

All-round Hyderabad outclass Delhi, keep Play-off hopes alive



Wriddhiman Saha of Sunrisers Hyderabad plays a shot

ANI | Dubai

Wriddhiman Saha stamped his class with a 45-ball 87 before Rashid Khan dished out a clinical bowling performance as Sunrisers Hyderabad kept themselves alive in the race for IPL play-offs with a whopping 88-run win over Delhi Capital, yesterday.

Asked to bat first, splendid knocks by Saha (87), skipper David Warner (66) and Manish Pandey (44) powered Sunrisers to 219 for two.

Star spinner Rashid then led a fine bowling display to end with the impressive figures of 4-0-7-3, his best in this season. The Afghan bowled an astonishing 17 dot balls in his quota of four overs, helping his side bowl out the Capitals for 131 in 19 overs.

Sunrisers (10 points) have now moved up to sixth from seventh position with this win, while the Capitals, who slumped to their third consecutive loss, were pushed down to the third spot with 14 points.

Chasing a stiff target, it was a rather ordinary performance

by the the Capitals batsmen. Shikhar Dhawan (0) and Marcus Stoinis (5), who was elevated to number 3, perished in the first two overs.

Ajinkya Rahane (26) and Shimron Heytmyer (16) quickly started the recovery work, stitching a 40 run stand, the highest for their team. The duo targeted Jason Holder, collecting 22 runs in the sixth over as Delhi reached 54 for two at the end of the Powerplay overs.

However, Rashid dealt Delhi with twin blows, getting rid of both Rahane and Hetmyer in the seventh over. Skipper Shreyas Iyer (7) was next to depart as wickets continued to tumble at regular intervals.

Seven of Delhi's batsmen failed to reach double digits with Rishabh Pant (36) being the top scorer.

While Rashid was the pick of the bowlers for Sunrisers, Sandeep Sharma (2/27) and T Natarajan (2/26) picked two wickets apiece. Vijay Shankar(1/11), Shahbaz Nadeem (1/8), Holder (1/46) took a wicket each.

Norris apologises for 'stupid and careless' comments

Lando Norris sorry for 'stupid and careless' remarks after making Lewis Hamilton and Lance Stroll comments

● Norris apologised after downplaying Lewis Hamilton's record-breaking victory

Reuters | London

McLaren's Lando Norris publicly apologised yesterday, but without naming anyone, after the Briton played down compatriot Lewis Hamilton's record 92nd Formula One win at Sunday's Portuguese Grand Prix.

The 20-year-old, the youngest driver on the grid, had also been strongly critical of Racing Point's Canadian Lance Stroll



Lewis Hamilton and Lando Norris talk in parc ferme (file photo)

after the pair collided during the race.

Norris finished 13th while stewards punished Stroll for the incident.

"I owe an apology," said Norris to his 750,000 followers on Twitter. "I've been stupid and careless with some things I've said lately in media and interviews, and haven't shown the respect I should have to certain people."

"I'm not that kind of person, so know I should apologise to them but also everyone reading/listening. Sorry."

Norris was asked after the race in television interviews what he made of Hamilton becoming the most successful F1 driver in terms of wins, overtaking Ferrari great Michael Schumacher in the record books.

"I'm just happy for him, nothing more," the Briton had replied.

"It doesn't mean anything to me, really. He's in a car which should win every race, basically."

"He has to beat one or two other drivers, that's it. Fair play to him, he's still doing the job he has to do."

Hamilton has won eight of 12 races this season and is heading for a record-equaling seventh title, which would confirm him as the most successful driver in the history of the sport.

The Briton has averaged 10 wins a season in the V6 turbo hybrid era that started in 2014.

Mercedes have won the last six constructors' championships and are set to clinch a seventh in Italy next weekend.

Norris, who made his Formula One debut last year, has made 33 starts so far with one podium finish.

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LANDO NORRIS

Mourinho shares credit for potent Kane-Son partnership

AFP | London

Tottenham Hotspur's Harry Kane and Son Heung-min have formed the Premier League's most potent partnership under Jose Mourinho this season but the Portuguese manager says some of the credit has to go to his predecessor Mauricio Pochettino.

Son scored his eighth goal of the season in Monday's 1-0 win at Burnley after Kane had headed an Erik Lamela corner into his path. Spurs are fifth, two points behind leaders Everton, and lead the league in scoring with 16 goals.

It was the ninth goal the pair had combined for this season, with Kane assisting on seven of Son's eight goals, while the Korean has assisted on two of the England's forward's five strikes.

The duo have combined for 29 goals in their Premier League careers, second only to the former Chelsea partnership of Frank Lampard and Didier Drogba (36), according to Opta statistics.

"It is an understanding that comes from Mauricio's time," Mourinho told reporters.



Son Heung-Min (L) celebrates with Harry Kane after scoring a goal (file photo)

9 goals have been scored by the combined efforts of Harry Kane and Son Heung-min this season, while the duo have combined for 29 goals in their Premier League careers

"I don't want all the credit myself, let's share with Mauricio. They play together for a long time, probably a different

way because Harry is not always a nine now.

"What pleases me more about them both is that they are two top players but close friends, no jealousy, they both play for the team."

Kane said Spurs were showing signs of progress under Mourinho as they chase a first major trophy since their 2008 League Cup triumph.

"I think we are at a stage where we have been so close for so many years, a lot of us have been together for four or five years," said Kane.

Aguero ruled out for two to four weeks, says City boss Guardiola

AFP | London

Manchester City striker Sergio Aguero was ruled out yesterday's Champions League trip to Olympique Marseille through a hamstring injury and could be out of action for two to four weeks, manager Pep Guardiola said.

Aguero was withdrawn at halftime in Saturday's 1-1 Premier League draw at West Ham United with Guardiola confirming the 32-year-old suffered a muscular problem, only a week after making his first start of the season following knee surgery.

"It depends on the injury. We expect 10-15 days for sure minimum, or it could be three weeks or a month," Guardiola told reporters. "When you are out for four or five months with a knee problem, you always have a risk when you come

back.

"We tried to handle it the best as possible, (playing him) 50-55 minutes in the games, but it was not enough to maintain it and get him through the games."

"We knew he was not in the best condition against Arsenal but without strikers that we had, it was important that he played 60 minutes. We have to be calm and hope he recovers as quickly as possible."

Guardiola confirmed midfielder Kevin De Bruyne and defender Aymeric Laporte were available for yesterday's clash in France, while new signing Nathan Ake (groin) and striker Gabriel Jesus (thigh) were edging closer to their return.

"Nathan is so close to come

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Aguero suffered a muscular problem, only a week after making his first start of the season following knee surgery

back, Gabriel is 7-10 days to coming back," he added.

City lack an experienced centre forward against Andre Villas-Boas' Marseille in the absence of injured duo Aguero and Jesus.

When asked if the Etihad club could have bought a striker in the close season to add more options, Guardiola said: "Maybe we considered it and thought about it and another type of striker, but we could not."

"You know when you decide to buy a striker they have to be at the level of Aguero and Jesus and we could not afford it. This is the reality."

Sergio Aguero