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**MOTORSPORTS**

Joy and agony for Marquez brothers at Dutch MotoGP

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**Sports Minister honours winners of Sports and Youth Excellence Award**

HE the Minister of Sports and Youth Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa bin Ahmed al-Thani presented the 2024-2025 Sports and Youth Excellence Award, under the theme 'Excellence of Generations, Excellence of the Nation' awards yesterday. The event was attended by representatives from the Ministry of Education and Higher Education, Qatar Foundation, the Qatar Olympic Committee, Aspire Zone Foundation, along with delegates from sports clubs, youth centres, and leading institutions in the fields of sports and youth development. In the sports category, Al Sadd Club claimed first place, followed by Al Arabi Club in second, and Al Rayyan Club in third.

**CLUB WORLD CUP**

**PSG rout Messi's Inter Miami 4-0 to reach quarter-finals**

'It was an almost perfect match, we created a lot of chances, and I'm happy yet I think we still need to improve'

AFP  
Atlanta

Paris Saint-Germain steamrollered Lionel Messi's Inter Miami 4-0 to reach the Club World Cup quarter-finals yesterday.

Miami hoped the Argentine superstar's magic could help them produce an unlikely result against his former side, but the Major League Soccer side were dismantled in Atlanta by Luis Enrique's rampant European champions.

Ageing great Messi and his former Barcelona teammates Luis Suarez, Sergio Busquets and Jordi Alba had done well to reach the last 16 but the gulf in quality between the teams was laid bare over the 90 minutes.

Joao Neves netted twice for PSG, who benefitted from a Tomas Aviles own goal, while Achraf Hakimi was also on target.

"It was an almost perfect match, we created a lot of chances, and I'm happy yet I think we still need to improve, that's football," PSG coach Luis Enrique said.

After Neves opened the scoring early on Miami resisted until PSG hit three goals in 10 minutes towards the end of the first half.

Messi was the main draw, as fans chanted his name and most of the 66,000 crowd were clad in Miami's hot pink interspersed with Argentina shirts.

PSG dominated from the start, with Khvicha Kvaratskhelia floating into the box and teeing up Bradley Barcola, but Miami goalkeeper Oscar Ustari thwarted him



PSG's midfielder Joao Pedro Goncalves Neves (left) celebrates with teammate Fabian Ruiz after scoring his team's second goal during the FIFA Club World Cup 2025 round of 16 match against Inter Miami at the Mercedes-Benz Stadium in Atlanta yesterday. (AFP)

with an outstretched leg.

However shortly afterwards over-run Miami right-back Marcelo Weigandt fouled Desire Doue and it led to PSG's opener.

Vitinha whipped a free-kick to the back post where Portuguese midfielder Neves ran in complete-



Inter Miami's Lionel Messi and PSG's Achraf Hakimi shake hands at the end of the FIFA Club World Cup 2025 round of 16 match in Atlanta yesterday. (AFP)

ly unmarked, stooping to nod past Ustari after six minutes. PSG's Fabian Ruiz had a goal disallowed for offside before Miami defender Noah Allen limped off injured in a further blow for Javier Mascherano's side. With the Ligue 1 champions pressing high and keeping possession Miami found it hard to get Messi involved.

The 38-year-old Argentine superstar played a superbly weighted pass down the right flank for Ta-deo Allende but a rare Miami break came to nothing. Messi's intermittent interventions were not enough to hold back the Parisian tide.

PSG doubled their lead in the 39th minute when veteran holding midfielder Busquets got his footwork wrong in front of his own box. Spanish compatriot Ruiz rapidly relieved him of the ball and combined with Barcola to set up Neves to tap home his second.

PSG grabbed their third when Aviles deflected Doue's cross into his own net, and Hakimi netted the fourth before half-time to put PSG out of sight.

The Morocco international's first effort was deflected onto the crossbar but he stayed alert at the air-conditioned Mercedes-Benz Stadium to fire home the rebound.

Eight-time Ballon d'Or winner Messi lost his cool with a swipe aimed at Vitinha as the Argentine raged against the midfielder, Miami's impotence and PSG's swagger. Messi produced a brilliant pass for Suarez early in the second half, chipping a ball over the PSG defence, but the Uruguayan could not finish to offer Miami a lifeline.

Despite the impossibility of a comeback - there was to be no comeback like the one Luis Enrique's Barcelona managed in 2017 against PSG from four goals down in which Messi and Suarez scored - the Argentine was determined to bow out with a bang. Messi drew a first save from PSG's Gianluigi Donnarumma after the hour mark with a low effort. Luis Enrique sent on winger Ousmane Dembele for his first appearance at the tournament after a hamstring injury, but the Frenchman was rusty and imprecise. When Suarez was fouled by Lucas Beraldo on the edge of the box Messi had the chance to repeat his free-kick winner against Porto in the group stage, but his effort hit the wall.

It was not to be for Messi or Miami, but their second-half performance was respectable and the defeat was by a lesser margin than the French side's 5-0 Champions League final thrashing of Inter Milan. PSG will face Bayern Munich or Flamengo in the quarter-finals in Atlanta on Saturday.



