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FORMULA 1

McLaren's Norris grabs first win of season in Hungary

Norris takes his 12th career win and second straight in Hungary from pole, Antonelli finishes third to extend lead

AFP
Budapest

World champion Lando Norris claimed his first win of the season and 12th of his career with a resounding triumph for McLaren ahead of Red Bull's Max Verstappen in Sunday's helter-skelter Hungarian Grand Prix.

The 26-year-old Briton, who started from pole position but had to recover after a poor opening lap, came home 15 seconds clear of four-time world champion Verstappen with world championship leader Kimi Antonelli finishing third for Mercedes.

The Ferraris of Charles Leclerc and seven-time champion Lewis Hamilton ended up fourth and fifth ahead of Isack Hadjar in the second Red Bull, George Russell in the second Mercedes and Racing Bulls' Liam Lawson.

Nico Huelkenberg scored his first points of the season in ninth place for Audi ahead of rookie Arvid Lindblad in the second Racing Bulls.

Norris repeated his success last season at the Hungaroring where McLaren have won for the last three years. Antonelli's determined drive, in a frantic race of divergent tyre strategies, lifted him 50 points clear of Hamilton in the championship.

"Beautiful," said Norris on team radio. "The car was unbelievable today! Flying!"

"It's probably the best pace I've ever had," he said. "This track is good for us. So nice to be able to do it all for you again. It feels like it's been a while. Congrats! Hard work pays off!"

Verstappen was critical of his car, but happy to claim another podium finish. "I didn't expect it today - we had to work very hard for this," he said.

Antonelli said it had been a hard race. "It was so tough to overtake, but it is the best result for me to go into the break and now we can keep pushing."

The race began in scorching heat with the highest temperatures of the weekend - 31 Celsius



McLaren's British driver Lando Norris celebrates with the trophy after winning the Hungarian Grand Prix at the Hungaroring racetrack in Mogyorod, Budapest, yesterday. (AFP)

(air) and 51 (track).

Ferrari gambling on soft tyres for the start while all the started on mediums.

Oscar Piastri made a fast start to pass Leclerc. When Norris went wide at Turn Two and Piastri took the lead while Hamilton passed

Leclerc for fourth behind Verstappen. Behind them, the luckless Russell's Mercedes went into anti-stall on the grid. He fell from from

MALAYSIA STEPS IN TO HOST BAHRAIN GP IN OCTOBER

The Bahrain Grand Prix, which was cancelled in April due to the Middle East war, will be held in Malaysia in early October, Formula One organisers announced yesterday.

"Formula 1 and the FIA can confirm that Malaysia will host the... Bahrain Grand Prix at the Sepang International Circuit from October 2-4 2026," F1 and motorsport's world governing body said in a statement.

The original F1 calendar featured 24 races but those in Bahrain and Saudi Arabia were cancelled because of the war.

While F1 chief executive Stefano Domenicali spoke in early July of the possibility of holding a Grand Prix in the Gulf on October 4, the resumption of hostilities between Iran and the United States in recent weeks has effectively ruled out that option.

Sepang circuit, near Kuala Lumpur's international airport, returns to the calendar for the first time since 2017 to host what will be called the "Gulf Air Bahrain Grand Prix in Malaysia".

The track has also been the venue for a MotoGP race since 1999. F1 indicated that Bahrain would cover a large part of the costs involved in rescheduling the race.

It will slot in between the Azerbaijan Grand Prix on September 26 and the Singapore Grand Prix on October 11, restoring the championship to 23 races.

"This is fantastic news for our fans. They will continue to enjoy a full and exciting Formula 1 calendar, while also seeing the sport return to a great venue," said Domenicali.

"Malaysia is an incredible country, and Sepang holds a special place in Formula 1 history.

"It will provide a spectacular setting for racing and an unforgettable experience for fans at the circuit and watching around the world."

sixth to 20th while team-mate Antonelli advanced to sixth.

Hamilton attacked Verstappen without success and by lap 10 was losing grip.

"Max is slow," reported Hamilton, who pitted to 'undercut' Verstappen on lap 14, rejoined 10th and stormed past Lindblad before Red Bull brought the Dutchman in on lap 15. Verstappen came out behind Hamilton, but regained his place with a lunge down the inside at Turn One.

Piastri pitted from the lead, followed by Leclerc. It was frantic stuff and when Norris came in, Antonelli took over as leader.

When the Italian pitted, he returned in sixth.

Piastri led followed by team-mate Norris. The Briton requested a stop but McLaren brought in Paistri first.

At halfway, Norris led Verstappen by five seconds.

The Briton then pitted from

the lead on lap 40 and returned in third, ahead of Piastri, the Australian having narrowly avoided a heavy collision with Carlos Sainz's Williams at Turn Two where they clashed. Sainz was given a five-seconds penalty.

