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Warriors cool off high-flying Bucks,
Brooklyn Nets surprise Raptors PAGE 18



THE BIG ONE
CRICKET TEST
AUSTRALIA VS INDIA



Minister of Culture and Sports HE Salah bin Ghanem al Ali and Ambassador of Kuwait to Qatar HE Hafeez Mohammed al Ajmi with the Qatar Superstock 600 Championship and QSTK Trophy opening round riders at the Losail International Circuit on Saturday.



Ambassador of Kuwait to Qatar HE Hafeez Mohammed al Ajmi, Adviser to Minister of Sports Abdulrahman Musallam al Dosari, and LCSC Vice-President & Gen Manager Khalid al Remaihi with QSTK Trophy opening round podium finishers Sheikh Jassim al Thani and Kuwait's Mohammed al Zaidan and Ali Abdullahussain.

Double win for Sulaiti, Jassim al Thani

Qatar Superstock 600 Championship
& QSTK Trophy Opening Round



Qatar's Abdullah al Qubaisi (11) leads the pack and is followed by Hungarian Balint Kovacs (27), Kuwait's Mohammad al Zaidan (25), Sheikh Jassim al Thani (90) and Saeed al Sulaiti (1) in Race 1 of the Qatar Superstock 600 opening round at the Losail International Circuit on Saturday.

TRIBUNE NEWS NETWORK
DOHA

QATAR'S Saeed al Sulaiti came up with an incredible performance winning both races of the weekend including a dramatic second race in the opening round of Qatar Superstock 600 Championship.

In the first race, Sulaiti, who got the Supertole on Friday, managed to take the lead after the first lap and pulled until the end, crossing the chequered flag with a gap of 30.958secs, ahead of compatriot Mashel al Naimi.

The podium finishers were presented with their trophies by HE Ambassador of Kuwait to Qatar Hafeez Mohammed al Ajmi, Minister of Culture and Sports HE Salah bin Ghanem al Ali, Adviser to Minister of Sports Abdulrahman Musallam al Dosari, and Losail Circuit Sports Club (LCSC) Vice-President & General Manager Khalid al Remaihi.

Naimi, finished second, but had a battle with the Hungarian rider Balint Kovacs, who took the third spot on the podium in the end. Abdullah al Qubaisi, who crashed in the third lap on turn 10, managed to rejoin the race and finished sixth.

In the QSTK Trophy, Qatar's Sheikh Jassim al Thani, who finished fourth overall, claimed victory.

Sheikh Jassim, who started in fifth place on the grid, had a great run and in some laps was placed third in the front. Kuwaiti riders Mohammed al Zaidan and Ali Abdullahussain ended 2nd and 3rd respectively.

In the second race of the Superstock

600 round, Sulaiti had to start from the back of the grid as he crashed during the sighting lap and went out losing the front tyre. He managed to be back in the pit and the mechanics had time to fix his bike before the start of the race.

Qubaisi took the lead in the second race within the first four laps with Mashel coming back, but in the fifth lap, Sulaiti overtook the two and stayed in the front until the end of the race. Qubaisi eventually finished second and Naimi third.

Sheikh Jassim al Thani scored another victory in the second race of the QSTK Trophy with Mohammed al Zaidan being second in race 1.

This time, Qatar's Hassan al Mansoori completed the QSTK Trophy podium.

Sulaiti was extremely happy with his results. "I am really happy to start the season with a double win. In the first race, I managed to make a good gap between me and the group behind, and then decided not to push too much and finish the race," he said.

"In the second, in the sighting lap I noticed I didn't have too much grip. I lost the rear and did a high side. It was a big crash, I hurt my toe and I came back to the pit to fix my bike. Many thanks to the LCSC mechanics who did a great job in short time and I managed to start the race from the back of the grid. Many thanks to my team, mechanics, Losail Circuit Sports Club, QMMF and Ooredoo for their support," he added.

Mashal, now second in the overall standings, however, couldn't manage

to fix his front tyre problem. "To finish second in the first race was very good for me. I did some changes to the clutch during the race and I made some mistakes so went out of the track twice, losing time. Then Kovacs and Al Thani passed me but I regained the pace and finished second," he explained.

Young rider Abdullah al Qubaisi, who is improving with each round, had a great start in race 2. "In the first race, I went to the gravel since I was pushing too hard with the front but luckily I rejoined and finished sixth. In the second race, I made a good start and led the race for four laps but when Saeed passed me, I could only stay behind and settle for second," he said.

With a double win in the QSTK Trophy, Sheikh Jassim al Thani said, "Overall the weekend was very good. The preparation of the off-season is working very well. I did my best lap time today, 2:07.9 and that is very good. In the first race, I was battling in the front with the QSTK riders and finished fourth overall. In the second race, I was a bit tired but managed to create a gap and also finish first in my category."

Kuwaiti rider Mohammed al Zaidan was also happy with his performance. "The results are very good for me. I tried to push to clinch the first place in the last race, but I haven't been keeping well for the past few days so I couldn't. But overall, I am happy and improving with every round," he said.

The second round of Qatar Superstock Championship will be held on December 14 and 15.

Pujara's innings a blueprint of how to bat on this Adelaide wicket: Head

1st India-Australia Test interestingly posed

IANS/AFP
ADELAIDE

CALLING Cheteshwar Pujara's first innings hundred as a "blueprint" for this pitch, Australia batsman Travis Head on Saturday said there is a lot to learn from him in terms of application.

"The way Pujara played in the first innings was the blueprint for this wicket," Head told reporters at the end of Day 3 of the first rubber here. Head top scored with a 167-ball 72 to help Australia post 235 on the third day in reply to India's 250 in the first essay at the Adelaide Oval here.