## Qatari showjumping riders excel in Europe

Qatari riders continued with their brilliance in European arenas, achieving impressive results in international showjumping championships. Fahad bin Jassim bin Hamad al-Thani finished third in the intermediate round (130cm - time trial) at the 2025 Herford-Luzer Championship in Germany, finishing the round in 59.78 seconds riding Krokant 31. The victory adds to Qatar's growing record of achievements in Europe. In another achievement, Qatar's Bassem Mohammed topped the CSIO3-W intermediate round (140cm height - time trial) at the 2025 Budapest International Championship clocking 55.41 seconds on his mount Popeye de Tamise.



MOTOGP

# Marc wins Dutch GP but brother Alex crashes out

MARQUEZ CLAIMS HIS SIXTH WIN OF THE SEASON AND STRETCHES POINTS LEAD TO 68

Reuters  
Assen, Netherlands

Marc Marquez delivered a clinical masterclass at MotoGP's Cathedral of Speed yesterday to claim victory at the Dutch Grand Prix while his brother and closest contender Alex suffered a race-ending crash that left him with a fractured hand.

As Assen celebrated its centenary of motorcycle racing, the elder Marquez seized control on the second lap and did not look back as he extended his championship advantage to a commanding 68 points over Alex as he seeks a seventh title.

Aprilia's Marco Bezzecchi finished second while Ducati's Francesco Bagnaia came third, with the two-times champion now staring at a daunting 126-point gap to his teammate after 10 rounds.

"I'm super happy one more time to take the 37 points... Not 100% happy because my father told me that Alex broke one finger and I wish him a good recovery," Marquez told *TNT Sports*.

"First of all, because he's my main opponent for the championship. I want to have all the opponents on the racetrack. And secondly because he's my brother and I will try to help him to stay motivated and have a good recovery."

Bagnaia had won the last three races in Assen but despite taking the lead early on, he was pushed down to fourth place before he recovered to finish on the podium ahead of KTM's Pedro Acosta.

Marc, who crashed hard twice on Friday, also equalled motorcycling great Giacomo Agostini with 68 premier class victories and now sets his sights on his former rival



Marc Marquez celebrates on the podium after winning the Grand Prix of Netherlands. (Reuters)

Valentino Rossi who finished his career with 89 wins.

Yamaha's Fabio Quartararo had claimed pole position but crashed in Saturday's sprint – where Marc claimed his ninth victory of the season – and the Frenchman was slow off the line while Bagnaia made the perfect start.

Gresini Racing's Alex was in second place but on turn one of the next lap, Marc made his move to overtake his brother and slot in behind his teammate, waiting patiently to pounce with 24 laps left in the race.

## ALEX CRASHES

Alex briefly lost his concentration and Bezzecchi, sporting a new aero package on his Aprilia, squeezed

his way past the Gresini rider while Acosta also made an overtake stick to push the younger Marquez down to fifth.

Up front, Marc found a gap before the final chicane on lap five to overtake Bagnaia and take the lead while his brother Alex crashed heavily when he leaned into Acosta and lost his balance when they made contact in a battle for fourth.

Alex was immediately taken to the medical centre where a left hand fracture was confirmed, with Gresini saying he would fly to Madrid for surgery.

Bagnaia seemed to be losing pace as both Bezzecchi and Acosta moved into podium positions.

But the Italian Ducati rider snatched third place back from

Acosta at the end of lap 14 to set his sights on Bezzecchi.

"I'm bitter because for the first time this season I had a chance to win," Bagnaia said.

"I cannot do what I really want to do, last year was much easier. I'm struggling quite a bit to do the same things."

But whatever Bezzecchi did to put pressure on Marc, the six-times MotoGP champion did not budge as he managed his tyres and maintained his pace until he took the chequered flag.

"Marc was really fast but I did my best," Bezzecchi admitted after the race.

"I gave everything I had in every lap, so I can't be more satisfied than this."

## ANGRY MARC SLAMS CRITICS QUESTIONING BROTHER ALEX'S RACING HUNGER

**Assen, Netherlands:** Ducati's Marc Marquez launched a spirited defence of his younger brother Alex yesterday, condemning critics who have questioned whether his sibling is deliberately avoiding challenging him for victories in sprints and races this season. Marc, who has dominated the season with 15 victories across sprints and Sunday races, bristled when discussing social media comments and journalists' questions suggesting his brother might be holding back during their frequent one-two finishes. Alex has finished second 14 times and he came in for criticism for not being aggressive enough to overtake his older brother, with the Gresini Racing rider sitting 68 points behind Marc.

"I was a bit angry because people must respect the other riders. Yesterday, many people I saw on social media and even some journalists asked me and told me that 'No, your brother is not attacking you as the others'," Marquez told *TNT Sports*.

"People started to say that and I was angry at that time because Alex is defending his colours, he has the ambition, for that reason he's second in the championship, because he's riding in a very good way.

