

Sports

Vingegaard survives 'heart attack' slip to virtually wrap up Tour de France

Team Jumbo's Vingegaard tops the overall standings

News in brief

Newgarden takes 4th victory

WASHINGTON: American Josef Newgarden captured his fourth victory of the IndyCar season on Saturday, holding off Mexico's Pato O'Ward over the final laps to win the Iowa 250. Newgarden took his fourth career triumph on the 0.894-mile oval at Newton, Iowa, after leading 208 of 250 laps in hot and windy conditions. "I knew we had the car to win this race," Newgarden said. "It's one of my favorite tracks. I always love to win this race." O'Ward finished second followed in order by Australian pole-sitter Will Power, Dutchman Rinus VeeKay and New Zealand's Scott Dixon. "I was pushing Josef at the end," O'Ward said. "We didn't quite have it." Newgarden, the 2017 and 2019 IndyCar season champion, previously won at Iowa in 2016, 2019 and 2020. Indianapolis 500 winner Marcus Ericsson of Sweden leads the season points chase 375-360 over Newgarden despite the American's season-best win total after adding Iowa to Texas, Long Beach and Road America.

L AFC down Kansas City

LOS ANGELES: Gareth Bale opened his account for Los Angeles FC with a late goal in a 2-0 victory over Sporting Kansas City on Saturday. Bale fired in a low shot seven minutes from time to seal three points for LAFC, who remain four points clear at the top of the Western Conference standings. Former Real Madrid star Bale had come off the bench as a second-half substitute before scoring his first goal since arriving in Major League Soccer earlier this month. The Wales international launched the move which set up his goal, quickly releasing striker Cristian Arango with a pass from deep inside his own half. Arango, who had scored LAFC's opener, held the ball up well and then rolled a pass into the path of Bale, who had sprinted up in support of the counter-attack. Bale took his time before nonchalantly prodding his finish past Tim Melia in the Kansas City goal. "Obviously I think the most important thing is that we won the game, first and foremost," said Bale. "Nice to come and grab a goal and help the team get the three points."

Pumas sign Dani Alves

MEXICO CITY: Mexico's Pumas on Saturday signed Dani Alves after the veteran Brazilian defender left Barcelona for a second time. Alves, regarded by many as the most successful player in history, had rejoined Barca in November but confirmed last month that he would not be extending his contract. The international star signed before the cameras after a medical that Pumas president Leopoldo Silva said had gone "very well". Alves said that he wanted to "leave a legacy for younger people so that they can keep fighting for what they dream of, because here is living proof that everything in this life is possible". "I come from a small town where people want to win," he added, explaining his decision to join the Pumas, who are linked to the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM). "Soccer has transformed my life and I want it to continue transforming the lives of many people, and that's why I accepted the challenge of coming to the Pumas," he said.

Alcaraz breaks into top 5

HAMBURG: Carlos Alcaraz will become the youngest player to reach the top five of the ATP rankings since Rafael Nadal in 2005 after powering into his fifth ATP final of the season in Hamburg on Saturday. The 19-year-old Spaniard eased to a 7-6 (7/2), 6-1 success against Slovakian Alex Molcan and will face Lorenzo Musetti in Sunday's final at the clay-court event. Alcaraz has won all five of his previous Tour finals, including Masters triumphs in Miami and Madrid earlier this year. "Lorenzo is playing really well," Alcaraz said. "Of course he's a great player. It's going to be a great final. He has played great matches before the final. (I have) as well, so I have a lot of confidence for the final and hope to make it six-for-six." He will pass Casper Ruud, who reached the Gstaad final on Saturday, in the updated rankings which will be released on Monday.