After Verstappen pitted again, Antonelli led with Norris in pursuit.

Norris, on fresher tyres, re-gained the lead on lap 46 with a dive inside the young Italian at Turn One and built his advantage before Antonelli stopped again.

Hopes of a McLaren 1-2 ended when Piastri slowed and retired with gearbox problems and a Virtual Safety Car (VSC) was deployed. Norris, Hamilton and Leclerc pitted for softs immediately.

In a final flurry, Norris led Verstappen with Antonelli third, fending off Hamilton - penalised five seconds for speeding in the pit lane.

FIBA U18 ASIA CUP

Qatar edge Saudi Arabia to open Gulf Qualifiers with crucial win

By Sports Reporter
Doha

Qatar launched its campaign in the FIBA U18 Asia Cup Gulf Qualifiers with a hard-fought 80-76 victory over Saudi Arabia in an exciting opening match at Al Gharafa Sports Hall yesterday.

The six-day tournament, running from July 25-30 in Doha, brings together five Gulf nations - Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Kuwait and Oman - with the top two teams earning direct qualification to the FIBA U18 Asian Cup.

In a closely contested encounter, Saudi Arabia made the brighter start, taking an 18-15 lead at the end of the opening quarter. Qatar responded strongly in the second period, tightening its defense and improving its offensive execution to claim the quarter 15-11 and head into halftime.

The hosts maintained their momentum after the break, outscoring Saudi Arabia 21-17 in the third quarter to seize control of the contest.

Although Saudi Arabia narrowly edged the final period 30-29, Qatar held firm to secure the valuable opening-day win and collect its first two points of the qualifiers.

Abdullah Yassin starred for Qatar with a game-high 24 points, while Ali al-Somal led Saudi Arabia with 21 points. The victory provides Qatar with an important confidence boost as it continues its quest for one of the two qualifying berths to the continental finals.

Elsewhere, Bahrain underlined its title credentials with a commanding 106-51 victory over Kuwait to register its second successive win, having opened the tournament with a 62-54 triumph over Saudi Arabia. Bahrain dominated all four quarters to strengthen its position at the top of the standings.

In the tournament's opening fixture, Oman claimed a narrow 62-59 victory over Kuwait in a closely fought contest featuring several momentum swings.

Following the latest round of matches, Bahrain leads the standings with four points from two victories, while Qatar, Oman, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait each have two points as the race for the two qualification spots remains wide open.

Qatar's Abdullah Yassin in action during the FIBA U18 Asia Cup Gulf Qualifiers game against Saudi Arabia at Al Gharafa Sports Hall yesterday.



CRICKET

Sooryavanshi's 81 steers India to T20 series sweep

ZIMBABWE GO DOWN FOR THE THIRD TIME IN FOUR DAYS

AFP
Harare, Zimbabwe

Teenage cricket sensation Vaibhav Sooryavanshi scored his second half century in four days for India, who beat Zimbabwe by 35 runs yesterday for a 3-0 Twenty20 international series sweep.

India won the toss and posted 192-5 at Harare Sports Club, led by a quickfire 81 from Sooryavanshi. He faced 49 balls and his innings included four sixes and eight fours.

Zimbabwe, 10 places below second-placed India in the world T20I rankings, reached 157-7 in reply thanks mainly to an unbeaten 54 from lower-order batter Ryan Burl.

Victory marked an Indian turnaround after a 2-0 T20I series loss in Ireland, then a 4-0 drubbing in England. It was the second straight series loss for Zimbabwe after going down 2-1 to Bangladesh.

At 15, Sooryavanshi is the youngest cricketer to represent India. He has sparked in southern Africa after debuting in the England series and amassing 42 runs over three innings.

Sooryavanshi has had a memorable tour of Zimbabwe. He scored his maiden T20I half-century off just 18 balls in the first match and followed it up with 20 off nine deliveries in the second.

He made his intentions clear from the first ball of final tour match. He launched the Indian innings with a four off Zimbabwe captain and all-rounder Sikandar Raza and reached 50 from 31 balls.

The teen fell off the final ball of the 14th over. Sooryavanshi was out off a Wessly Madhevere delivery when Brad Evans dashed from



India team celebrate winning the T20 series against Zimbabwe at Harare Sports Club yesterday. India won the three-match series 3-0. (BCCI)



India's Vaibhav Sooryavanshi lofts the ball during the third and final T20 against Zimbabwe at Harare Sports Club yesterday.

the ropes to long off and caught the ball.

Wicketkeeper Ishan Kishan (29), a half centurion on Saturday, did best among the other Indian batters, slamming four fours before being bowled by Raza.

Zimbabwe slumped to 65-4 in reply with opener Brian Bennett and Raza both dismissed for golden ducks. The highlight of the innings was a 60-run fifth-wicket stand between Burl and Madhevere (28).