Pujara had produced a superb 123 on the opening day to steady India's ship and hold one end up.

"He had a really good leaving game, good forward defence, and as the ball got softer, he got more runs.

Knowing how hard the wicket can be with the ball moving and the new ball, he played really well."

Head said he was gutted after getting out on 72 off Mohammed Shami just when his stand with Nathan Lyon was blossoming.

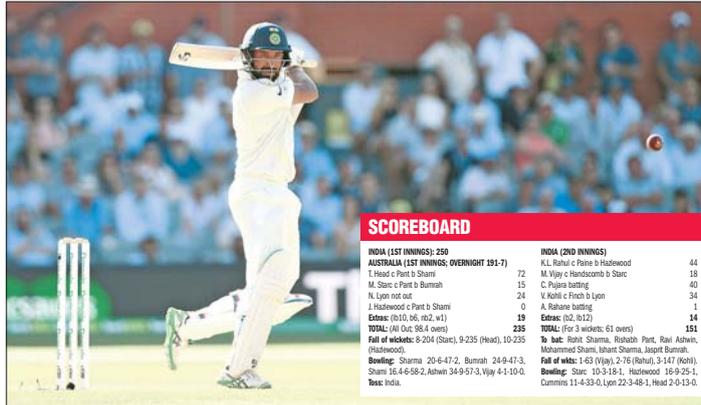
"It is disappointing to feel the momentum swing back. I wanted to continue and felt if we could keep doing it for a period of time we could put them under pressure and keep them out there," he said.

Keeping in mind the pitch which is spin friendly, Head said off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin will find it helpful in the fourth innings.

"I just tried to stay busy against Ashwin. I was really positive against the off spinner, watching the ball and not premeditating.

"It's going to be the same in the next innings. There's not much rough for the left-handers but this wicket always spins with the grass coverage," he said.

India built a 166-run lead over Australia on the third



India's Cheteshwar Pujara, who hit a century in the first innings, was unbeaten on 40 in the second essay on the third day of the first Test against Australia at the Adelaide Oval on Saturday. (AFP)

day with dangerous Pujara not out 40, although the late

wicket of master batsman Virat Kohli gave the home team

a glimmer of hope.

At stumps, the visitors were 151-3, adding to their first innings total of 250.

Ajinkya Rahane was not out one, alongside Pujara.

It was looking ominous for Australia with Kohli and Pujara compiling a 71-run third-wicket partnership, but spinner Nathan Lyon got a massive breakthrough when he snared the Indian skipper for 34 near the close of play.

"I think it's slightly in our favour," said Indian paceman Jasprit Bumrah.

"The late wicket was a good thing for them and the first session tomorrow will be very important. If we capitalise on that it will leave us a very good place in this match," he added that Pujara was key.

The prolific Kohli, who emerged to boos from a section of the crowd, shunned his trademark flamboyance to grind out runs before jabbing at a short ball from Lyon and Aaron Finch took an easy catch.

On the way, he reached another milestone, joining a select few Indians - including Sachin Tendulkar and Rahul Dravid - to score 1,000 Test runs in Australia.

SCOREBOARD

INDIA (1ST INNINGS): 250		INDIA (2ND INNINGS)	
Australia (1st Innings): Over 151-7		K.L. Rahul c Pathe b Hazlewood	44
1. Head c Pant b Shami	72	M. Vijay c Hazlewood b Starc	18
M. Starc c Pant b Bumrah	15	C. Pujara batting	40
N. Lyon not out	24	V. Kohli c Finch b Lyon	34
J. Hazlewood c Pant b Shami	4	R. Rahane batting	1
Extras (10.0, 0.6, 0.2, w):	19	Extras (0.2, 0.12)	14
TOTAL: (All Out, 98.4 overs)	235	TOTAL: (For 3 wickets: 61 overs)	151
1st Innings: Pant 5, Shami 10-235		Bye: Rohit, Sharma, Rizibhai Pant, Rav Ashwin, Mohammed Shami, Iqbal Sharma, Jasprit Bumrah.	
Fall of wickets: 8-204 (Starc), 9-235 (Head), 10-235 (Hazlewood)		Fall of wickets: 1-63 (Vijay), 2-76 (Rahul), 3-147 (Kohli).	
Bowling: Sharma 20-6-47-2, Bumrah 24-9-47-3, Shami 36-6-58-2, Ashwin 34-9-57-3, Vijay 4-1-10-0		Bowling: Starc 10-3-18-1, Hazlewood 16-9-25-1, Cummins 3-4-23-0, Lyon 22-3-48-1, Head 2-0-3-0	
Test Info:			

Hichan is Qatar road race champ



Winners of various categories and QSTF officials pose for a group photo after the prize distribution on Friday.

He gets past Jalham in thrilling photo-finish; Whatley, Abujbara top other classes

TRIBUNE NEWS NETWORK DOHA

FAWAZ al Hichan claimed the Qatar National Road Race Championship in a dramatic finish at the Dukhan Beach on Friday.

From a bunch of eight riders, Hichan was the first to launch his sprint. Marwan al Jalham produced a hot pursuit but the former edged the Rasen Adventure Shop rider in photo-finish and won the class, completing the 62-km distance under pleasant sunshine in 1 hour, 47 minutes and 37.7 seconds.

The third place was taken by Doha Cycling's Saeed al Kuwari, who was 0.101 second behind the top duo.