"He's trying to manage his situation. But as we see today, another rider with another brand, with another nationality wanted to win, but he can't attack me, because if the front rider defends well,

nobody can attack you."

Alex did not score points at the Dutch Grand Prix race yesterday following a crash where he broke his hand, which requires surgery. To drive the point home, Marc described how Aprilia's Marco Bezzecchi finished second behind him at yesterday's race at Assen despite the Italian trying his very best to overtake him, eventually finishing less than a second behind the Ducati rider.

"And today Marco Bezzecchi, why didn't he attack me? I was defending and I know that my weak point was at turn 11-12, that is the fastest area, it's a very narrow circuit and if you defend there, nobody can attack me," Marc added.

"So I was defending there, just trying to attack on the brake points. But I just want to say that people must respect the other riders and just enjoy the show."

"Everybody is defending his colours and everybody wants to win."

Victory in the sprint and race meant more to Marc after a bruising practice session on Friday when he crashed twice.

"Adrenaline is the best painkiller that exists, this is always my medicine," he said.

"But now I will rest for two or three days to recover, especially the ribs, the finger, the arm – the whole body."

"Big crashes are not the same (at) 20 years old as (when you are) 32!"

CRICKET

# Williams hits century but South Africa build lead

Reuters  
Bulawayo

Zimbabwe's Sean Williams struck a fluent 137 from 164 balls on day two of the first Test against South Africa in Bulawayo yesterday, but the visitors were in command with a 216-run lead and nine second-innings wickets remaining.

A South African side missing several regulars will resume on 49 for one on the third morning after Zimbabwe made 251 in reply to the tourists' first-innings score of 418 for nine declared.

Opener Tony de Zorzi is 22 not out and all-rounder Wiaan Mulder has 25 as South Africa look to build a formidable total for their hosts to chase.

Matthew Breetzke was the only wicket to fall in their second innings after he was caught by Wessly Madhevere in the gully off the bowling of Tanaka Chivanga for one.

The 38-year-old Williams held his side's first innings together



Sean Williams of Zimbabwe walks to the batting end during day two of the first Test against South Africa in Bulawayo yesterday. @

with a sixth century in 21 Tests, despite taking a nasty blow to the helmet from teenage South African speedster Kwena Maphaka.

Maphaka had earlier ended opener Brian Bennett's game when he too was struck on the helmet and was subsequently

ruled out of the remainder of the fixture with concussion.

Bennett's place was taken by concussion replacement Prince Masvaure, who managed only seven before he became one of four wickets for Mulder (4-50). Debutant seamer Codi Yusuf fin-

ished with figures of 3-42 and stand-in captain Keshav Maharaj took 3-70, including the wicket of Williams, who was stumped by wicketkeeper Kyle Verreynne.

South Africa are fielding only four of the players who did duty in the World Test Championship victory over Australia at Lord's earlier this month.

One of their three debutants is Lhuan-dre Pretorius, who at 19 years and 93 days on Saturday became the youngest player to score 150 in Test cricket when the left-hander struck 153 in 160 balls in South Africa's first innings. It was also the second fastest score of 150 by a debutant in Tests, taking 157 deliveries, behind India's Shikhar Dhawan, who scored 150 in 131 balls against Australia in 2013.

## BRIEF SCORES

**South Africa 418 for 9 dec** (Pretorius 153, Bosch 100\*, Chivanga 4-83) **and 49 for 1** (Mulder 25\*, de Zorzi 22\*) **lead Zimbabwe 251** (Williams 137, Mulder 4-50, Yusuf 3-42) **by 216 runs**

SWIMMING

# Marchand ends Indy Cup with 200m victory

AFP  
Los Angeles, United States

Four-time Olympic gold medalist Leon Marchand, continuing his buildup to the swimming World Championships in Singapore, capped the Indy Summer Cup meeting with a victory in the 200m individual medley on Saturday.

The French 23-year-old, who took the Paris Olympics by storm with gold in the 200m breaststroke, 200m butterfly and 200 and 400 individual medleys, clocked 1min 57.23 with Hungary's Hubert Kos second in 2:00.16.

Kos, who like Marchand trains in Texas under coach Bob Bowman, polished off a strong week with a victory in the 200m backstroke in 1:56.74 with Marchand second in 1:57.14.

Kos, the reigning Olympic and

world champion in the 200m back, added the title to the 100m back and 200m butterfly titles he claimed on Friday.

Marchand added a second victory of the week after winning the 100m breaststroke on Thursday in 59.95sec – dipping under one minute in the event for the second time in his career.

American Regan Smith, also headed to Singapore later this month, completed an impressive week with victories in the 200m backstroke and the 200m medley to go with victories in the 200m fly and 100m back.

US swimmers triumphed in the 100m freestyles. Chris Guiliano clocked 47.72 to head a men's final field that saw Kos finish fourth in 49.42 and Marchand seventh in 49.70.

Simone Manuel won the women's 100m free in 53.28, with Smith second in 54.15.