BRIEF SCORES
India 192-5 in 20 overs (V. Sooryavanshi 81, I. Kishan 29; B. Evans 2-41) **v Zimbabwe 157-7 in 20 overs** (R. Burl 54 not out; M. Yadav 3-28)
Result: India won by 35 runs
Series: India won 3-0
Toss: India

BOXING

Joshua survives a scare in Jeddah, beats Prenga

AFP
Jeddah

Two-time heavyweight world champion Anthony Joshua survived two early knockdowns on the way to a second-round knockout of Kristian Prenga yesterday, his triumphant ring return paving the way for a blockbuster all-British bout with Tyson Fury.

The fight at the Jeddah Superdome was Joshua's first since he was involved in a car crash in Nigeria in December that killed two of his close friends, Sina Ghami and Latif Ayodele.

The 36-year-old choked up when asked in the ring about his friends and the emotions of the past seven months, but said his second-round revival was down to more than pure punching power. "That was spirit, that was Latz, that was Sina. That was family," he said.

The devastating accident occurred little more than a week after Joshua demolished *YouTuber*-turned-boxer Jake Paul in a controversial *Netflix*-backed bout in December.

Joshua's last prior competitive appearance in the ring was his fifth-round knockout loss to IBF world champion Daniel Dubois at Wembley Stadium in September 2024.

He improved to 30-4, with 27 wins by knockout, but not without drama.

Albania's Prenga, a knockout artist who had 20 wins inside the distance in 21 prior fights, sent Joshua to the canvas with a right uppercut just 20 seconds into the bout.

He had Joshua on the ropes again, his legs shaky, before sending him down a second time late in the first round.



Britain's boxer Anthony Joshua celebrates winning against Albania's boxer Kristian Prenga in their heavyweight fight at the Jeddah Superdome in Jeddah yesterday. Two-time heavyweight world champion Joshua survived two early knockdowns on the way to a second-round knockout of Prenga. (AFP)

But Joshua steadied in the second, backing Prenga into the corner behind his jab, shrugging off more heavy blows from the Albanian before inflicting damage of his own with his left hand.

A brutal combination capped by a big right finally sent Prenga crashing through the ropes to end it at 2:43 of the second round.

Joshua and Fury now appear set for their "Battle of Britain" in November, at a venue still to be announced.

Fury, like Joshua a former two-time heavyweight world champion, did his part to make the long-anticipated fight happen, stopping Mariusz Wach in a low-key bout in Pattaya, Thailand, on Friday.

Fury, 37, outclassed Wach in front in the Thai resort city, chipping away relentlessly at the

46-year-old until he was pulled out by his corner in the seventh round.

It was Fury's second win in as many contests this year in his return from a 16-month layoff.

'WE'RE HERE NOW'
Fury wasn't ringside in Jeddah as many had anticipated, but Joshua had a message for him even so.

"I'm gonna rip his heart out! I'm the meanest, most vicious champion that has ever been. Nobody can stop me," he said.

"All jokes aside, there's two sides of this thing," Joshua added. "One is fire. You have to have that vim, that (roar). But also, there's respect.

"I respect everything he has done and everything that he has achieved.

"But as a fighting person and

someone who has been calling for this fight for a long time, we're here now."

Promoter Eddie Hearn, also speaking inside the ring in the wake of the bout streamed on *DAZN*, said the contract to fight Fury was signed.

"Everything's done," Hearn said.

"But to be honest with you, tonight is all about the strength that (Joshua) showed to even be here tonight, and the strength that he had to show in that fight."

Hearn said that as the first round unfolded, he feared Joshua had come back too soon after the traumatic loss of his friends.

But a beaming Joshua was bullish on the future.

"I can't be stopped," he said. "I'm not going to be stopped. I'm not going to be denied."

BADMINTON

Seasoned pro Chou Tien-chen bags China Open title at age 36



Taiwan's Chou Tien-chen poses on the podium after defeating France's Toma Junior Popov in the China Open final in Changzhou, China, yesterday. (AFP)

AFP
Changzhou, China

Taiwan's Chou Tien-chen overpowered his opponent in the China Open men's singles final yesterday, becoming the oldest tournament champion in the category at age 36.

World number six Chou vanquished 27-year-old Toma Junior Popov of France in three games, 21-15, 7-21, 21-13, to claim his first Super 1000 title since winning the Indonesia Open in 2019.

The veteran needed just over an hour to seal the outcome in the championship matchup in Changzhou, eastern China.

When an official video review showed that a final return from Popov had dropped out of bounds, an exhausted and emotional Chou kneeled face-down on the court, hands outstretched in victory.

Popov, ranked 16th worldwide, had been chasing his first victory at a Super 1000 tournament. His younger brother Christo, ranked fifth, was eliminated in the round of 16 at this year's China Open.