The national championship, sponsored by Qatar Stock Exchange, had more riders but 26 finished the distance. Abdullah al Khater of Qatar Cyclists secured the fourth spot, while Fadhil al Khater, another Rasen Adventure Shop entry, forced

his way into the top five. A special mention needs to be made for Nasser Mubarak and Abdul Fatah al Saadi, both from Qatar Cyclists. Mubarak, despite being in the plus 50 class, finished 10th, while a 40 plus rider Saadi got the 11th place.

Tom Whatley emerged the champion in the Open class, the highest among the seven categories that contested in the championship. The British rider from Velostar team rode at an impressive average of 42.2 kms per hour to post a dominant victory in 1:30:39.4.

Lee Jones of Team Al Jassra was second, finishing the race more than 10 seconds off the champion. The British clocked 1:30:52.5. James Moffat of New Zealand picked the last step of the podium with 1:34:30.8. Efram Ellenbogen, a teammate of Whatley, was fourth, while Guillaume Soutter (ECV78) completed as fifth fastest rider in the class.



Qatar National Road Race Championship winner Fawaz al Hichan (centre) with other podium winners and officials at the closing ceremony at the Dukhan Beach on Friday.

The women class was topped by Tala Abujbara, who is also a Qatari national team rower who contested in

the Asian Games earlier this year. An under-23 class rider, she put up a brilliant performance and crossed the finish

line in 1:52:17.7, beating a trio of Rasen Adventure Shop. Julie Melville was second, less than two second behind

Abujbara, Shawna Garrett was third and she was followed by Sophie Clarke. Elizabeth Dunne, an Irish rider

from Team Al Jassra, was fifth. Pia Sundstead, a strong contender for the title, had to settle for the seventh spot.

Over 40 plus and over 50 plus riders contested together in the Open Masters. Fabrizio Forchino of Los Gauchos and Neil Melville of Velostar were involved in a hot dash for the white line. It was the younger Forchino (plus 40) who was able to pull it off in a photo-finish.

Andy Clark (Team Al Jassra) and Pablo Mustos del Valle (Los Gauchos) were second and third in the Plus 40 class, while Andreas Dopfer grabbed the second spot and Jacob Anderson (Rasen Adventure Shop) was third in the senior category.

Qatar Cycling and Triathlon Federation President Dr Mohammed al Kuwari was pleased with the turn-out and the competitive spirit of the riders in the championship. He also thanked Qatar Stock Exchange for supporting the Qatar National Road Race Championship, which helped the federation give away attractive cash prizes to winners. The QSE is also sponsoring the Qatar Time Trial Championship, which will be held on February 1, 2019.

RESULTS

- QCTF President Dr Mohammed al Kuwari**
- National Championship (26 finished)**
1. Fawaz ALHICHAN QAT 1:47:37.7
 2. Marwan ALJALHAM Rasen Adventure Shop QAT 1:47:37.7
 3. Saeed ALKUWARI Doha Cycling QAT 1:47:38.8
 4. Abdullah AL KHATER Qatar Cyclists QAT 1:47:42.4
 5. Fadhil ALKHATER Rasen Adventure Shop QAT 1:47:44.8
 6. Abdulrahman Mohamed ALAMBER Qatar Triathlon Club QAT 1:48:01.6
 7. Mubarak ALALI Rasen Adventure Shop QAT 1:48:01.6
 8. Rohan Ghaleb ALADAMI Qatar Cyclists QAT 1:48:01.6
 9. Abdulaziz ALDELANI Qatar Cyclists QAT 1:57:28.0
 10. Nasser MUBARAK Qatar Cyclists QAT 1:57:28.0
- Open Championship Men (22)**
1. Tom WHATLEY Velostar GBR 1:30:39.4
 2. Lee JONES Team Al Jassra GBR 1:30:52.5
 3. James MOFFAT NZL 1:34:30.8
 4. Efram ELLENBOGEN Velostar CAN 1:34:30.8
 5. Guillaume SOUTTER ECV78 FRA 1:36:41.0
 6. Andrew BANGSON Pinoy Roadies Qatar PHI 1:36:42.1
- Open Championship Women (13)**
1. Tala ABUJBARA QAT 1:52:17.7
 2. Julie MELVILLE Velostar GBR 1:52:19.5
 3. Shawna GARRETT Rasen Adventure Shop CAN 1:52:17.7
 4. Sophie CLARKE Rasen Adventure Shop CAN 1:52:17.7
 5. Elizabeth DUNNE Team Al Jassra IRL 1:52:47.7
 6. Sara FONTANA BELLEGUER TICHO Doha ESP 2:26:11.1
 7. Pia SUNDSTEAD FRA 1:52:50.4
 8. Daniela SPOSITO TICHO Doha GBR 2:03:10.7
 9. Sara FONTANA BELLEGUER TICHO Doha ESP 2:26:11.1
 10. Dora AMO TICHO Doha ESP 2:31:43.0
- Open Championship Masters (55)**
1. Fabrizio FORCHINO Los Gauchos ARG 1:42:09.6
 2. Neil MELVILLE GBR 1:42:09.6
 3. Andreas DOPFER GBR 1:43:12.0
 4. Andy CLARK Team Al Jassra GBR 1:43:14.4
 5. Jacob ANDERSON Rasen Adventure Shop RSA 1:43:14.4
 6. Jacob ANDERSON Rasen Adventure Shop RSA 1:43:14.4
 7. Rafiq TAMARIT Los Gauchos ESP 1:43:14.4
 8. Miguel VARELA Los Gauchos ARG 1:43:14.4
 9. David SWINDELL Ocean Storm IRL 1:43:14.4
 10. Ruel LY Pinoy Roadies Qatar PHI 1:43:14.4

Qatar F4 Futures Tennis Tournament

Oliveira ends hard court title wait

The Portuguese beats holder Karatsev for his first singles title of the year

TRIBUNE NEWS NETWORK DOHA

PORTUGUESE Goncalo Oliveira eventually bagged his first hard court singles crown as he subdued defending champion and fifth seed Aslan Karatsev in the final of the Qatar F4 Futures Tennis Tournament on Saturday.