ATHLETICS

# Shot put champion Jackson posts world leading 20.95m

AFP  
Los Angeles, United States

Two-time reigning women's shot put world champion Chase Jackson unleashed a world-best effort for the year with a distance of 20.95 metres to win the Iron Wood Classic on Saturday.

Jackson broke her own American record of 20.76m from 2023 and her effort was the world's best women's throw since 2012.

"Got a little excited but know I've got more in the tank!" Jackson posted on social media along with a video of her performance on Saturday.

Jackson, who turns 31 next month, won world titles in 2022 at Eugene and 2023 in Budapest but she was eliminated in qualifying in her Olympics debut last year in Paris.

Jackson is a four-time US indoor champion and four-time US out-



door champion.

She is a three-time podium finisher at the world indoors, taking second in 2022 at Belgrade and third in 2024 at Glasgow and earlier this year at Nanjing, China.

MOTORSPORT

# Tanak takes season's first victory for Hyundai

Reuters  
Athens

Estonian Ott Tanak took Hyundai's first win of the season in Greece's Acropolis Rally yesterday despite a gearbox scare in the final stage.

The victory on the rough gravel roads and in sweltering heat also ended Toyota's unbeaten run with Sebastien Ogier, winner of the previous two rounds, finishing second and 32.8 seconds behind.

Hyundai's Adrien Fourmaux completed the podium.

Tanak closed the gap on Toyota's championship leader Elfyn Evans, who finished fourth, to 12 points. Ogier, who is running a part-time campaign, is nine points behind his teammate. "I was very worried, to be honest," Tanak said of the final gearbox drama.

"In the last stage, third gear got very noisy and I understood that this one broke. Soon, the whole gearbox got very noisy and we didn't have much confidence that we would finish the stage and get back here. It was definitely far too much stress to win a rally."

"I think we've had a super strong weekend," Ogier said. "There wasn't much we could do to Ott – he was really flying," he added.



Estonia's Ott Tanak and his co-driver Martin Jarveoja in their Hyundai i20 N Rally1 at the special stage during the Acropolis Rally in Agioi Theodoroi. (AFP)



WIMBLEDON PREVIEW

# Krejcikova ready for title defence after injury scare

‘I had to have a couple of days off where I didn’t really play any tennis but I did some off-court stuff’

AFP  
London

**B**arbora Krejcikova insists she is fit for her Wimbledon title defence after the Czech suffered a thigh injury scare just days before the tournament.

Krejcikova's Wimbledon participation was plunged into doubt when she pulled out of the warm-up event at Eastbourne on Thursday.

The 29-year-old withdrew before playing Varvara Gracheva in the quarter-finals after initially sustaining the injury on Wednesday during her second-round victory over Jodie Burrage.

But after resting for several days, Krejcikova is confident the injury will not be an impediment to her bid to retain the Venus Rosewater Dish.

“I had to have a couple of days off where I didn’t really play any tennis but I did some off-court stuff. I’ve been feeling every day a little bit better, so I’m really happy with that,” she told reporters at the All England Club yesterday.

“I hope by Tuesday everything is going to be fine. I hope I’m going to have a nice match and a great tournament.”

Krejcikova will start her All England Club campaign against Alexandra Eala of the Philippines in the first round on Centre Court tomorrow. Eala made history by becoming the first Filipina to reach a WTA final with her run to the Eastbourne title match on Saturday.

The 20-year-old enjoyed a breakthrough run to the Miami Masters semi-finals in March and Krejcikova is relishing the chance to test herself against an emerging star. “To be honest, I don’t re-



Defending champion Barbora Krejcikova holds the Wimbledon trophy during a photo-op at Wimbledon yesterday.

ally know that much about her yet because she’s obviously a young player, an upcoming player, and one of the players of the new generation,” she said.

“I know that she was doing quite well at the first half of the year. It’s going to be a great matchup. I’m looking forward to see where the young generation is.”

Krejcikova, a two-time Grand Slam winner, hopes being back at

Wimbledon can provide a welcome lift after a difficult year.

The world number 16 has endured a rough ride since defeating Italy’s Jasmine Paolini in the Wimbledon final 12 months ago.

Krejcikova lost in the second round of the recent French Open and also missed January’s Australian Open with a back injury, which kept her sidelined until May and has restricted her to just six



Italy's Jannik Sinner with his coaches Darren Cahill and Simone Vagnozzi during a practice session at Wimbledon yesterday. (Reuters)

matches this year. She made a poor start to the grass-court season with a shock loss against Slovakia’s Rebecca Sramkova in the Queen’s Club first round before her premature Eastbourne exit.

“It’s actually very nice to be here and to play, even after all the time I was out,” she said.

“I’m enjoying it. I’m happy to be here. I find it tough, complicated, but I don’t find it difficult.”

Asked how she will feel playing on Centre Court for the first time since the final, Krejcikova said: “It feels great. Definitely I grew up since then.

“I feel very happy and really, let’s say, privileged that I can go from this position into the tournament.

“It’s going to be a mix of all the emotions but I think most of them are going to be very positive.”