Earlier yesterday, Japan's Akane Yamaguchi defeated host-country hope Chen Yufei to win the top prize in the women's singles final with an efficient 21-18, 21-16 performance.

The final pairing represented a rematch of last year's World Championship in Paris, which was also won by Yamaguchi.



Japan's Akane Yamaguchi after defeating China's Chen Yufei in the China Open final in Changzhou yesterday. (AFP)

26-year-old Yamaguchi is a three-time world champion and current world number three.

In women's doubles, hosts Liu Shengshu and Tan Ning of China defeated Yuki Fukushima and Mayu Matsumoto of Japan in two games, 21-14, 21-19.

The men's doubles competition saw reigning champions Fajar Alfian and Muhammad Shohibul Fikri of Indonesia defend their title, beating South Korea's Kim Won-ho and Seo Seung-jae in come-from-behind fashion 16-21, 21-19, 21-19.

In the mixed doubles final, an all-China matchup saw Guo Xinwa and Chen Fanghui take down compatriots Feng Yanzhe and Huang Dongping in a closely contested 25-23, 20-22, 21-15 marathon lasting 88 minutes.

SPOTLIGHT

Hearn says Fury-Joshua bout must take place in UK under current deal

AFP
London

Eddie Hearn says the long-awaited showdown between British heavyweight rivals Tyson Fury and Anthony Joshua must take place in the UK under the terms of the fight deal signed three months ago.

Saudi boxing chief Turki Alalshikh reportedly wants to stage the fight - which is expected to take place in October or November - at a time that would attract the largest global audience.

But were the fight to take place at Wembley Stadium, any plans to stage the bout with a 2:00 am (0200 GMT) start would require an exemption to the London venue's curfew restrictions.

There is now talk the fight could take place at New York's Madison Square Garden.

But Hearn, the promoter of Joshua, insists his man has signed up for a UK fight only and the contract would have to be renegotiated to move elsewhere.

"There's a reason we put contracts together," Hearn said after Joshua's second-round stoppage of Kristian Prenga in Jeddah on Saturday kept him on course for a Fury showdown, little more than 24 hours after fellow former world heavyweight champion had

stopped Mariusz Wach in Thailand. He added: "We insisted that this fight was in the UK. I know that AJ will sometimes want to be a little bit of a peacekeeper, but the reality is he said to me, 'I want the fight in the UK. This is a British fight! I can't agree more."

"Turki Alalshikh is our partner and has been an unbelievable supporter of Anthony Joshua... We would have conversations, but the only way the fight doesn't take place in England is if Anthony Joshua and myself agree to it because we have a legally binding contract that took a long, long time to negotiate

"Let's be honest this is a fight for the British public."

Joshua insisted Wembley, a 90,000 capacity stadium in north London best known as the headquarters of English football, was the only choice for his fight with Fury. "When these conversations started, there was no other venue or location that was ever mentioned," he said. "It was simple. This is the road map. You fight, come back, fight, and then providing you're victorious, you'll be fighting Tyson Fury in the UK, basically Wembley.

"I wouldn't expect it to be at Tottenham (Hotspur Stadium) or the Principality Stadium (Cardiff) respectfully. It's just got that history when you think of Wembley"



Boxing promoter Eddie Hearn (right) with Anthony Joshua.

SPOTLIGHT

Ward clinches Commonwealth gymnastics gold

The 21-year-old holds off a charge from Canada's Felix Dolci

AFP
Glasgow

Reuben Ward struck gold for hosts Scotland in the men's gymnastics all-around final at the Commonwealth Games yesterday as Adam Ramsay-Peaty bounced back from his 100m breaststroke defeat in the 50m heats.

Ward was devastated as Scotland narrowly missed out on the podium in the team final on Friday, but more than made amends to win his nation's first medal in the men's all-around event at a Commonwealth Games.

The 21-year-old held off a charge from Canada's Felix Dolci to secure gold by just 0.200 of a point with Australia's Jesse Moore in third.

"I knew I could do it, but to actually do it. When the score came through, it is just jubilation and joy," said Ward.

"Incredible! I'm so lucky to be in this position. I would've have been in this position without my family and my team-mates. It is like climbing a mountain."

Dolci, who was part of Canada's team gold, twice fell of the pommel horse on his opening apparatus before roaring back with five near flawless displays to nearly snatch victory.

England's highly-fancied Luke Whitehouse suffered a disappointing afternoon to finish seventh.

Just hours after his bronze medal in the 100m breaststroke, Ramsay-Peaty was back in the pool as he aims to make amends in the 50m.

The three-time Olympic



Gold medalist Scotland's Reuben Ward celebrates on the podium after winning the all-around final along with silver medalist Canada's Felix Dolci and bronze medalist Australia's Jesse Moore at the Commonwealth Games 2026 in Glasgow yesterday. (Reuters)

champion broke down in tears after missing out on gold at a fourth different Commonwealth Games on Saturday night.