At the Khalifa International Tennis and Squash Complex, the second-seeded Oliveira, who has won six singles crowns (all on clay) and plenty of doubles titles, emerged a 6-3, 7-5 winner.

This was his first singles title of the year for Oliveira, having played the final of the Liberec Challenger in Czech Republic in July. Oliveira, who later returned to the court with Bernardo Saraiva as the top seeds in the doubles final, was denied a clean sweep as Russians Alexander Igoshin and Evgenii Turneyev, the fourth seeds, tamed them 7-6(12), 6-3.

The singles final was the first meeting between Oliveira and Karatsev, who was also stopped from completing a double last year. The Portuguese began quiet strongly, firing three aces in the opening game to withstand all the pressure the Russian tried to pile on him.



Goncalo Oliveira of Portugal, the winner of the Qatar F4 Futures Tennis Tournament at the Khalifa International Tennis and Squash Complex in Doha on Saturday. (JALAL PATHYOOR)

RESULTS

Singles final Goncalo OLIVEIRA (POR) [2]	6-3 7-5	Aslan KARATSEV (RUS) [5]
Semi-finals Aslan KARATSEV (RUS) [5] Goncalo OLIVEIRA (POR) [2]	6-4 7-6(4) 7-6(4) 6-4	Evgenni TURNEYEV (RUS) [4] Michail PERVOLARANS (GRE)
Doubles final Alexander IGOSHIN (RUS) / Evgenii TURNEYEV (RUS) [4]	7-6(12) 6-3	Goncalo OLIVEIRA (POR) / Bernardo SARAIVA (POR) [1]
Semi-finals Goncalo OLIVEIRA (POR) / Bernardo SARAIVA (POR) [1]	6-3 7-6(2)	Vladyslav ORLOV (UKR) / Michail PERVOLARANS (GRE) [3]
Alexander IGOSHIN (RUS) / Evgenii TURNEYEV (RUS) [4]	6-4 6-4	Adachi VIRGILI (ITA) / Michail SHARAF ZHID (UKR)

two games but Oliveira cruised to 1-0 lead, winning his service game at 15.

The start to the second set was very thrilling with both breaking each other. However, Oliveira dug in and waited for the Russian to error. It was in

the 11th game when his chance popped up and the Portuguese seized it to gain three break points. Karatsev succumbed after saving only one.

It was more than enough for Oliveira, who fired his fourth ace of the match on the way to coasting to the victory at love and the maiden singles crown of the year so far.

The Qatar F5 Futures Tennis Tournament is scheduled to start on December 10. The qualifiers had the first round. Later in the month, the venue will also host the Qatar F6 from December 17 to 23 before the Qatar ExxonMobil Open gets underway from December 31.

Qatar F4 Futures Tennis Tournament

M Pallonji cruise past Al Jazeera Media team in opening match

TRIBUNE NEWS NETWORK DOHA

M Pallonji, the sponsor's team, proved too strong for Al Jazeera Media Network in the opening match of the M Pallonji Cricket Tournament, cruising to a six-wicket triumph at the Lossil Cricket Complex.

Earlier, Chidananda Naik, General Manager of M. PALLONJI, inaugurated the tournament with a ceremonial shot in presence of Qatar Veterans Cricket officials and players.

Al Jazeera, after being put in to bat first, had a cautious start and made 47 for one in the six power play overs. M Pallonji later improved their bowling and fielding further

and restricted the rivals at 126 for 10 in 20 overs.

Al Jazeera captain Suhail top-scored for them with 35 in 27 balls, hitting two sixes and four boundaries. Albarran grabbed four wickets for 13 in his allotted three overs, while Shafu and Praveen shared four wickets and Thisaru got one.

In reply, M Pallonji lost Rizwick, Saijey and Thisaru to reeling at three for 17 in three overs. Captain Neeraj and Vikram however steadied them without getting separated. Later, when they were concerned due to slow run rate but Rajesh and Alban began blazing the ball all around the field and hit up the required runs in 5.3 overs, posting the

victory in 16.3 overs. Mohammed took two wickets. Imad, Nihal, Atik and Mohasin got one apiece.

Alban of M Pallonji was adjudged the man of the match.

Brief scores
Q.S.Tech beat Al Farhan by 9 wickets
Al Farhan (146 for 9 in 20 overs - Khan 60 runs in 22 balls, Ramrez 3 for 22 (both six), Zaher 2 for 12, Jameel 2 for 8) lost to Q.S.Tech (149 for 2 in 12.2 overs (Rameez 45 in 15 balls, baishah 46 in 18 balls))

Man of the match: Shaibah of Q.S.Tech
Saranath B beat M.L.C. by 7 wickets
M.L.C. (138 for 9 in 20 overs - Bhaskar 34 in 18 balls, bishah 20 in 22 balls, Babbar 4 for 5 (both six), Bandula 2 for 8) lost to Saranath B (139 for 4 in 17.4 overs - Akalanka 46 in 18 balls, Ranga 25 in 15 balls, Saddam 2 for 15).

Man of the match: Akalanka of Saranath B



Chief guest Chidananda Nayak, General Manager of M.Pallonji, inaugurates the fifth M.Pallonji Cricket Tournament in presence of Qatar Veterans' Cricket officials and players at the Lossil Cricket Complex.