Coco Gauff of the US during a practice session at Wimbledon in London yesterday. (Reuters)

Krejcikova’s maiden Grand Slam triumph came at the 2021 French Open, but winning on the iconic lawns of south-west London was an even more memorable experience.

“Everything was amazing,” she said. “It was like a fairytale, winning the match point and looking at the box. Very special.

“I couldn’t really believe that they were giving the trophy to me.”

## Swiatek slams ‘intense’ calendar as players feel the grind

**London:** Iga Swiatek criticised the relentless tennis calendar yesterday, with the former world number one saying that players should not be forced to compete in more than 20 tournaments a year to maintain their rankings. Now ranked fourth in the world, Swiatek described being trapped in a system where she had to choose between representing her country and focusing on herself after she reluctantly skipped Poland’s Billie Jean King Cup qualifier in April. The 11-month grind has been one of the cornerstones of the lawsuit filed by the Professional Tennis Players’ Association (PTPA) against the sport’s governing bodies in March after the union described it as ‘unsustainable’. “The scheduling is super intense, it’s too intense. There’s no point for us to play over 20 tournaments in a year,” Swiatek told reporters when asked about the biggest challenge to players in terms of mental health. “Sometimes we need to sacrifice playing for your country because we need to keep up



with playing these WTA 500s, for example, because we’re going to get a zero in the ranking. “I think these kind of obligations and the rules about mandatory tournaments just put pres-

sure on us... I think people would still watch tennis, maybe even more, if we played less tournaments. The quality would be better.” Swiatek is the eighth seed at Wimbledon this year and she faces Polina Kudermetova in the first round tomorrow. The claycourt specialist with four French Open crowns fell in the semi-finals at Roland Garros this year and she quickly switched her focus to grass which has historically been her weakest surface. She reached her first grasscourt final on Saturday at the Bad Homburg Open where she was left in tears after losing to top seed Jessica Pegula, but Swiatek is happy with her improvement on grass as she comes to grips with the faster surface. “It’s not like a huge change. It’s not like 180 degrees change. I wouldn’t say now suddenly everything is perfect, because it’s still a difficult surface. It’s still tricky,” Swiatek said. “Every year it feels like it’s a little bit easier to get used to the surface and then you have more time to just develop as a player.”

GOLF

## Reed shoots for his first LIV win in native Texas

Reuters  
Carrollton, Texas

**P**atrick Reed moved closer to his first career win on the LIV Tour by carding a 4-under-par 68 in the second round on Saturday for a three-shot advantage at the LIV Golf Dallas in Carrollton, Texas.

The first-round co-leader with 4Aces GC teammate Harold Varner III after 5-under 67 scores, Reed posted birdies at Nos 2, 6, 7, 8, 12 and 14 to counter bogeys at the par-4 holes at No 10 and 15 for 9-under 135 after 36 holes at Maridoe Golf Club.

“Really, the mindset is the same as it’s been all week, just go out, feel like everyone is starting at even par and try to win the day,” said Reed, 34, a San Antonio native who also is going for his first professional win in his home state. “I think the biggest thing for me is I feel like the golf game feels pretty solid. Everything seems to be tight and where I want it to be. The biggest thing is going out there and not trying to press, not trying to force anything and really just go out and try to win the day as if it’s a Monday qualifier.”

England’s Paul Casey of Crushers GC shot 67 on Saturday and Mexico’s Abraham Ancer of Fireballs BC posted a 69 to move into a tie for second at 6 under.

Casey spaced birdies across Nos 1, 2, 6, 7, 13, 16 and 18. He bogeyed the par-4 No 9 and par-3 No 14. Ancer was streaky with birdies at Nos 4-7, 13-14 and 16, but also bogeys at Nos 9-11 and 15.

“I’m satisfied, yeah. It could have been better,” Ancer said after his second straight round



Patrick Reed of Aces GC hits a tee shot on the seventh hole on day two of LIV Golf Dallas at Maridoe Golf Club in Dallas, Texas. (AFP)

of 69. “It could have been way worse, as well. I grinded it out. It’s a big-time golf course; if you’re not in the fairway, it’s really tough to make pars.

“You can make some big numbers.”

Varner shot even par and slipped to a tie for fourth at 5 under with England’s Tyrell Hatton (7-under 65 on Saturday) of Legion XIII, England’s Richard Bland (69) of Cleeks Golf Club and Spain’s David Puig (69) of Fireballs GC.

4Aces GC, with Reed and Varner again leading the way, combined for a 3 under for the round and 12 under for the tournament to remain atop the team standings. Legion XIII and Crushers GC are four strokes back at 8 under with one round to play.

The 4Aces team, which also includes captain Dustin Johnson (T15, even) and Belgian Thomas Pieters (T24, 2 over), has three podium finishes in the last five starts.

### Potgieter takes two-stroke advantage at Rocket Classic

Aldrich Potgieter birdied five holes in a row to break away from the pack and grabbed a two-stroke lead after the third round of the Rocket Classic on Saturday at Detroit Golf Club.