Ramsay-Peaty even questioned whether he will continue at the 100m distance with the shorter, more explosive 50m more suited to his strengths.

But the Englishman was only fifth fastest in qualifying for the semi-finals later yesterday, again finishing behind Sam Williamson of Australia who stormed to gold

in the 100m. Australia's Olympic champion Cameron McEvoy also goes in the men's 50m freestyle final in the highlight of the evening swim session.

NETBALL POOL CLASH

In the biggest clash of the netball pool stages Australia produced a dominant 66-47 win over England.

The defending champions eased into a 35-24 half-time lead but England will take some sol-

ace from a battling final quarter which they edged 12-10 to minimise the damage. England, who face Malawi in their next match today, had started their competition in emphatic fashion with an 84-35 thrashing of Northern Ireland.

They are likely to need to beat South Africa in their last group game on Thursday to stand any chance of reaching the semi-finals and keeping their medal hopes alive.

ATHLETICS

Hiltz extends 1,500m streak, Lyles advances in 200m

AFP
New York

Nikki Hiltz captured her fourth consecutive 1,500-meter US outdoor title while Noah Lyles and Melissa Jefferson-Wooden cruised into the 200m finals on Saturday at the US Athletics Championships.

Hiltz won in dramatic fashion, crossing the finish line in 4:06.92 with Addy Wiley .04 of a second behind and Emily Mackay third in 4:06.98.

The 31-year-old Californian has also won four US 1,500m indoor titles in a row, giving Hiltz a US record eight-title streak overall with her victory at New York's Icahn Stadium.

"I love this city. My mom is from Long Island so I feel like a little part of me is from here," Hiltz said.

It was her grandmother being in the audience, however, that motivated Hiltz over the final strides.

"She doesn't come to a lot of meets so I had to perform," Hiltz said.

"That last 50 I told myself this is for grandma."

Reigning world 200m champion Lyles, a four-time world champion at the distance, advanced to the 200m final by taking his qualifying heat in 20.51 seconds after a Friday night 100m final victory.

"The legs are tired," Lyles said. "But that's what the prelims are for.

"By the end of the day I'll have gotten my rest, seen my medical crew and we'll be ready for the final."

Lyles, 29, holds the American 200m record of 19.31 seconds from the 2022 World Championships at Eugene.



Nikki Hiltz celebrates after winning the women's 1500m during the 2026 USATF Outdoor Track & Field Championships at Icahn Stadium in New York. (AFP)



Noah Lyles meets fans after competing in the men's 200m at Icahn Stadium in New York. (AFP)

Jefferson-Wooden, who won 100m, 200m and 4x100m titles at the 2025 worlds, began defending her US 200m crown by advancing to the final in 22.50, slowing be-

fore the finish line but owning the fastest qualifying time.

"The biggest thing today was to come out here and focus on getting out hard, holding it and

feeling my frequency through the turn and once I come off the turn just trust in the ability I'm strong enough to conserve as much energy as possible," Jefferson-Wooden said. "I think I did a good job of that."

Sandi Morris, a four-time world pole vault runner-up who took silver at the 2016 Rio Olympics, won the women's crown at age 34 by clearing 4.90m.

She set the bar at 5.01, trying to break her American outdoor record of 5.00 set in 2016 at Brussels, but failed on three attempts.

Chase Jackson, a two-time world champion, captured her fifth US women's shot put title in a row and sixth overall with an effort of 20.55m. She has also won four US indoor crowns.

Alia Armstrong captured the women's 100m hurdles in 12.38 seconds, edging Alaysha Johnson by .04 of a second.

"It means the world to me," she said. "I've been grinding. I've been doing everything I'm supposed to do in practice. The work is showing."

Anna Cockrell, the Paris Olympic runner-up, led women's 400 hurdles finalists in 53.65.

Aaliyah Butler, a member of the reigning world and Olympic champion US 4x400 relays, won her first US 400m crown in 49.93, beating Alexis Holmes by .54 of a second.

Chris Bailey, a world and Olympic champion in the 4x400 relay, won the men's 400m crown in 44.39 after Justin Robinson crossed the line in 44.31 but was disqualified for stepping on the lane lines.

Curtis Thompson won the javelin with a throw of 87.59m.

Nathan Green, a two-time US college champion, won his first US 1,500m crown in 3:50.27, edging Vincent Ciattei by .05 of a second.

GOLF

Koivun leads 3M Open, Scheffler shows form



Jackson Koivun of the United States lines up a putt on the 16th green during the third round of the 3M Open 2026 at TPC Twin Cities in Blaine, Minnesota. (AFP)

Reuters
Los Angeles

PGA Tour newcomer Jackson Koivun looked like he was all business but it came with an incredibly fun third round in the 3M Open on Saturday.