Neymar to stay at PSG

SAITAMA: Neymar said Saturday that he wants to stay with Paris Saint-Germain and does not "need to prove" himself to anyone after five years with the French club. The 30-year-old Brazilian said no one from PSG had spoken to him regarding his future but he wants to continue playing in the French capital alongside Lionel Messi and Kylian Mbappe. "I still want to stay here with the club," Neymar said after PSG's 3-0 win over J-League side Urawa Reds on the club's tour of Japan. "So far the club hasn't said anything to me so I don't know what their plans are for me. "I don't need to prove myself to anyone-I just need to play my football and I have to be happy playing football," he added. Neymar said he was feeling "fit" after coming on as a substitute with Messi to play the last 30 minutes of Saturday's game. He said it was "too early to speak about" his impression of new coach Christophe Galtier, who arrived at PSG from Nice at the end of last season. —From AFP

ROCAMADOUR: Jonas Vingegaard survived the "heart attack" of a near fall on Saturday's individual time-trial to virtually wrap up the Tour de France and now only needs to cross the Champs-Elysees finish line in Paris on Sunday to guarantee the champion's yellow jersey. Team Jumbo's Vingegaard tops the overall standings 3min 34sec ahead of two-time defending champion Tadej Pogacar, while Geraint Thomas of Ineos Grenadiers, the 2018 winner, stands third at 8min 13sec.

Frenchman David Gaudu of FDJ and Aleksandr Vlasov of Bora round out the top five ahead of Sunday's stage to Paris which is traditionally a ceremonial run. Saturday's time-trial was won by Wout van Aert ahead of his Danish teammate Vingegaard, meaning Jumbo have six stage wins, the yellow jersey, the green sprint jersey and the polka dot mountains jersey. Two years ago, Pogacar famously overturned a 57-second deficit on the penultimate day time-trial on La Planche des Belles Filles to snatch victory from Primoz Roglic.

But on Saturday, Vingegaard flew down the ramp last of the 139 surviving riders and set a relentlessly high pace through the baking country roads meaning a battle of nerves with Pogacar never really emerged. He did, however, suffer a late wobble, losing his back wheel which slid over gravel into a gutter, but just managed to right himself. "I nearly had a heart attack," Vingegaard admitted. "I grew up, I became a better rider. We are the first Dutch team to do this in 43 years and I'm proud of myself and proud of every rider in the team."

Vingegaard, who was runner-up in 2021 behind Pogacar, said he was already thinking about his 2023 challenge. "I want to celebrate this victory first but of course I want to come back to the Tour to win another one," he said. "I didn't set myself five Tours de France or anything like that. I just want to come back and win." The Dane was eight seconds faster than his great rival on Saturday, and Pogacar looked downhearted at the finish line.

"I'm proud of myself, I did what I could, and at least I have the white jersey (best under-25s)," Pogacar said. "I learned a lot, I'll go away and analyse it." Thomas will also be remembered for his under the radar approach that delivered a podium



LACAPPELLE-MAR: Jumbo-Visma team's Danish rider Jonas Vingegaard wearing the overall leader's yellow jersey cycles during the 20th stage of the 109th edition of the Tour de France cycling race, 40.7 km individual time trial between Lacapelle-Marival and Rocamadour on July 23, 2022. —AFP

place at 36. "I'm over the moon to be on the podium, people talk about age, but for me it's about mentality, if you eat, train, rest properly you can achieve a lot," said Thomas.

Epic struggle

"I'll celebrate, but I'll try not to celebrate too much. I can see the end of my career coming and I want to make the most of it." The two main protagonists fought each other from start to finish with Vingegaard dethroning the two-time champion with a pair of soaring performances in the high mountains.

Pogacar made all the early running with his lone wolf mentality, gradually clawing into top spot on stage six with an appearance of invincibility. But

the stars aligned against Pogacar when he lost teammates to Covid and injury. He is also a man known to dislike intense heat. Vingegaard took the yellow jersey from Pogacar on stage 11 and while the UAE man refused stubbornly to give up he lost further ground on stage 18.

Their epic struggle was highlighted by a moment of sportsmanship when Pogacar fell at high speed and the pretender to his throne waited for him to catch up, the pair clasping hands briefly in a memorable image from one of the best modern editions of the Tour. "We don't really speak to each other out of racing, but we get along," said Vingegaard. "He's one of the best riders in the world and I respect him, we respect each other." —AFP

Kuwait wins 3 medals at Arab Swimming tourney

ALGIERS: Kuwaiti national swimming team won a silver medal and two bronze medals on Saturday in the fourth and final day of the Arab Swimming Championships and clinched third place in the overall ranking of the tournament. The tournament, hosted by the city of (Oran) in western Algeria, witnessed the talented Kuwaiti swimmer Ali Al-Zamil, who managed to win the silver medal and second place in the 100-m backstroke with a time of 56.96 seconds.

