

# Bahrain's Bounceback Sends Egypt Crashing

Mustafa Hussain leads hosts to stunning win over reigning champs Egypt

- Bahrain stun Egypt in dramatic win
- Algeria maintain flawless start

Hussain Almaskati  
TDT | Manama

Bahrain's 91-85 win over Egypt last night was a jolt through the Championship. After two straight defeats and with their title hopes wobbling, the hosts stepped onto the court at Khalifa Sports City seeking rejuvenation, and got just that. They sent shockwaves by toppling the unbeaten, defending champions in front of the watching eye of HH Shaikh Isa bin Ali bin Khalifa Al Khalifa. Ali Hussain sealed it with a composed layup in the final seconds, before Egypt's desperate midcourt heave missed wide at the buzzer.



Mustafa Hussain drives past Egypt's defense

Bahrain's Mustafa Hussain has scored 20+ in every game so far

Mustafa's Moment

Mustafa Hussain was unplayable again, pouring in 27 points and earning man-of-the-match honours. While Ja-Karr Sampson extended his 20+ point streak with 28 more, it was Hussain's shot-making and floor control that tilted the game Bahrain's way. They edged the first quarter 28-25, matched Egypt 25-25 in the second, edged the third (13-11), and pulled away late with a 27-22 final frame.

Egypt Exposed Briefly

Mazen Mohamed and Ebrahim Amin combined for 36 points, and Mohamed Ashraf grabbed 10 rebounds, but Egypt's rotations never fully clicked. Despite Amin's 9 assists, Bahrain punished late lapses, with Wayne Chism's blocks and second-chance plays proving decisive.

Algeria Stay Perfect

Algeria beat Qatar 92-66, led by man of the match Ben Zaim Sid (21 points, 11 rebounds). Sofiane Briki added 17, as Algeria's fast start set the tone. Qatar's Janik (19 pts) and Moosa (17) impressed, but couldn't contain the pace.

Tunisia on the Climb

Tunisia pipped the UAE 78-70, with Omar Abada scoring 18 and man of the match Yacine Toumi adding 14 points and two blocks. Despite 27 from Dickerson, Tunisia held firm. Toumi called the American guard "a great player" and added, "UAE are no pushover — they beat Bahrain. Every match is a final," as Tunisia prepares to face Egypt tonight.

Today's Schedule

Qatar face UAE (4PM), Kuwait meet Algeria (6PM), and Egypt take on Tunisia (8PM). Bahrain rest today and tomorrow before facing Algeria on Friday at 8PM.

# Ledecky wins 22nd world title as Popovici savours 'scary' gold

- Ledecy wins 22nd world title
- Won 1,500m freestyle gold
- Popovici won 200m freestyle

AFP | Singapore

Katie Ledecy won the 22nd world title of her legendary career yesterday to close in on Michael Phelps's record as Olympic champions David Popovici and Kaylee McKeown also struck gold. American great Ledecy cruised to a dominant 1,500m freestyle gold, touching the wall in 15min 26.44sec, having threatened her own world record of 15:20.48. The masterful win in Singapore moved Ledecy four short of Phelps's career tally of 26 world gold medals. "Growing up it was very inspiring to watch world championships, Olympic Games that Michael was in, trying to learn from the very best," said Ledecy, 28. "I was always a student of the sport." Ledecy's dominant win gave her the sixth

world 1,500m freestyle title of her career. She is also a nine-time Olympic gold medalist. Second was Simona Quadarella of Italy in 15:31.79 and third Australia's Lani Pallister in 15:41.18. Ledecy was the red-hot favourite going into the race, having qualified for the final over 10 seconds faster than nearest challenger Pallister. She also went into the race owning the top 24 1,500m freestyle times ever, and set the second-fastest time in history in April behind her own record. Pallister pushed her with a fast early tempo and Ledecy was on

world record pace until late in the race. In the end she fell short of the mark but still clocked the fifth-fastest time ever. "Lani took it out there. I knew she would be out fast and I just wanted to get out fast, but comfortable enough t h a t I



Katie Ledecy now owns the top 25 fastest 1,500m freestyle times ever—her latest gold moving her just four world titles behind Michael Phelps's all-time record of 26

could go from there," said Ledecy. "I'm happy with the time and happy with the swim." It is Ledecy's first gold medal of the championships, after picking up a bronze behind Summer McIntosh in the 400m freestyle on Sunday's opening night in Singapore. Ledecy is set to go head-to-head with Canadian phenomenon McIntosh again in the 800m freestyle. Popovici claimed a thrilling 200m freestyle gold -- then revealed he had very nearly pulled out.

Katie Ledecy in action

# Osaka to work with Wiktorowski on trial after Mouratoglou split

AFP | Montreal

Japan's Naomi Osaka, a four-time Grand Slam singles champion, will work with Polish coach Tomasz Wiktorowski on a trial basis after splitting with Patrick Mouratoglou after less than a year together. Osaka announced the parting with Frenchman Mouratoglou, the former coach of superstar Serena Williams, on social media on Monday before defeating Canadian qualifier Ariana Arseneault 6-4, 6-2 in 76 minutes in a first round match at the WTA Canadian Open in Montreal. Osaka,

ranked 49th, began working in Canada with Wiktorowski, who coached Poland's Agnieszka Radwanska from 2011-2018, helping her reach the Wimbledon final and world number two ranking in July 2012. Wiktorowski also coached Poland's Iga Swiatek from late 2021 until last October, a run where she won four of her six career Grand Slam singles titles, before adding the most recent at Wimbledon earlier this month. Osaka, who improved to 11-1 in matches against players ranked outside the top 100, will next face 13th seed Liudmila Samsonova in the second round. They have split four prior meetings but Osaka won the two they played on hardcourts. Former world number one Osaka, 27, began working with Mouratoglou last September. "Merci Patrick it was such a great experience learning from you," Osaka posted on social media. "Wishing you nothing but the best. You are one of the coolest people I've ever met and I'm sure I'll see you around."

Naomi Osaka