Koivun fired a 10-under-par 61 on the way to taking the lead at Blaine, Minn.

"It felt great," Koivun said. "It's what you work for. I definitely felt some nerves."

Koivun, in his just third tournament as a professional, moved to 20-under 193 and holds a three-shot lead on Ben Kohles and Argentina's Emiliano Grillo going to Sunday's final round at TPC Twin Cities.

Koivun, who announced last month that he would forgo his senior collegiate season at Auburn to turn pro, finished on a tear with two eagles on the backside that allowed him to play the final 10 holes in 9-under. That contributed to a tournament-record 28 on the backside, rolling in a 14-foot eagle putt on the last hole.

"I got a good break on (No. 9) and kind of hit the ground running with that," Koivun said.

Koivun was dialed in from the fairway on the final hole, with his approach shot on the mark to set up his final eagle.

"I had a pretty good number (into the green)," Koivun said.

Koivun's bogey-free round included an eagle 3 on No. 12.

Grillo and Kohles also were without bogeys on the way to posting 65s. Grillo eagled No. 18 shortly after Koivun accomplished that. Kohles, the first-round leader, had three birdies on both sides.

"That was my highlight of the day there on 18," Grillo said. "I hit it well, playing from the fairway like I wanted to out here and then

gave myself a lot of opportunities, couldn't take advantage of them."

Koivun said he knows there's a huge test ahead as he aims for his first professional victory.

"I'm sure some of the pins will be tucked and we've got a lot of great players behind me, but just going to stick to my game plan and try to smile," Koivun said.

Michael Brennan (63) and Chandler Phillips (66) are tied for fourth place at 16 under.

"Played some really solid golf and it feels good," Brennan said. "Just hope to keep it going tomorrow."

Michael Kim, fresh off Friday's 59, was unable to maintain the momentum, shooting 70 and joining Denny McCarthy (64) and Billy Horschel (65) at 15 under.

"I was pleasantly surprised at how calm I was feeling heading to the first tee," Kim said. "Overall, I'm pretty happy with it, but a little disappointed that I'm five back after today."

Kim had only one birdie until No. 16 on Saturday.

"(Friday) was obviously fantastic, but in the big picture, I still want to win this tournament," Kim said.

World No. 1 Scottie Scheffler had his best round of the tournament with 64 to move to 14 under, holding a share of first place when he left the final green. Competing in the tournament for the first time, he posted an 8 under score on the backside, highlighted by an eagle with a chip from the greenside rough on the par-4 16th.

"I just tried to do my best to stay in it," Scheffler said.

Davis Thompson and Ireland's Seamus Power were early finishers with 63s, also among those at 14 under before other golfers got rolling. Brian Harman (66) is at 14 under as well. Defending champion Kurt Kitayama shot 66 to move to 10 under.

TENNIS

Teenager Tagger takes first tour title in Prague

AFP
Prague

Austrian 18-year-old Lilli Tagger won her first senior singles title as she beat Ukrainian Daria Snigur 7-6 (7/3), 6-2 in the Prague Open final yesterday.

Snigur, playing her first WTA Tour final, raced to a 5-2 lead in the first set but did not manage a single set point as Tagger won the next three games.

From 5-5 both players held serve comfortably before Tagger jumped ahead 5-1 in the tiebreak and then converted her first set point.

Tagger, the 2025 Roland Garros girls' champion, broke in the fourth game of the second set.

Korpatsch wins WTA title at home in Hamburg

Germany's Tamara Korpatsch won the second WTA title of her career yesterday with a straight-sets victory over Anna Bondar in the final of her hometown Hamburg Open. The 31-year-old Korpatsch beat her Hungarian opponent 6-3, 6-3, adding to the trophy she won in Romania three years ago.

Bondar, 29, suffered a second straight defeat in the Hamburg final after finishing runner-up to Lois Boisson in 2025, leaving her still in pursuit of a maiden WTA title.



Austrian 18-year-old Lilli Tagger during her win over Ukrainian Daria Snigur in the Prague Open final yesterday. Tagger won 7-6 (7/3), 6-2.

CYCLING

Pogacar wins record-equalling fifth Tour de France title

VAN DER POEL WINS FINAL STAGE, BEATING PHILIPSEN IN PHOTO-FINISH



Tadej Pogacar (centre) celebrates on the podium after winning the Tour de France, alongside Isaac Del Toro (right) and Remco Evenepoel in Paris yesterday. (Reuters)

AFP
Paris

Tadej Pogacar ticked off a “big goal” as he claimed his record-equalling fifth Tour de France title as Mathieu van der Poel won a sensational 21st and final stage around Paris yesterday.

Two-time world champion Pogacar joined Jacques Anquetil, Eddy Merckx, Bernard Hinault and Miguel Indurain as the most successful riders in Tour history.