Qatar to take part in GCC golf in Oman

TRIBUNE NEWS NETWORK DOHA

The Qatar national golf teams will contest in the 22nd GCC Men's Championship, the 11th GCC U-18 Championship, the fifth GCC U-15 Championship and the fourth GCC Girls

Championship. The championships will start on Monday and continue until December 13 in Oman.

The Oman Golf Committee, in cooperation with the GCC Golf Organising Committee, is hosting the championships in four categories.

The General Assembly of the GCC Golf Organising Committee will be held on the sideline of the championships, in which topics related to the development of Golf and the committee's programmes for 2019 would be discussed.

Farona, Qamriya Al Shaqab & Wasa champions in QNPA Horse Show



Farona emerged the winner in the Class 10 Mares category at the 21st Qatar National Purebred Arabian Horse Show at the Al Shaqab Indoor Arena on Saturday. Qamriya Al Shaqab topped the Class 5A for Fillies, while Wasa bagged the title in the Class 11 Mares. The three-day show will conclude on Sunday with all the major categories being decided.



Warriors cool off high-flying Bucks

Thompson and Curry combined for 40 points for Golden State; Nets stun Raptors

AFP
LOS ANGELES

STEPHEN Curry and Klay Thompson combined for 40 points as the Golden State Warriors avenged a November loss to the Milwaukee Bucks with a 105-95 victory on Friday.

Thompson and Curry each scored 20 points as the visiting Warriors put on a shooting clinic down the stretch against Milwaukee, the NBA's highest scoring team.

The same teams met on November 8 with the Bucks coming out on top 134-111.

Andre Iguodala chipped in a season-high 15 points for Golden State, who wrapped up a five-game road trip with their third consecutive win.

"We have guys who can knock down shots, and our superstars put us in position to make shots tonight," Iguodala said.

The Warriors pulled away in the second half with a burst of three pointers. The Warriors went six of nine from beyond the arc in a six-minute stretch to build an 11-point lead. Golden State shot 41 percent (19 of 46) from long distance.

The Bucks couldn't match that shooting, making just seven of 39 (18 percent) from three-point territory.

The Warriors led 57-51 at the half, hitting nine of 20 from three-point range and getting



Golden State Warriors guard Stephen Curry takes a shot against Milwaukee Bucks guard Pat Connaughton in the second quarter of their NBA game at the Fiserv Forum in Milwaukee on Friday. (USA TODAY SPORTS)

18 assists on 22 field goals.

Nets beat Raptors

Elsewhere, D'Angelo Russell scored 20 points as the Brooklyn Nets beat the Toronto Raptors for the first time in more than three years with a 106-105 overtime win.

Russell carried the host Nets on his back in overtime, scoring all but two of his team's points as they snapped an eight game losing skid. He finished with six points in overtime.

Brooklyn picked an opportune time to snap its 12-game slide against Toronto. Jarrett Allen made the go-

ahead basket for the Nets with a little more than a minute left, their only basket in overtime not made by Russell.

Toronto tried but failed to get the ball to Kawhi Leonard on its final possession and had to settle for Fred VanVleet's three-pointer that just missed. Leonard finished with 32 points.

"I know everybody would have probably liked Kawhi or Kyle (Lowry) to take that shot, the last shot, including me, but they both made great plays," said VanVleet.

Lowry finished with 11 assists but was just one of eight from the field.

Spencer Dinwiddie scored 17 points for Brooklyn while Jonas Valanciunas added 24 points for the Raptors.

Brooklyn led by seven points with five minutes left in the fourth quarter but then VanVleet drained a three and Leonard scored six straight to give the Raptors a 96-94 lead with two and a half minutes remaining.

With seven seconds to go, Leonard blocked Dinwiddie's shot to force overtime.

Russell had the first two baskets in the extra session. Leonard made the next two, and the Nets eventually prevailed in a close contest.

Oosthuizen three ahead in pursuit of SA, British Open double

AFP
JOHANNESBURG

LOUIS Oosthuizen took a three-shot third-round lead in the EPGA South African Open on Saturday as he seeks to become the sixth golfer to win the event and the British Open.

South Africans Ernie Els, Bobby Locke and Gary Player, Swede Henrik Stenson and New Zealander Bob Charles have won the two oldest national championships in the world.

Oosthuizen carded a four-under-par 67 for a 199 total at Randpark Golf Club in Johannesburg while overnight leader and fellow South African Charl Schwartzel slumped to a one-over 72.

Former Masters champion Schwartzel shares second place on 202 with Zambian Madalitso Muthiya (71) and Matt Wallace (68), hoping to become the fourth English winner in five seasons.

A group of eight are three strokes further back going into the final round with four-time major winner Els among them after a 68.

"It was a tough round but I played well," said Oosthuizen, whose world ranking of 36 is



Louis Oosthuizen of South Africa in action during the South African Open Championship at the Randpark Golf Club in Johannesburg. (EPA-EFE)

the highest in the field.

"I was left off the tee with a few bad drives but fixed that problem during the inward half of my round.

"My putting gave me a lot of pleasure today. I could not make anything yesterday, but today the makeable ones went in."

"What I need tomorrow is 18 more holes of good golf, taking one shot at a time," added the eight-time European Tour winner.

Schwartzel, twice runner-up in the South African Open, never recovered from bogeys on the first and third holes and had to wait until the 12th for his only birdie.

A seesaw round for Muthiya included five birdies, a bogey and two double bogeys as he eyes becoming the first Zambian winner on the European Tour.

Wallace, the second highest ranked challenger at Randpark, was another to experience a mixed round with six birdies and three back-nine bogeys.