For his part, his teammate swimmer Walid Abdulrazaq was

able to force his presence in the pool again in the 100-meter freestyle race, where he managed to win the bronze medal and third place with a time of 50.99 seconds. The Kuwaiti team also won the men's 100-meter relay four times, taking the bronze medal. Walid Abdulrazaq, Saud Al-Shamroukh, Abdulrazaq Al-Duwaihi, and Abdulaziz Al-Duwaihi participated in this race. The Arab Swimming Championships concluded this evening with a ceremony in honor of the participating teams. —KUNA



Kuwait National Swimming Team

Scotland cricket board quits over racism report

LONDON: The board of the Scottish cricket federation resigned en masse on Sunday following accusations of institutional racism in a damning independent review which is due to be published on Monday. "The Board of Cricket Scotland has resigned. We will work in partnership with @sportsScotland with immediate effect to ensure appropriate governance, leadership & support is in place for sport in the days ahead," Cricket Scotland tweeted on Sunday.

The review was commissioned last year by Sport Scotland, the national funding body, after Scotland's all-time leading wicket-taker Majid Haq told Sky Sports News that Cricket Scotland was "institution-

ally racist". Haq's former team-mate Qasim Sheikh said he had also suffered racist abuse. In its resignation letter to the interim chief executive, the Cricket Scotland board said it was "truly sorry" and apologized to "everyone who has experienced racism, or any other form of discrimination" while playing the game in Scotland.

"The review has achieved an unparalleled level of engagement and we believe it will be truly transformative, not just for Cricket Scotland and the sport of cricket, but it will provide a watershed moment for Scottish sport and society in general." The statement added the current board had not seen the contents of the report. However, it added the board had been made aware of "proposed timescales and certain mandated actions" recommended by the review.

'Unachievable'

In the view of the outgoing board, plans to both resolve the racism issues quickly and modernize the running of Cricket Scotland were "unachievable within the timetable proposed and the current gov-

Berrettini crushes Thiem, books final

GSTAAD: Matteo Berrettini put the brakes on Dominic Thiem's impressive return to the courts on Saturday crushing him 6-1, 6-4 to set up a clash with top seed Casper Ruud in the final of the Gstaad ATP tournament. The Italian world number 15, playing his first event since having to withdraw from Wimbledon with COVID, made short work of the 2020 US Open champion, putting him away in just 77 minutes.

Defending champion Ruud also looked impressive as he swept past fourth-seeded Spaniard Albert Ramos 6-2, 6-0 in just over an hour to set up a clash of the top two seeds on Sunday. "I'm really happy with my performance," said Berrettini, the 2018 champion in Gstaad. "I don't think I

gave him the time to play his game and that was the key today." It has still been a good week for the Austrian who has slipped to 274 in the ATP rankings after a year of setbacks, including a wrist injury, depression and Covid. This was his first semi-final in 14 months.

Berrettini goes forward to his eleventh career final and is bidding for a third straight title after wins on grass at Queen's and in Stuttgart. In a battle of the past two champions at the clay-court event in Switzerland, Ruud was dominant throughout as the French Open finalist reached his fifth final of the year. The Norwegian broke Ramos' serve five times and did not face a single break point, as he also targets a second Gstaad title and third this year.

Both finalists are unbeaten in the Swiss mountains, with Berrettini winning of his debut in 2018 and Ruud lifting the trophy on his first appearance a year ago. "It's going to be tough," said Berrettini. "The four (semi-finalists) all



GSTAAD: Italy's Matteo Berrettini returns the ball to Norway's Casper Ruud during their final match at the Swiss Open tennis tournament in Gstaad, southwestern Switzerland, on July 24, 2022. —AFP

won here, so we definitely like to play (in Gstaad). We like the altitude. I won 2018, Albert in 2019, and Casper in 2021, so I guess we like it here." Berrettini and

Ruud are tied 2-2 in their head-to-head record, with the Italian winning their most recent clash in the Madrid semi-finals last year. —AFP