“I’m really incredibly proud to be a fifth time winner of the biggest race in the world,” Pogacar told France Televisions.

“It was a big goal to get five and, I’m not going to lie, it’s one goal achieved.”

Pogacar had all but secured his historic title during the previous two mountain stages that finished on the iconic Alpe d’Huez climb. The 27-year-old Slovenian won five stages and had been in yellow since his victory in the Pyrenean sixth stage.

He now has 26 stage victories in total, putting him fourth in the all-time list behind only Mark Cavendish (35), Merckx (34) and Hinault (28).

He also surpassed both Indurain and Chris Froome for total days spent in yellow with 70, and trails now only Hinault (75) and Merckx (96).

He is the youngest rider to have won five Tours, more than a year younger than Merckx was in achieving the same feat, and is the first person to finish on the podium seven years running.

He is also the only rider to have been on the podium in nine consecutive Grand Tours. And the Slo-

venian played his part in a stunning final stage, which was shortened to 88.7km due to wildfires raging in the southwest. Van der Poel and Pogacar escaped together on the final climb up Montmartre with 10km to ride and then fought to the finish with a chasing group of sprinters closing in.

As Pogacar’s strength sapped inside the last 700 metres, and with the chasers just seconds behind, Van der Poel struck out alone.

The cobbled classics specialist held on to win by half a bike length in a photo finish from his Alpecin Premier Tech teammate Jasper Philipsen, with Mads Pedersen in third.

“(For) a year I was thinking about this, and I was sick last year and had to watch this stage on television,” said Van der Poel.

“I was already thinking about this moment, and the way it went, it’s a dream.

“It was super hard to be up there with the best rider in the world, all my respect for Tadej.”

It was Van der Poel’s second stage victory in the 113th edition of the Tour and his fourth in total.

“I thought we were going to get caught back, but then I was just thinking about this moment, and I just put my head down in the last 500 metres,” he said.

“I just went as hard as I could, and I was just waiting until a wheel was coming past, and it didn’t happen, it didn’t happen.

“In the very end, I see a Pirelli tyre next to me, and it’s the one from Jasper.

“It just shows that we never give up. Maybe the start of our Tour was not good, but I won the Tour des Champs Elysees. I think it’s pretty good.”

Van der Poel said he did not know how he had found the strength to hold on.

“

I’m really incredibly proud to be a fifth time winner of the biggest race in the world. It was a big goal to get five and, I’m not going to lie, it’s one goal achieved

“If there was one race I still wanted to win in my career, I have a few, of course, but this was one of them,” he said. “We have a saying in Dutch that it has to come from your toes.

“I don’t know where this came from, but not from my toes!”

Olympic champion Remco Evenepoel finished second overall, almost six and a half minutes back, with Mexican Isaac Del Toro in third.

It was a successful Tour for Dane Pedersen, who won the sprinters’ green jersey competition.

Richard Carapaz of Ecuador triumphed in the polkadot King of the Mountains jersey category, and Del Toro finished in the best young rider’s white jersey.

Carapaz, who won two mountain stages, was also voted as the Tour’s most combative rider.

French great Julian Alaphilippe, a two-time world champion, announced that he had competed in his final Tour.

The 34-year-old famously held the coveted yellow jersey for 14 days in 2019 before losing it two days before reaching Paris.

It was a historic Tour in many ways. It was only the third time in 113 editions after 1926 and 1999 that no Frenchman has won a stage.

But even more remarkable is that it is the first time in 302 Grand Tours - including the Giro d’Italia and Vuelta a Espana - that no rider from either France, Italy or Spain has won a stage.

By contrast riders from Slovenia, Mexico, Ecuador and Denmark won stages - showing just how much cycling has expanded beyond its traditional western European founding base.

The entire peloton set a new record for the fastest ever road stage.

The 11th from Vichy to Nevers was ridden at an average speed of 50.9kph, beating the old record of 50.35kph from 1990.

By finishing third, Del Toro became the first Mexican to finish on a Tour podium, while fourth-placed Paul Seixas at 19 was the youngest rider in the Grande Boucle since Adrien Cento in 1937.

Slovenian rider Tadej Pogacar celebrates his overall victory as he crosses the finish line of the 21st stage of the 113th edition of the Tour de France, 88.7 km starting and finishing in Paris yesterday. (AFP)



FOOTBALL

Miami win on Casemiro debut, Berterame suffers head blow

AFP
Miami

Inter Miami, with superstar Lionel Messi still resting after his World Cup exploits, won 1-0 at Montreal on Saturday on Casemiro’s Major League Soccer debut.

Luis Suarez converted a penalty in the 81st minute to secure the victory after Miami’s Mexico international German Berterame was injured in a sickening clash of heads.