However, he is the form golfer among the contenders with four European Tour titles since May last year and could pose the greatest threat to Oosthuizen.

Apart from 1.095 million euros in prize money, three 2019 British Open places are up for grabs Sunday.

WBC green lights Wilder-Fury 'direct rematch'

AFP
LOS ANGELES

THE World Boxing Council gave the go-ahead on Friday for a "direct rematch" between their heavyweight world champion Deontay Wilder and Tyson Fury, who battled to a draw in Los Angeles last Saturday.

Wilder and Fury gave boxing one of the best fights in the heavyweight division in a long time, which has created tremendous popular demand

for the fans to see a rematch," the WBC said in a statement on Friday, adding that it had conducted voting through the board of governors "which resulted in unanimous agreement" to sanction the rematch.

Wilder (40-0-1, 39 knockouts) retained his WBC belt after a thrilling 12-round battle ended in a split decision draw.

Many thought Fury (27-0-1, 19 KOs) did enough to win despite being knocked down twice.

On Monday, Fury voiced

fears that Wilder would seek to duck a rematch.

But Wilder promptly rejected that claim, saying a rematch with Fury was his priority over a unification bout with Anthony Joshua, holder of the WBA, IBF and WBO belts.

WBC President Mauricio Sulaiman is all for it.

"I wish to once again congratulate Deontay Wilder and Tyson Fury for their great battle inside the ring and for the exemplary sportsmanship after the bout," he said.

Sports world hopes for level playing field after Brexit

AFP
LONDON

WITH the fate of Brexit shrouded in uncertainty, Britain's sporting world is increasingly concerned about the impact for players, fans and investors.

New restrictions on immigration from the EU after Brexit is a particular issue for football, although some see this as a positive for British players.

Access to top European talent such as Chelsea's Belgian playmaker Eden Hazard is particularly important for the Premier League, the world's most lucrative domestic football league.

The Premier League said earlier it has had "positive discussions with government about the importance of access to European players for our clubs, and the many cultural and economic benefits a globally popular Premier League brings to the UK."

Just like in Britain as a whole, however, football team owners are divided on the pros and cons.

Steve Lansdown, the billionaire owner of second-tier side Bristol City, was one of the most high-profile business figures to support exiting the EU and believes football can benefit.

"Fewer people from abroad will come in," he told AFP. "Clubs will be more selective and the prospective players from abroad will have to pass a test. It will give more opportunity to English players to come through."

Phil Garlick, chairman of Premier League side Burnley, instead has warned Brexit could be "hugely damaging" to English football and supports a second referendum.

"Ending freedom of movement will make it much more difficult for teams to attract the right talent, if the government brings in more restrictive conditions for work visas for players from Europe," he has said.

Though less reliant on foreign players, rugby is also following the political wrangling closely because of the potential implications for European



A file photo of Chelsea's Belgian midfielder Eden Hazard as he celebrates scoring a goal during an English Premier League match. (AFP)

tournaments. The first major test will come on March 29, 2019, the day Britain is due to exit the European Union.

It is also the day when the quarter-finals of European club rugby's competitions get underway, which could mean travel chaos for teams and supporters alike.

"They are paid in sterling but that and their bonuses, which are negotiated in euros, will be affected if sterling spikes," Keogh told AFP.

"This more than the travel issue is potentially more volatile.

Simon Keogh, the CEO of Irish Rugby Players Ireland, said Brexit could prove costly to the Irish Rugby Football Union (IRFU) for Ulster players like Ireland captain Rory Best.

"They are paid in sterling but that and their bonuses, which are negotiated in euros, will be affected if sterling spikes," Keogh told AFP.

"This more than the travel issue is potentially more volatile.

New restrictions on immigration from the EU after Brexit is a particular issue for football, although some see this as a positive for British players.

file. It isn't that the boys are too motivated by the money but they still have to pay their mortgages."

Britain boasts a Formula One world champion in Lewis Hamilton and is home to several teams including Renault, Williams and McLaren which also employ many foreign staff.

Renault's Executive Director Marc Gené said there could be a rocky road ahead, again because of the changes to immigration rules.

"Potentially yes it could be a problem," he told AFP.

"We employ different nationalities... How easy will it be to hire foreigners in the future? One doesn't know. Probably more difficult than now but there again the English are pragmatic," he said.



British Formula One World Champion Lewis Hamilton of Mercedes with supporters upon his arrival at the FIA Award Ceremony in St. Petersburg on Friday. (EPA-EFE)

Hungry Hamilton eager for more success with Mercedes

REUTERS
ST PETERSBURG, RUSSIA

LEWIS Hamilton looked forward to more success with Mercedes after collecting his fifth Formula One world champion's trophy at the governing FIA's gala awards on Friday.

Britain's most successful racing driver, and only the third man to win at least five titles, also won a media vote for personality of the year - denying Red Bull rival Max Verstappen a fourth in a row.

"It does feel incredible," the 33-year-old told the audience gathered in the Grand Hall of the St Petersburg Philharmonia.

Asked whether matching Michael Schumacher's record seven championships was his ultimate goal, Hamilton said he had never set that as a target.

"I've just signed for another two years... So I'm excited about the next couple of years," said the champion. "But right now I'm happy that the racing's over. I still love racing so maybe I'll be going a lot longer. Who knows?"

ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE

Chelsea end Man City's league unbeaten streak

Liverpool are now a point clear of City after Salah scores a hat-trick in a 4-0 victory at Bournemouth

AFP
LONDON

CHelsea inflicted champions Manchester City's first Premier League defeat of the season as goals from N'Golo Kante and David Luiz handed the hosts a 2-0 win at Stamford Bridge and sent Liverpool top of the table.