The 20-year-old from South Africa posted a 7-under-par 65, tied for the best round of the day, to get to 19-under 197.

Potgieter - a rookie who’s only made five cuts in 14 starts this season - is vying for his first PGA Tour victory.

Five players are lurking at 17 under: Jake Knapp (66), Max Greyserman (66), Mark Hubbard (67), Andrew Putnam (69) and Chris Kirk (69).

Putnam and Kirk were among three co-leaders entering the day.

Just three back at 16 under are Thruston Lawrence of South Africa (67), Michael Thorbjornsen (68) and Jackson Suber (69). Collin Morikawa shot 68 and is part of a tie at 15 under with Denmark’s Nicolai Hojgaard (67) and England’s Harry Hall (68).

Potgieter holed out for birdie from a green-side bunker at No. 1 to jumpstart his round. The five-birdie run began at No. 4; he swept in a right-to-left 33-footer at the par-3 fifth hole and spun his approach at the par-4 sixth inside 2 feet.

Potgieter hit a 374-yard drive at No 8 and sank an 11-foot birdie on his way to a front-nine 30. His putter cooled off on the back nine, where he made just one more birdie while staying bogey-free.

Playing alongside Potgieter, Hubbard rode the roller coaster all day, with nine birdies partially offset by four bogeys.

SPOTLIGHT

## Wimbledon 2025 prize money: how much do winners in finals get?



Reuters  
London

**T**he four Grand Slams offer a trophy and place in the history books as well as significant prize money. Here is what you need to know about the prize pot on offer at Wimbledon 2025, the third major of the year:

### WHEN IS WIMBLEDON 2025 HAPPENING?

\* The Championships will run from June 30-July 13.

### WHAT IS THE TOTAL PRIZE FUND AT WIMBLEDON 2025?

\* The total prize money is a record £53.5mn (\$71.63mn), a 7% increase on 2024 and double what they offered a decade ago.

### HOW MUCH WILL MEN’S AND WOMEN’S SINGLES PLAYERS EARN AT WIMBLEDON 2025?

\* First round: £66,000  
\* Second round: £99,000  
\* Third round: £152,000  
\* Round of 16: £240,000  
\* Quarter-finals: £400,000  
\* Semi-finals: £775,000  
\* Runner-up: £1,520,000  
\* Champion: £3,000,000

### HOW DOES THE WINNER’S PRIZE COMPARE TO WIMBLEDON 2024?

\* The winners of the men’s and women’s singles in 2024, Spaniard Carlos Alcaraz and Czech Bar-

bora Krejcikova, received £2.7mn (\$3.61mn) each in prize money.

### WHAT ABOUT THE OTHER GRAND SLAMS IN 2024 AND 2025?

\* Australian Open 2025 singles champions, Italian Jannik Sinner and American Madison Keys, received A\$3.5mn (\$2.26mn) each in prize money.  
\* French Open 2025 singles champions, Alcaraz and American Coco Gauff, took home 2.55mn euros (\$2.92mn) each.  
\* US Open 2024 singles champions, Sinner and Belarusian Aryna Sabalenka, received \$3.6mn each.  
\* Significant pay hikes at the Grand Slams were central to the demands of the world’s top players in their letter to the four majors recently.

### WHAT IS THE PRIZE MONEY ON OFFER IN MEN’S AND WOMEN’S DOUBLES AT WIMBLEDON 2025?

\* First round: £16,500  
\* Second round: £26,000  
\* Third round: £43,750  
\* Quarter-finals: £87,500  
\* Semi-finals: £174,000  
\* Runners-up: £345,000  
\* Champion: £680,000

### WHAT IS THE PRIZE MONEY ON OFFER IN MIXED DOUBLES AT WIMBLEDON 2025?

\* First round: £4,500  
\* Second round: £9,000  
\* Quarter-finals: £17,500  
\* Semi-finals: £34,000  
\* Runners-up: £68,000  
\* Champion: £135,000



FORMULA 1

# Norris resists Piastri to lead McLaren 1-2 in Austrian GP

AUSTRALIAN'S POINTS LEAD CUT TO 15, FERRARI'S LECLERC FINISHES THIRD AND HAMILTON FOURTH

AFP  
Spielberg bei Knittelfeld, Austria

Lando Norris resisted vigorous attacks from teammate and championship leader Oscar Piastri to claim a masterful McLaren 1-2 in yesterday's Austrian Grand Prix.

In torrid heat at the Red Bull Ring, the 25-year-old Briton came home 2.695 seconds clear of the 24-year-old Australian to trim his lead in the title race by 15 points.

It was Norris's first win in Austria, his third win this year and the seventh of his career.

It was McLaren's first win in Austria since David Coulthard triumphed in 2001.

The McLaren pair battled throughout the race to provide thrilling racing for the packed crowd and put behind them their collision in Canada two weeks earlier. Charles Leclerc was third ahead of his Ferrari teammate seven-time champion Lewis Hamilton, their best result of the year, with George Russell finishing fifth for Mercedes.