Berterame crashed to the turf and lay motionless after Efrain Morales made contact as they jumped for the ball. Players from both teams immediately signalled for help and, after treatment by medics and a long delay, Berterame was taken from the pitch in an ambulance. Miami coach Guillermo Hoyos said later that Berterame was “OK and conscious”.

“His family has been informed of everything. We didn’t know what to do - it was a very desperate situation.”

Suarez converted the ensuing penalty and held up Berterame’s jersey to mark the goal. The Uruguayan former Liverpool and Barcelona forward extended his scoring streak to six goals in his last three matches, taking his total for the season to nine.

Casemiro, who has 91 caps for Brazil and won five Champions League titles with Real Madrid, made his first appearance for Miami since arriving this week from Manchester United.

The 34-year-old controlled the tempo in midfield throughout the match, but both teams struggled with poor finishing. Messi and his Argentina teammate Rodrigo De Paul both missed a second straight game in the wake of Argentina’s defeat to Spain in the World Cup final last weekend.



Sergio Reguilón of Inter Miami jumps for the ball during the MLS match against Montreal at Saputo Stadium in Montreal. (AFP)

MLS officials said Saturday that Messi would not be required to play in next week’s All-Star game. Miami have won both their matches since MLS resumed after the World Cup, taking their win streak to six and leaving them two points behind Eastern Conference leaders Nashville, who lost 1-0 at Orlando City.

Chicago Fire, beaten by Miami on Wednesday, lost 3-1 to New York City FC at Yankee Stadium to leave Robert Lewandowski still in search of a first victory since signing from Barcelona.

Agustin Ojeda, Nicolas Fernandez and Malachi Jones scored for New York with Joel Waterman on target for Chicago.

has frequently faced criticism over his lifestyle.

He came under renewed scrutiny this week after taking part in a poker tournament while his teammates were playing a Copa Sudamericana match in Venezuela. Neymar responded by celebrating his opening goal with a card-dealing gesture before using a corner flag to mimic a golf swing. Brazil’s all-time record goalscorer called time on his international career after the five-time World Cup winners were knocked out by Norway in the last 16.

Spain coach De la Fuente visits Madrid wildfire evacuees

Spain’s World Cup-winning coach Luis de la Fuente on Sunday visited evacuees from the wildfires which have torn through the Madrid region over recent days.

De la Fuente said he was hoping to boost the mood of nearly 300 displaced residents during his visit to Las Rozas, west of the Spanish capital, as well as meeting with volunteers and emergency personnel.

“It’s everyone’s obligation to

help and to lift their spirits in these tragic moments,” De la Fuente told Spanish broadcaster TVE at the Marazuela sports complex.

“I’m proud to be here in these moments with them... it makes us more human.”

De la Fuente said all of the evacuees and others confined at home have “the support of the entire country, the same as we do when we are playing football”.

Some evacuated families are also staying at the Spanish football federation’s training facilities in Las Rozas.

Around 75,000 people have been displaced by the fires outside the capital and in neighbouring areas, as well as in the Valencia region.

De la Fuente led Spain to their second World Cup triumph this summer, with La Roja defeating Argentina 1-0 in the final on July 19 in New Jersey.

FOCUS

Japan great Miura scores first goal after four years at 59

Reuters
Tokyo

Japanese soccer icon **Kazuyoshi Miura** scored his first competitive goal in nearly four years yesterday, finding the net at the age of 59 as Fukushima United thrashed Iwaki Furukawa 7-0 to advance in the Emperor’s Cup.

Miura, affectionately known as “King Kazu”, struck in the 52nd minute to put Fukushima 5-0 ahead, capping a trademark run into the box by meeting a teammate’s cutback with a first-time finish at 59 years and 149 days.

The goal sparked celebrations among teammates on the pitch and the bench before the veteran forward was substituted three minutes later.

It was Miura’s first competitive goal since November 2022, when he scored for Suzuka PG, now Atletico Suzuka, in a Japan Football League defeat by FC Osaka.

The former Japan international is preparing for a remarkable 42nd season as a professional af-



ter extending his loan spell with third-tier Fukushima United until June 2027.

Miura joined the club from Yokohama FC in December and will remain with Fukushima after making six appearances during a shortened 2026 campaign.

With Japan’s professional leagues set to switch from a spring-to-autumn schedule to an autumn-to-spring calendar, Miura will enter his 60s still playing professionally, adding another chapter to one of soccer’s most enduring careers.

Neymar scores twice and mocks critics on Santos return

Neymar scored twice for Santos and responded to his critics with a tongue-in-cheek goal celebration on his return to action after Brazil’s disappointing World Cup campaign. His brace helped Santos, who remain embroiled in a relegation battle, rescue a 2-2 home draw against bottom club Chapecoense on Saturday.

The result left Santos just one point above the relegation zone in Brazil’s top flight.

The 34-year-old was making his first appearance for the club after a two-and-a-half-month absence and