Kante's goal just before half-time came against the run of play as the visitors dominated the first 45 minutes, but without the injured Sergio Agnero, City lacked a cutting edge up front and Luiz's header 12 minutes from time sealed a huge win for Chelsea.

Liverpool are now a point clear of City after Mohamed Salah scored a hat-trick in a 4-0 victory at Bournemouth earlier on Saturday.

Chelsea boss Maurizio Sarri had lost all of his previous three meetings against City boss Pep Guardiola and was growing increasingly frustrated at his side's inability to hold possession as the visitors dominated the first half.

Raheem Sterling should have scored when his weak left-footed finish was placed too close to Kepa Arrizabalaga before the world's most expensive goalkeeper also denied Leroy Sané from a narrow angle.

Only a brave block by captain Cesar Azpilicueta rescued Chelsea when City next threatened as Sterling eased past Marcos Alonso and Sané's fierce effort was deflected over by the Spanish defender.

Yet, for all City's possession, the visitors were stung by a sucker punch just before half-time as Sarri's decision to field Eden Hazard as the focal point of the Chelsea attack and maintain Kante in an advanced midfield role paid off.

Sarri has resisted calls to return Kante to the deep-lying midfield role where he shone in winning the World Cup with France and Premier League titles for Leicester and Chelsea at the expense of Jorginho.

Hazard was finally fed the ball to feet inside the City box and his pass picked out Kante, who side-footed the ball high past Ederson.

The Brazilian goalkeeper had been a spectator before picking the ball out his net, but was called into action again to keep his side in the game just after the break when he palmed away Willian's free-kick.

Willian wasted another good chance on the counter-attack as having been behind only once before in the Premier League this season, City were rattled and rarely threatened to get back in the game in the second period.

Guardiola's men may also have to cope without David Silva for some of the festive season after the Spaniard hobbled off holding his hamstring.

Defending set-pieces has often been a rare Achilles heel for City and it was exposed when Luiz made the game safe by rising highest to Hazard's corner and looping a header in off the underside of the net.

Mohamed Salah's hat-trick fired Liverpool to the top of the



Chelsea defender David Luiz (right) celebrates with teammate Ross Barkley after scoring their second goal during the English Premier League football match against Manchester City at Stamford Bridge in London on Saturday. (AFP)



Liverpool's Mohamed Salah (right) takes the ball around Bournemouth's goalkeeper Asmir Begovic during the Premier League match at the Vitality Stadium in Bournemouth on Saturday. (AFP)

win at Burnley that kept Jurgen Klopp's men on City's coat-tails, and the Egyptian looked to have benefited from a break as he looked more like the player who netted 44 goals in an incredible debut season at Anfield.

Arsenal extended their unbeaten run to 21 games, but left it late to beat Huddersfield 1-0 thanks to Lucas Torreira's overhead kick seven minutes from time.

Champions Manchester City can reclaim top spot with victory at Chelsea later, but Liverpool took full advantage of kicking off first on the south coast to start a big week in the best possible fashion by moving a point ahead of their rivals.

Salah had been rested from the start for Wednesday's 3-1

vic fumbled Roberto Firmino's long-range shot Salah's follow-up effort was allowed to stand despite him appearing to be marginally offside.

Salah made the game safe by showing determination to stay on his feet despite being fouled before finding the bottom corner early in the second-half. Steve Cook's own goal then made it 3-0 before Salah sealed his hat-trick by remaining remarkably cool to dribble past Begovic twice before prodding home.

United took advantage of Bournemouth's defeat and Everton not being in action till Monday to rise up to sixth by ending a four-game winless run in the league with a comfortable victory over bottom club Ful-

Results	
Bournemouth	0 - 4 Liverpool
Arsenal	1 - 0 Huddersfield
Burnley	1 - 0 Brighton
Cardiff	1 - 0 Southampton
Man United	4 - 1 Fulham
West Ham	3 - 2 Palace
Chelsea	2 - 0 Man City

ham. Jose Mourinho again rang the changes, but continued to leave Paul Pogba on the bench.

And it was three of those introduced to the side from Wednesday's 2-2 draw with Arsenal that scored in the first-half with Ashley Young, Juan Mata and Romelu Lukaku on target.

"We were strong, aggressive and intense," said a happy Mourinho. "At times it was beautiful football. The first-half was perfect."

Aboubakar Kamara's penalty pulled a goal back for Fulham, but any hope of a fightback from the visitors was ended by a red card for Andre-Frank Zambo Anguissa and Marcus Rashford added a fourth for the hosts.

Arsenal are still yet to lead a Premier League game at half-time this season, but again came good late on when Torreira acrobatically met Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang's cross to lift the Gunners above north London rivals Tottenham into third.

Ralph Hasenhuttl's start to life as Southampton manager got off to a terrible start as Callum Paterson scored the winner in a 1-0 victory to move Cardiff up to 14th and three points clear of the bottom three.

Burnley also moved out of the drop zone courtesy of a first win in nine games as James Tarkowski scored the only goal to beat Brighton 1-0.

West Ham recorded a third straight win to move into the top half by coming from behind to beat Crystal Palace 3-2 thanks to second-half goals from Robert Snodgrass, Javier Hernandez and Felipe Anderson.

PSG deny plan to sell Mbappe, Neymar over threat of FFP sanctions

AFP
PARIS

FRENCH champions Paris Saint-Germain have quashed reports the club could be forced to sell either Kylian Mbappe or Neymar in a bid to circumvent eventual Financial Fair Play (FFP) sanctions.

