festival has achieved the desired objectives, with significant number of sport enthusiasts and fans turned up at the festival venue to witness the action.

Al Nusuf also noted the efforts of the organisers in the success of the event programme, held at the hall of the Bahrain Sports Federation for Disabilities, where Shaikh Nasser witnessed the final rounds of the electronic and heritage games, before honouring the winners.

Brave CF expands in Colombia with second event

TDI | Manama

Brave Combat Federation has reaffirmed its commitment with the Latin America sports market by announcing recently its return to Colombia, this time for an event in Bogota, the country's capital, in partnership with LFC.

President Mohammed Shahid was in the city to officially launch the show and was greeted to a packed crowd of journalists, who were all excited by HH Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa's vision for the sport.

For Shahid, the return to Colombia is a testament to BRAVE's vision of empowering the business of mixed martial arts in all corners of the world and taking the sport to the next level. He also praised the success of the conference, as he held court to dozens of journalists from all over the country gathered to hear more about BRAVE's vision for the development of Colombian MMA and the role the country will play in implementing HH Shaikh Khalid's vision for the world of MMA.

"Colombia is a very important place for the implementation of HH Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa's vision

for the sport. Not just Colombia, but all of South America and the Spanish-speaking MMA community. We are glad to have held a successful press conference discussing the long-term future of mixed martial arts in the region with BRAVE Combat Federation at the helm of this development. MMA today is an event business and BRAVE CF is here to take this mixed martial arts to the sports business".

Also in attendance for the landmark pre-fight event was MMA legend Stephan Bonnar, who himself is a supporter of BRAVE's mission of globalizing the sport and has shared his support for BRAVE's future endeavors and HH Shaikh Khalid's vision.

"It was great to have Stephan Bonnar with us. He's a pioneer of the sport and someone who had a big role in taking MMA to where it is today and he's excited to be a part of the next evolution of the sport through HH Shaikh Khalid's vision", commented Shahid.

BRAVE's return to Colombia will take place on September 7th, the same date when the only truly global MMA promotion landed for the first time in the country last year for BRAVE 15.

Team Vineeth cruise past Team Fuad in FCTG tournament

TDI | Manama

Team Vineeth scored 3-2 against Team Fuad in division one of the 15th FCTG Team Tennis Tournament, being held at Bahrain Tennis Federation courts in Isa Town.

The tournament, which is sponsored by Grand Safir Hotel Bahrain, is organized by Filipino Club Tennis Group (FCTG).

Pravin and Nilesh won over Haroon and Riad 6-0, 6-3, Praveen and Stalin scored 6-2, 4-6, 10-5 tight win against Mohammed Sanad and Hisham. Uday and Imran sealed the victory for Team Vineeth after a 6-2, 6-4 win against Adnan and Abdulrahman Rajab.

Team Fuad won two consolation matches when Fuad and Khalid defeated Vijay and Ra-



Team of Pravin and Nilesh with the team of Riad and Haroon

jesh 0-6, 3-6, while Mohammed Salman and Abdulrahman Thawadi beat Shwetank and Lloyd 2-6, 1-6.

In division two, Team Ching 1 scored a narrow 3-2 win against Team Ching 2.

Team Ching 1 took the lead 2-0 when Alvin and Henry de-

feated Abby and Chiqui 6-2, 4-6, 10-4 while Maria and Sheng scored 2-6, 7-5, 10-7 tight victory against Isa and Ray.

Team Ching 2 clawed its way back as Thess and Zyra scored 7-6, 6-2 against Helen and Lenlen, Ellen and Joy defeated

Kathy and Malou 6-0, 2-6, 10-5

to level the match to 2-2.

In the decisive fifth match, Ebrahim and Vic defeated Lara and Joan 6-2, 6-4 to claim victory for Team Ching 1.

Both teams will be playing in the semi-finals along with Team Leah.

Other Results

Division One: Team Viomel beat Team Vineeth 3-2, Team Randy beat Team Fuad 3-2, Team Mundeng beat Team Aldwin 4-1, Team Aldwin beat Team Roni 3-2, Team Faro beat Team Randy 3-2, and Team Mundeng beat Team Manny 4-1.

Division Two: Team Leah beat Team Mac 3-2, Team Ching 1 beat Team Aalya 3-2, Team Ching 2 beat Team Mac 3-2, Team Aalya beat Team Ana 3-2, and Team Ching 1 beat Team Leah 4-1.

Al Qaseer bowls perfect game in The Godfathers Tournament

TDI | Manama

Ali Al Qaseer stole the spotlight on a day when Ahmed Algaoud, Patrick Toney and Leah Siruno scored the daily high series in The Godfathers Tournament, currently being played at Funland Centre.

As the competition's qualifying round headed into its final days, Al Qaseer bowled a

rare perfect game of 300 pins on Sunday. It was the first of the event and it earned him a generous cash prize. He was congratulated by Funland General Manager Adel Rasti and his fellow competitors after play.

Al Qaseer's perfect game was part of an exciting night of action during which Algaoud, Toney and Siruno were also in

top form. Each bowler rolled a leading score in their respective groups, with Algaoud posting a 697 amongst the elite bowlers of Group A, Toney scoring a 672 to lead the intermediate players of Group B, and Siruno registering a 517 series to top the beginners of Group C.

The qualification phase continues until Wednesday. At the end of this stage, the first and

second from each group advance directly to Round Three, while those ranked third through 12th move on to Round Two. These stages will be played on Thursday and Friday (May 30 and 31) night, along with the ensuing Step-ladder Final round.

With just two days of trials remaining, the hunt for a spot in the top two of each division continues to intensify.