"It was a tough race," said Norris. "Pushing the whole way through... tricky, hot, tiring, but the perfect result for us as a team, a 1-2 again. We had a great battle, that's for sure."

For Piastri, it was equally demanding. "Intense!" he said.

"I hope it was good watching because from inside the car it was hard work. Yeah, I tried my absolute best."

Liam Lawson came in a career-best sixth for RB on a desultory day for the senior Red Bull team after four-time champion Max Verstappen retired on the opening lap after being hit by Mercedes' teenage rookie Kimi Antonelli. He is now 61 points behind Piastri.

Two-time champion Fernando Alonso was seventh ahead of Gabriel Bortoleto and his Sauber teammate Nico Hulkenberg, the future Audi outfit showing their huge potential, with Esteban Ocon finishing 10th for Haas.

After a frantic prelude, during which Carlos Sainz's Williams

RESULTS	
1. Lando Norris (GBR/McLaren) 1hr 23min 47.693sec, 2. Oscar Piastri (AUS/McLaren) at 2.695sec, 3. Charles Leclerc (MON/Ferrari) 19.820, 4. Lewis Hamilton (GBR/Ferrari) 29.020, 5. George Russell (GBR/Mercedes) 1:02.396, 6. Liam Lawson (NZL/RB) 1:07.754, 7. Fernando Alonso (ESP/Aston Martin) 1 lap, 8. Gabriel Bortoleto (BRA/Sauber) 1 lap, 9. Nico Hulkenberg (GER/Sauber) 1 lap, 10. Esteban Ocon (FRA/Haas) 1 lap, 11. Oliver Bearman (GBR/Haas) 1 lap, 12. Isack Hadjar (FRA/RB) 1 lap, 13. Pierre Gasly (FRA/Alpine) 1 lap, 14. Lance Stroll (CAN/Aston Martin) 1 lap, 15. Franco Colapinto (ARG/Alpine) 1 lap, 16. Yuki Tsunoda (JPN/Red Bull) 2 laps	Drivers
DNF: Carlos Sainz (ESP/Williams), Max Verstappen (NED/Red Bull), Kimi Antonelli (ITA/Mercedes), Alex Albon (THA/Williams)	Constructors
World championship standings	1. McLaren 417 pts, 2. Ferrari 210, 3. Mercedes 209, 4. Red Bull 162, 5. Williams 55, 6. RB 36, 7. Haas 29, 8. Aston Martin 28, 9. Sauber 26, 10. Alpine 11

failed to leave the grid and then caught fire in the pit lane, the race was delayed for 10 minutes – before delivering immediate drama at the second attempt.

Norris made a clean start while, behind him, Piastri passed Leclerc on the outside of Turn One before Antonelli locked up and lost control at Turn Three and hit Verstappen's Red Bull.

A safety car was deployed as both drivers retired on lap one ending, for the defending champion a run of 31 races in the points. "I got hit," said the Dutchman on team radio.

The teenage rookie apologised. "I locked the rear. Sorry about that," he told Mercedes.

The race resumed after a two-minute slowdown and Norris was forced immediately to defend as Piastri, looking sharp, attacked as also did Russell on Hamilton for fourth. Both were thwarted by defensive driving.

By lap 12, the McLaren duo were four seconds clear and delivering a show of their own.

Unhampered by any embarrassing hangovers from their collision in Montreal, they raced side by

side and wheel to wheel, but each time the Australian attacked, the Briton hung on.

In scorching heat of 32 degrees (air) and 55 (track), it was a perfect advertisement for the historic venue in the Styrian Alps which had secured a 16-year contract extension to 2041 before the race.

Norris pitted, taking hards, after surviving another Piastri lunge, at turn four, on lap 20.

Piastri then followed suit, emerging fourth until Leclerc pitted.

After the leaders out on track also changed tyres Norris led Piastri by 6.5 seconds.

Red Bull's misery intensified on lap 30 when Yuki Tsunoda hit Colapinto, sending both to the pits for repairs.

The Japanese rejoined 16th and last of the runners with a new front wing before being handed a 10-second penalty.

As the field settled Norris led Piastri by 3.2s.

Russell began the second round of stops on lap 46, followed by the rest of the leaders, leaving Norris to complete a near-perfect day in the Styrian mountains.



Winner McLaren's British driver Lando Norris holds his trophy as he celebrates on the podium after the Formula One Austrian Grand Prix at the Red Bull Ring race track in Spielberg, Austria, yesterday. (AFP)

FOCUS

## Hamilton salutes Ferrari for 'mega-progress' with updates

AFP  
Spielberg bei Knittelfeld, Austria

Lewis Hamilton saluted his Ferrari team yesterday for the "mega progress" they made at the Austrian Grand Prix where he finished fourth behind Charles Leclerc.

"That's mega-progress for us as a team today," said the seven-time champion. "Thanks to all the guys at the factory for the upgrades this weekend which looked only small on paper, but were massive for us in performance."