Qatar-owned PSG are one of a number of clubs under scrutiny from UEFA's FFP regulations after splashing a combined total of more than 400 million euros in 2017 for Brazil star Neymar and World Cup winner Mbappe.

Rival clubs and even the president of Spain's La Liga championship, Javier Tebas, bemoan the lack of sanctions for PSG, who according to recent leaked documents have violated the strict financial regulations put in place by European football's ruling body.

UEFA still have their eye on PSG and their finances and daily sports newspaper L'Equipe claimed late on Friday that any future sanctions could see the club sell one of their most coveted stars.

But PSG were quick to shoot down the report.

"In an article published on their website on Friday night, L'Equipe dared to say that 'PSG is ready to lose Kylian Mbappe or Neymar Jr to avoid (FFP) sanctions'," said a statement issued by the club.

PSG "vehemently denies these totally false and ridiculous allegations, which serve only to recreate a climate of

tension between the club and this media outlet."

The front page of L'Equipe on Saturday carried pictures of both Mbappe, the 19-year-old who struck in a 4-2 World Cup final win over Croatia last summer, and Brazil star Neymar while page two claimed the club are "ready to lose a star".

Keyword

The front page of L'Equipe on Saturday carried pictures of both Mbappe, the 19-year-old who struck in a 4-2 World Cup final win over Croatia last summer, and Brazil star Neymar while page two claimed the club are "ready to lose a star".

UEFA's FFP rules mean clubs are forbidden from spending more money than they generate.

UEFA's auditors opened an investigation into PSG in September 2017 following the purchase of Neymar from Barcelona and Mbappe from Monaco earlier that summer.

The case was shelved in June 2018, before being reopened in September 2018. PSG reacted by appealing to the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS), claiming it has met UEFA's FFP demands.

A UEFA spokesman said last month: "We will have to wait for CAS's decision on PSG's appeal before looking at this issue."



Paris Saint-Germain's Neymar and Kylian Mbappe in action during a French Ligue 1 match

Al Saliya, Al Arabi pick vital win in QNB Stars League

TRIBUNE NEWS NETWORK
DOHA

Al Saliya scored an enthralling 2-1 away win against Al Khor in Week 15 of the 2018-19 season QNB Stars League on Saturday.

The visitors' goals came through Rachid Tiberkanine in the 14th and 48th minute before Al Khor grabbed a consolation penalty goal through Wagner Ferreira in the 79th.

With a rapid start to the game from both sides, it was inevitable that an early goal was on the cards and Al Saliya made the perfect start, thanks to talisman Tiberkanine.

He responded well to a looped cross from the left of the area and nipped in between two defenders to tuck a header inside the net post.

Abdulqadir Ilyas, nearly added another just before the break, but his athletic volley struck the post.

Within minutes of restart, Tiberkanine was quick to dou-

ble Al Saliya's lead, thanks to his natural predatory instinct. With the ball falling into the box after a scramble, he reacted quickest to poke it home with his right boot from eight yards.

Al Khor grew into the game immediately and had multiple chances denied by some last-gasp heroics from opposition goalkeeper Saoud Al Khater.

Following some heavy pressing, Al Khor were provided with a lifeline after a penalty was awarded when Mostafa Hamid wrestled Diogo to the ground. Wagner stepped up to drive his penalty hard into the top right-hand corner.

While applying further pressure Al Khor's hopes were in vain, with Al Saliya holding on to win all three points.

In the other game, Al Arabi defeated Umm Salal 3-0 with Fahad Khalaf hitting brace.

The win moves the Dream Team 7th in the league table with 18 points, one ahead of their closest.



Rachid Tiberkanine of Al Kharaitiyat celebrates with teammates after scoring his goal against Al Khor in a QSL match on Saturday.

Qatar's Mohammadi to contest top AFC job

AFP
KUALA LUMPUR

ASIAN Football Confederation President Sheikh Salman bin Ibrahim al Khalifa will face two challengers when he seeks a fresh term at an election in April, the football body said Saturday.

Qatar's Saoud al Mohammadi, an AFC Vice-President and AFC executive committee member Mohamed Khalfan Matar Saeed Alromaihi of the United Arab Emirates are standing against Sheikh Salman, the body said.

Saudi Arabia's Adel Ez-zat -- head of a new regional bloc, the South West Asian Football Federation -- did not throw his hat into the ring, as had been widely expected.

Al Mohammadi, the Qatar Football Association vice president, was hit with a one-year FIFA ban in 2016 for refusing to cooperate with a



Saoud al Mohammadi, AFC Vice-President

corruption inquiry, but the ban was overturned after he appealed.

Sheikh Salman of Bahrain has held the top job at the AFC since 2013, and said at a congress in Kuala Lumpur in October that he had the support of 90 percent of the

Holder US receive easy draw for women's World Cup 2019

DPA
PARIS

HOLDERS the United States were grouped with Thailand, Chile and Sweden in the draw for next June and July's women's football World Cup in France.

The hosts were drawn alongside South Korea, 1995 champions Norway and Nigeria in Group A.

The opening game will be France against the Koreans on June 7 in Paris.

Twice winners Germany must face China, Spain and South Africa.

Japan and England will face each other again after the former prevailed in the 2015 semi-final while the English have another juicy Group D encounter with local rivals Scotland. Argentina complete the group.

World Cup Draw

- Women's 2019 World Cup draw**
- Group A: France, South Korea, Norway, Nigeria
- Group B: Germany, China, Spain, South Africa
- Group C: Australia, Italy, Brazil, Jamaica
- Group D: England, Scotland, Argentina, Japan
- Group E: Canada, Cameroon, New Zealand, Netherlands
- Group F: USA, Thailand, Chile, Sweden