"We're not a minute down on McLaren and that's positive and I am happy with it even if I am still struggling with the balance of the car in the race."

"We keep working at it and we made progress this weekend and we found a problem with my brakes and that's positive too. So we are improving and everyone in the team is happier."

"And we were much calmer and more methodical too so I am proud of them for that."

Leclerc said: "We are working in the right direction and our upgrades helped us to close the gap. But it is still a significant gap



Ferrari' British driver Lewis Hamilton competes during the Formula One Austrian Grand Prix at the Red Bull Ring race track in Spielberg, Austria, yesterday. (AFP)

to McLaren but we had a positive weekend overall and we maximised our potential."

Ferrari's success behind the two McLaren's of race victor Lando Norris and championship leader Oscar Piastri enabled them to overtake Mercedes in the constructors title race and move up to second. There were smiles too at Sauber and Aston Martin after Gabriel Bortoleto and two-time champion Fernando Alonso re-

spectively finished seventh and eighth. It was Brazilian Bortoleto's first points scoring finish in Formula One and his delight was shared by Alonso who held him off in the closing laps – because the Spaniard is also his manager.

Alonso was the first to congratulate him with a hug after the race.

"I am so happy for him," he said. "I know how much it means to score those first points."

### Spain star Bonmati out of hospital after meningitis scare

The Spanish football federation (RFEF) announced yesterday that Spain midfielder Aitana Bonmati had left hospital after treatment for viral meningitis. The two-time Ballon d'Or winner missed Spain's friendly win over Japan on Friday in the women's world champions' last warm-up match before the start of Euro 2025 next week. The RFEF statement revealed that the Barcelona player would now link up with Spain's Euro squad "in the coming days", although she is unlikely to figure in their opening matches. "Thanks for all the messages and to those who have

helped me these past few days," Bonmati wrote on social media. "Fortunately everything is OK, I hope to be back soon." Spain begin their Women's Euro 2025 campaign against neighbours Portugal next Thursday in Bern. They are also drawn with Belgium and Italy in Group B. Meningitis is an infection of the protective membranes that surround the brain and spinal cord. Viral meningitis is less serious than the rarer bacterial variant, which can lead to death within 24 hours. (AFP)

CLUB WORLD CUP

## Chelsea down Benfica to reach quarters after weather chaos

AFP  
Charlotte

Chelsea defeated Benfica 4-1 in extra time in a chaotic weather-disrupted last-16 clash to book their place in the Club World Cup quarter-finals yesterday.

Christopher Nkunku, Pedro Neto and Kiernan Dewsbury-Hall scored in extra time to send Premier League side Chelsea into a quarter-final clash against Brazil's Palmeiras.

Chelsea's late burst of scoring settled a game that took four hours, 39 minutes to complete at Charlotte's Bank of America Stadium in North Carolina after a near two-hour weather delay.

Chelsea manager Enzo Maresca was left satisfied with his team's victory but slammed the delay that turned the tie into a near five-hour marathon.

"I think it's a joke, it's not football," Maresca said.

"For 85 minutes we were in control of the game. We created enough chances to win the game. Then after the break, the game changed – for me personally, it's not football."

"It's completely amazing, it's completely something new that I struggle to understand."

"I can understand that for security reasons, you have to suspend the game. But if you suspend seven or eight games, that means that probably this is not the right place to do this competition."

Earlier, Chelsea had been seemingly poised for victory after Reece James' opportunistic second-half free-kick had left them 1-0 up with four minutes of regulation time remaining.

But just as Chelsea began to think about their quarter-final



Chelsea's French striker Christopher Nkunku shoots and scores his team's second goal during the FIFA Club World Cup 2025 round of 16 match against Portugal's Benfica in Charlotte. (AFP)

assignment, the arrival of a storm over Charlotte triggered local safety protocols which required the game to be halted.

It marked the sixth occasion during the Club World Cup that a game has been disrupted by a weather warning.

"If you are already suspending, six, seven, eight games it probably means there is something that is not working well," Maresca said. "Because in a football game, it's not normal to suspend the game."

When play resumed just under two hours later, a revitalised Benfica grabbed an injury-time equaliser after Chelsea substitute Malo Gusto was adjudged to have handled in the penalty area following an intervention by the Video Assistant Referee.

Benfica's Argentine veteran Angel Di Maria stepped up to roll in an ice-cold penalty, send-

ing the game into extra time. An end-to-end first half of extra time saw Benfica, reduced to 10 men following Gianluca Prestianni's second yellow card at the end of regulation, threaten to take the lead as they chased an improbable victory.

But instead it was Nkunku who fired Chelsea back in front, the French international bundling in from close range after Moises Caicedo's low shot squirted underneath Benfica goalkeeper Antoliny Trubin.

As the game opened up, Benfica were increasingly vulnerable on the counter-attack and Chelsea pounced.

Neto made it 3-1 with a nerveless finish after going clean through on goal in the 114th minute, and three minutes later Dewsbury-Hall completed the rout to send Chelsea through to the last eight.